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# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nassim Assefi and Brian A. Levine: How in vitro fertilization (IVF) works | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/nassim\_assefi\_and\_brian\_a levine how in vitro fertilization ivf works



## Advanced Words Only

#### **IMPORTANT**

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### **Session 1: Word List**

vitro

n. (used as "in vitro") a scientific experiment or procedure that takes place outside of a living organism, usually in a test tube or petri dish

synonym: glass, container, vessel

(1) in **vitro** fermentation, (2) in **vitro** diagnostics

The lab technician used in **vitro** fertilization to help the couple conceive.

fertilization

the process of joining a sperm and an egg to produce an embryo

synonym: impregnation, pollination, insemination

(1) fertilization process, (2) artificial fertilization

The **fertilization** of the soil allowed for a bountiful harvest.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of diseasesynonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) medicinal chemistry, (2) traditional medicinal

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

heterosexual

adj. attracted to individuals of the opposite sex

*synonym*: straight, conventional

(1) heterosexual relationship, (2) heterosexual marriage

He identified as **heterosexual** and had never considered being with someone of the same gender.

#### conceive

ν. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

*synonym*: imagine, envision, concoct

(1) conceive of an idea, (2) conceive a child I can't **conceive** he'd want to harm us.

#### mimic

to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym: mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

#### pituitary

a small, pea-sized gland located at the base of the brain that influences the growth and sexual development of the body by producing hormones

synonym: hypophyseal, hypothalamic, anterior lobe

(1) pituitary hormone, (2) anterior pituitary The **pituitary** gland is responsible for releasing hormones that regulate growth and metabolism.

#### follicle

- a small sac or cavity in the body, especially in the skin or n. scalp, that contains and nourishes a hair or feather; a small gland or sac that produces and releases a bodily secretion
- (1) follicle cell, (2) damaged follicle The pigments in your hair **follicles** determine the color of your hair.

### stimming

a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism n. spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

synonym: self-stimulation, repetitive behaviors

Page 2 / 23

(1) autistic **stimming**, (2) **stimming** therapy

Autistic children may engage in **stimming** behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.

ripen

v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe

synonym: mature, grow, age

(1) ripen the fruit, (2) ripen naturally

His tireless efforts **ripen** into success.

ovary

uterus

- n. either of the pair of organs in the female reproductive system that produces eggs; (of a plant) the organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- (1) **ovary** atrophy, (2) salted **ovary** of walleye pollack They found **ovary** cancer in an early stage.
- a hollow muscular organ in the body of a woman or other female mammal in which a baby or young animal develops before birth

*synonym*: womb

(1) uterus cancer, (2) bleeding from uterus

The physician prescribed medication to relieve the contraction of the **uterus**.

lutein

n. a yellow pigment found in many plants, particularly leafy green vegetables like spinach and kale; lutein is an antioxidant and is thought to have benefits for eye health and cognition

synonym: yellow pigment, marigold extract, zeaxanthin

(1) **lutein** supplement, (2) **lutein-rich** food

The chemical composition of **lutein** makes it effective in preventing cataracts.

ovulation

 the process in a woman's menstrual cycle during which an ovary releases an egg

synonym: egg-releasing, ovary-releasing, ovum-releasing

(1) ovulation cycle, (2) inhibit ovulation

Page 3 / 23

The woman tracked her **ovulation** using a fertility app on her smartphone.

#### rupture

a break or tear in something, especially a bodily tissue or a physical object

*synonym*: fracture, break, tear

(1) a **rupture** between friends, (2) the **rupture** of a blood vessel

A fault line **rupture** can cause significant damage and destruction to surrounding areas.

#### fallopian

one of a pair of tubes that connect the ovaries to the n. uterus in female reproductive systems, through which eggs travel from the ovaries to the uterus

synonym: uterine, oviductal, tubal

- (1) ruptured fallopian tube, (2) fallopian cancer Tubal ligation is a permanent birth control method that
- involves blocking or cutting the fallopian tubes.

#### fertilize

- to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by ν. joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well *synonym*: pollinate, inseminate, enrich
- (1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to fertilize a wife.

#### pellucid

adj. transparent, clear, and easy to understand; easily comprehensible or intelligible; allowing light to pass through freely

synonym: transparent, crystal clear, see-through

(1) **pellucid** prose, (2) **pellucid** stream

The water in the lake was so **pellucid** that you could see the fish swimming below.

