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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Anindya Kundu: The boost students need to overcome obstacles | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/anindya\\_kundu\\_the\\_boost\\_students\\_need\\_to\\_overcome\\_obstacles](https://www.ted.com/talks/anindya_kundu_the_boost_students_need_to_overcome_obstacles)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### cheerful

*adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism

*synonym*: happy, joyful, lively

(1) **cheerful** smile, (2) a **cheerful** disposition

Her **cheerful** personality brightened up the room.

### outcast

*adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group;  
(noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home

*synonym*: fugitive, friendless, vagabond

(1) discrimination against **outcast** people, (2) social **outcast**

He was an **outcast** from the neighboring village.

### outsider

*n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

*synonym*: stranger, foreigner, alien

(1) **outsider** perspective, (2) **outsider** artist

Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an **outsider** at times.

## waffle

- v.* to speak or write, especially at great length, without saying anything important or useful; to be indecisive, or to vacillate between different options or actions; (noun) a crisp, light batter cake typically eaten for breakfast and often served with syrup

*synonym*: waver, flip-flop, vacillate

- (1) **waffle** on about random things, (2) blueberry **waffle**

When asked about his stance on the new tax policy, the candidate began to **waffle** significantly.

## grit

- n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

*synonym*: determination, fortitude, courage

- (1) **grit** determination, (2) **grit** washer

She has a lot of **grit** and determination to succeed.

## perseverance

- n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

*synonym*: persistence, tenacity, determination

- (1) unwavering **perseverance**, (2) dogged **perseverance**

Despite facing numerous setbacks and obstacles, his **perseverance** and determination led him to success.

## sociologist

- n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

- (1) religious **sociologist**, (2) French **sociologist**

**Sociologist** studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.

## incarcerate

- v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape

*synonym*: confine, detain, imprison

- (1) **incarcerate** the murderer, (2) **incarcerate** her for life

He was **incarcerated** for the duration of the war.

## undocumented

*adj.* not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission

(1) **undocumented** worker, (2) **undocumented** command  
The border patrol has recently been focusing on cracking down on **undocumented** non-citizens.

## creditor

*n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**  
I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

## bootstrap

*n.* a loop or strap on a boot that is used to pull it on; a self-starting process, often in IT or business, that is designed for beginning or continuing without external assistance

*synonym* : boot, self-starting, load

(1) **bootstrap** method, (2) **bootstrap** framework  
Many startups use **bootstrap** funding to get their businesses off the ground.

## detain

*v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving

*synonym* : hold, keep, detainment

(1) **detain** a terrorist, (2) **detain** for investigation  
The police **detained** the suspect for questioning.

## dialysis

*n.* a medical treatment that removes waste and excess fluids from the blood of a patient with kidney failure

(1) **dialysis** nurse, (2) **dialysis** machine  
Regular **dialysis** treatments are necessary for those with kidney failure.

## scaffold

*n.* a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work

*synonym* : platform, staging, framework

(1) **scaffold** construction, (2) go to the **scaffold**

The construction workers set up the **scaffold** to reach the top of the building.

## mentorship

*n.* a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person

*synonym*: guidance, coaching, tutorship

(1) **mentorship** program, (2) under his **mentorship**

He was grateful for the **mentorship** opportunity given to him by his supervisor.

## opportune

*adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

*synonym*: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

## absolve

*v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

*synonym*: exempt, acquit, forgive

(1) **absolve** you from this responsibility, (2) **absolve** a person of a sin

The lender offered to **absolve** him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.

## trump

*n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**

The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

## brag

*v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

*synonym*: boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge

Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from

**bragging** about his success.

**grind**

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

*synonym*: mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. b__g about my knowledge | <i>v.</i> to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior  |
| 2. go to the sc____ld      | <i>n.</i> a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work                        |
| 3. g__t determination      | <i>n.</i> very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles          |
| 4. men_____ip program      | <i>n.</i> a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person |
| 5. an op_____ne remark     | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose  |
| 6. und_____ted worker      | <i>adj.</i> not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission   |
| 7. religious soc_____st    | <i>n.</i> a person who studies the institutions and development of human society   |
| 8. choose tr__p            | <i>n.</i> a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games   |
| 9. di_____is nurse         | <i>n.</i> a medical treatment that removes waste and excess fluids from the blood of a patient with kidney failure                               |

ANSWERS: 1. brag, 2. scaffold, 3. grit, 4. mentorship, 5. opportune, 6. undocumented, 7. sociologist, 8. trump, 9. dialysis

10. ch\_\_\_\_ul smile *adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism
11. blueberry wa\_\_\_\_e *v.* to speak or write, especially at great length, without saying anything important or useful; to be indecisive, or to vacillate between different options or actions; (noun) a crisp, light batter cake typically eaten for breakfast and often served with syrup
12. ab\_\_\_\_e you from this responsibility *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
13. de\_\_\_\_n for investigation *v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
14. gr\_\_d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
15. ou\_\_\_\_er artist *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
16. French soc\_\_\_\_st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
17. ou\_\_\_\_er perspective *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