#### thwart

to prevent something from happening or succeeding synonym: hinder, block, obstruct

(1) **thwart** enemy plans, (2) **thwart** attempts
He **thwarted** the thief's attempt to steal the painting.

#### penetrate

v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

*synonym*: pierce, stab, go through

(1) **penetrate** a cell, (2) **penetrate** quickly into the skin Western ideology slowly **penetrates** through the eastern countries.

#### zygote

 n. the initial stage of development in a fertilized egg, resulting from the fusion of a sperm cell and an egg cell in sexual reproduction

synonym: fertilized egg, embryo, conceptus

(1) **zygote** development, (2) **zygote** stage

A fertilized **zygote** marks the beginning of a new life as it is the first cell of a new organism.

#### endometrium

- *n.* the inner mucous membrane that lines the uterus (= the organ in which a fetus develops)
- (1) **endometrium** inflammation, (2) menstrual **endometrium**

The physician took a sample of the epithelial tissue of the **endometrium** for detailed examination.

#### placenta

- a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb
- (1) placenta blood, (2) fetal placenta

The **placenta** produces various hormones that help maintain the pregnancy.

### degenerate

v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition

synonym: deteriorate, decline, decay

(1) **degenerate** into a disagreement, (2) **degenerate** into recession

The once-thriving city has **degenerated** into a crime-ridden slum.

#### menstrual

adj. of or relating to the time when a woman menstruates (= to discharge the blood from the uterus) each month

synonym: catamenial

(1) a menstrual period, (2) menstrual blood

The average length of a woman's **menstrual** cycle is 21 to 35 days.

#### progesterone

 a hormone mainly produced in the ovaries of females that helps regulate the menstrual cycle and plays a crucial role in pregnancy

synonym: progestin, gestagen, luteal hormone

(1) **progesterone** receptor, (2) synthetic **progesterone**During pregnancy, **progesterone** levels rise to support the growth of the fetus.

#### gestation

n. the state of being pregnant; the period during which an embryo or fetus develops, usually about 280 days in humans

synonym: pregnancy, carrying, incubation

(1) extrauterine **gestation**, (2) **gestation** time The **gestation** period for elephants is 22 months.

#### anesthesia

- a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes
- (1) anesthesia for surgery, (2) local anesthesiaHe is in general anesthesia under the surgeon.

#### aspiration

 a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

*synonym*: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

#### petri

- n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
- (1) **petri** dish test, (2) bacteria on **petri** dishes

Glass **petri** dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

#### incubate

v. to keep warm and protected, especially to hatch eggs; to develop and nurture

synonym: hatch, breed, gestate

(1) **incubate** terrorism in developing countries, (2) **incubate** an idea

The scientists decided to **incubate** the eggs for further study.

#### catheter

 a thin, flexible tube that is inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel to drain fluid, inject medication, or perform a medical procedure

synonym: tube, drainage tube, pipe

(1) insert catheter, (2) urinary catheter

After the surgery, the patient was required to wear a **catheter** for several days.

### blastocyst

 an early stage in the development of an embryo, consisting of a hollow ball of cells that implants into the uterine wall during pregnancy

synonym: embryo, blastula

(1) embryonic **blastocyst**, (2) frozen **blastocyst**The fertilized egg develops into a **blastocyst** before implanting into the uterine wall.

#### surrogate

adj. acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purposesynonym: substitute, replacement, deputy

surrogate pregnancy, (2) surrogate decision
 surrogate mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the

couple who couldn't conceive independently.

triplet

 a group of three things or people, especially three babies born at the same time from the same pregnancy synonym: trio, threesome, three-piece set

(1) **triplet** siblings, (2) **triplet** acetylene

The **triplet** babies were born premature and needed extra care.

#### childbearing

 the act of giving birth to or bearing a child (or children),
 often in the context of medical or demographic research or public policy

synonym: accouchement, childbirth, maternity

(1) **childbearing** capacity, (2) **childbearing** at a later age Many women delay **childbearing** until their careers are established.

#### diminish

v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

synonym: decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

#### inconceivable

adj. hard to imagine or believesynonym: unimaginable, impossible, unthinkable

(1) **inconceivable** pain, (2) **inconceivable** ideas
It would be **inconceivable** for him to alter his behavior.

#### outpace

v. to move or proceed at a faster rate than someone or something else; to surpass or exceed someone's or something's performance or ability

synonym: outdistance, outstrip, overtake

(1) **outpace** market share, (2) **outpace** economic growth Her running speed allowed her to **outpace** her competitors and win the race.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1.	chiing capacity	n.	the act of giving birth to or bearing a child (or children), often in the context of medical or demographic research or public policy
2.	lun supplement	n.	a yellow pigment found in many plants, particularly leafy green vegetables like spinach and kale; lutein is an antioxidant and is thought to have benefits for eye health and cognition
3.	menstrual endum	n.	the inner mucous membrane that lines the uterus (= the organ in which a fetus develops)
4.	cove of an idea	ν.	to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
5.	piry hormone	n.	a small, pea-sized gland located at the base of the brain that influences the growth and sexual development of the body by producing hormones
6.	trt acetylene	n.	a group of three things or people, especially three babies born at the same time from the same pregnancy
7.	degte into recession	v.	(of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition
8.	endum inflammation	n.	the inner mucous membrane that lines the uterus (= the organ in which a fetus develops)

ANSWERS: 1. childbearing, 2. lutein, 3. endometrium, 4. conceive, 5. pituitary, 6. triplet, 7. degenerate, 8. endometrium

16. fe\_\_\_\_ze the female egg

17. fetal pl\_\_\_ta

someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

to cause an egg, female animal, or plant ν. to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= n. unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb

ANSWERS: 9. incubate, 10. ovulation, 11. pituitary, 12. diminish, 13. aspiration, 14. outpace, 15. surrogate, 16. fertilize, 17. placenta

ANSWERS: 18. fallopian, 19. fertilize, 20. inconceivable, 21. inconceivable, 22. menstrual, 23. mimic, 24. petri, 25. ovary, 26. heterosexual, 27. penetrate

by overcoming resistance

understand; easily comprehensible or intelligible; allowing light to pass through freely

ANSWERS: 28. gestation, 29. ovary, 30. zygote, 31. gestation, 32. fertilization, 33. ripen, 34. conceive, 35. blastocyst, 36. rupture, 37. pellucid

38.	sute decision	adj.	acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
39.	zye stage	n.	the initial stage of development in a fertilized egg, resulting from the fusion of a sperm cell and an egg cell in sexual reproduction
40.	mic a human voice	ν.	to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
41.	oue economic growth	v.	to move or proceed at a faster rate than someone or something else; to surpass or exceed someone's or something's performance or ability
42.	uts cancer	n.	a hollow muscular organ in the body of a woman or other female mammal in which a baby or young animal develops before birth
43.	hetual marriage	adj.	attracted to individuals of the opposite sex
44.	ovon cycle	n.	the process in a woman's menstrual cycle during which an ovary releases an egg
45.	peid stream	adj.	transparent, clear, and easy to understand; easily comprehensible or intelligible; allowing light to pass through freely
46.	tht enemy plans	<i>v</i> .	to prevent something from happening or succeeding

ANSWERS: 38. surrogate, 39. zygote, 40. mimic, 41. outpace, 42. uterus, 43. heterosexual, 44. ovulation, 45. pellucid, 46. thwart

47.	meal blood	adj.	of or relating to the time when a woman menstruates (= to discharge the blood from the uterus) each month
48.	in vio diagnostics	n.	(used as "in vitro") a scientific experiment or procedure that takes place outside of a living organism, usually in a test tube or petri dish
49.	proone receptor	n.	a hormone mainly produced in the ovaries of females that helps regulate the menstrual cycle and plays a crucial role in pregnancy
50.	aspon into the lungs	n.	a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
51.	chiing at a later age	n.	the act of giving birth to or bearing a child (or children), often in the context of medical or demographic research or public policy
52.	aneia for surgery	n.	a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes
53.	local aneia	n.	a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes
54.	meal chemistry	adj.	of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
55.	traditional meal	adj.	of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
56.	synthetic proone	n.	a hormone mainly produced in the ovaries of females that helps regulate the menstrual cycle and plays a crucial role in pregnancy

ANSWERS: 47. menstrual, 48. vitro, 49. progesterone, 50. aspiration, 51. childbearing, 52. anesthesia, 53. anesthesia, 54. medicinal, 55. medicinal, 56. progesterone

- 57. tr\_\_\_\_t siblings
- 58. bleeding from ut\_\_\_s
- 59. autistic st\_\_\_ng