ANSWERS: 10. cheerful, 11. waffle, 12. absolve, 13. detain, 14. grind, 15. outsider, 16. sociologist, 17. outsider

18. und\_\_\_\_\_ted command *adj.* not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission
19. sc\_\_\_\_\_ld construction *n.* a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work
20. social ou\_\_\_\_\_t *adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home
21. under his men\_\_\_\_\_ip *n.* a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person
22. g\_\_t washer *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
23. inc\_\_\_\_\_te the murderer *v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
24. dogged per\_\_\_\_\_nce *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
25. inc\_\_\_\_\_te her for life *v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
26. bo\_\_\_\_\_ap method *n.* a loop or strap on a boot that is used to pull it on; a self-starting process, often in IT or business, that is designed for beginning or continuing without external assistance

ANSWERS: 18. undocumented, 19. scaffold, 20. outcast, 21. mentorship, 22. grit, 23. incarcerate, 24. perseverance, 25. incarcerate, 26. bootstrap



27. de\_\_\_n a terrorist      *v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
28. bankrupt cr\_\_\_\_or      *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
29. gr\_\_d your teeth      *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
30. b\_\_g to each other      *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
31. unwavering per\_\_\_\_\_nce      *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
32. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
33. ab\_\_\_\_\_e a person of a sin      *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
34. a ch\_\_\_\_\_ul disposition      *adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism
35. tr\_\_p card      *n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
36. discrimination against ou\_\_\_\_t people      *adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home

ANSWERS: 27. detain, 28. creditor, 29. grind, 30. brag, 31. perseverance, 32. opportune, 33. absolve, 34. cheerful, 35. trump, 36. outcast

37. di\_\_\_\_\_is machine *n.* a medical treatment that removes waste and excess fluids from the blood of a patient with kidney failure
38. wa\_\_\_\_e on about random things *v.* to speak or write, especially at great length, without saying anything important or useful; to be indecisive, or to vacillate between different options or actions; (noun) a crisp, light batter cake typically eaten for breakfast and often served with syrup
39. bo\_\_\_\_\_ap framework *n.* a loop or strap on a boot that is used to pull it on; a self-starting process, often in IT or business, that is designed for beginning or continuing without external assistance
40. the cr\_\_\_\_\_or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 37. dialysis, 38. waffle, 39. bootstrap, 40. creditor

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. When asked about his stance on the new tax policy, the candidate began to \_\_\_\_\_ significantly.
  - v. to speak or write, especially at great length, without saying anything important or useful; to be indecisive, or to vacillate between different options or actions; (noun) a crisp, light batter cake typically eaten for breakfast and often served with syrup
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.
  - n. a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
  
3. He was \_\_\_\_\_ for the duration of the war.
  - v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
  
4. Many startups use \_\_\_\_\_ funding to get their businesses off the ground.
  - n. a loop or strap on a boot that is used to pull it on; a self-starting process, often in IT or business, that is designed for beginning or continuing without external assistance
  
5. The border patrol has recently been focusing on cracking down on \_\_\_\_\_ non-citizens.
  - adj. not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission
  
6. Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an \_\_\_\_\_ at times.
  - n. a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
  
7. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
  - adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. waffle, 2. Sociologist, 3. incarcerated, 4. bootstrap, 5. undocumented, 6. outsider, 7. opportune

8. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from \_\_\_\_\_ about his success.
- v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
9. The lender offered to \_\_\_\_\_ him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.
- v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
10. I asked the lawyer to initiate \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
11. The police \_\_\_\_\_ the suspect for questioning.
- v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
12. She has a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ and determination to succeed.
- n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
13. Despite facing numerous setbacks and obstacles, his \_\_\_\_\_ and determination led him to success.
- n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
14. Her \_\_\_\_\_ personality brightened up the room.
- adj.* happy and positive; causing feelings of happiness or optimism; marked by or expressing joy or optimism
15. She had to \_\_\_\_\_ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
- v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

ANSWERS: 8. bragging, 9. absolve, 10. creditor, 11. detained, 12. grit, 13. perseverance, 14. cheerful, 15. grind

16. He was an \_\_\_\_\_ from the neighboring village.

*adj.* excluded or rejected from a society or a particular group; (noun) a person who is excluded or rejected from a society or a home

17. Regular \_\_\_\_\_ treatments are necessary for those with kidney failure.

*n.* a medical treatment that removes waste and excess fluids from the blood of a patient with kidney failure

18. The \_\_\_\_\_ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

*n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

19. The construction workers set up the \_\_\_\_\_ to reach the top of the building.

*n.* a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work

20. He was grateful for the \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity given to him by his supervisor.

*n.* a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person

ANSWERS: 16. outcast, 17. dialysis, 18. trump, 19. scaffold, 20. mentorship