- 60. lu\_\_\_n-rich food
- 61. pe\_\_\_\_te a cell
- 62. ri n naturally
- 63. th\_\_\_t attempts
- 64. st ng therapy

- a group of three things or people,
   especially three babies born at the
   same time from the same pregnancy
- a hollow muscular organ in the body of a woman or other female mammal in which a baby or young animal develops before birth
- n. a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
- n. a yellow pigment found in many plants, particularly leafy green vegetables like spinach and kale; lutein is an antioxidant and is thought to have benefits for eye health and cognition
- v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
- v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe
- v. to prevent something from happening or succeeding
- n. a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

ANSWERS: 57. triplet, 58. uterus, 59. stimming, 60. lutein, 61. penetrate, 62. ripen, 63. thwart, 64. stimming

ANSWERS: 65. fallopian, 66. follicle, 67. follicle, 68. degenerate, 69. diminish, 70. vitro, 71. rupture, 72. incubate

73. em	nbryonic blast	n.	an early stage in the development of an embryo, consisting of a hollow ball of cells that implants into the uterine wall during pregnancy
74. pl_	ta blood	n.	a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb
75. uri	nary caer	n.	a thin, flexible tube that is inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel to drain fluid, inject medication, or perform a medical procedure
76. ba	cteria on pei dishes	n.	(petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
77. fer	rion process	n.	the process of joining a sperm and an egg to produce an embryo
78. ins	sert caer	n.	a thin, flexible tube that is inserted into a body cavity, duct, or vessel to drain fluid, inject medication, or perform a medical procedure

ANSWERS: 73. blastocyst, 74. placenta, 75. catheter, 76. petri, 77. fertilization, 78. catheter

# **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	The physician prescribed medication to relieve the contraction of the
n.	a hollow muscular organ in the body of a woman or other female mammal in which a baby or young animal develops before birth
2.	The fertilized egg develops into a before implanting into the uterine wall.
n.	an early stage in the development of an embryo, consisting of a hollow ball of cells that implants into the uterine wall during pregnancy
3.	The water in the lake was so that you could see the fish swimming below.
adj	transparent, clear, and easy to understand; easily comprehensible or intelligible; allowing light to pass through freely
4.	The babies were born premature and needed extra care.
n.	a group of three things or people, especially three babies born at the same time from the same pregnancy
5.	The period for elephants is 22 months.
n.	the state of being pregnant; the period during which an embryo or fetus develops, usually about 280 days in humans
6.	They found cancer in an early stage.
n.	either of the pair of organs in the female reproductive system that produces eggs; (of a plant) the organ that bears the ovules of a flower
7.	The lab technician used in fertilization to help the couple conceive.
n.	(used as "in vitro") a scientific experiment or procedure that takes place outside of a living organism, usually in a test tube or petri dish
AN: vitro	SWERS: 1. uterus, 2. blastocyst, 3. pellucid, 4. triplet, 5. gestation, 6. ovary, 7.

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Nassim Assefi and Brian A. Levine: How in vitro fertilization (IVF) works | TED Talk" (39 words)

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Nassim Assefi and Brian A. Levine: How in vitro fertilization (IVF) works | TED Talk" (39 words)

32.	The gland is responsible for releasing hormones that regulate growth and metabolism.
n.	a small, pea-sized gland located at the base of the brain that influences the growth and sexual development of the body by producing hormones
33.	The physician took a sample of the epithelial tissue of the for detailed examination.
n.	the inner mucous membrane that lines the uterus (= the organ in which a fetus develops)
34.	During pregnancy, levels rise to support the growth of the fetus.
n.	a hormone mainly produced in the ovaries of females that helps regulate the menstrual cycle and plays a crucial role in pregnancy
35.	Tubal ligation is a permanent birth control method that involves blocking or cutting the tubes.
n.	one of a pair of tubes that connect the ovaries to the uterus in female reproductive systems, through which eggs travel from the ovaries to the uterus
36.	The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to a wife.
v.	to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
37.	He is in general under the surgeon.
n.	a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes
38.	He has an to become a doctor.
n.	a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
	SWERS: 32. pituitary, 33. endometrium, 34. progesterone, 35. fallopian, 36. ilize, 37. anesthesia, 38. aspiration

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Nassim Assefi and Brian A. Levine: How in vitro fertilization (IVF) works | TED Talk" (39 words)

39. Glass \_\_\_\_\_ dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

ANSWERS: 39. petri