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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Salvatore laconesi: What happened when I open-sourced my brain cancer | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/salvatore_iaconesi_what_h appened_when_i_open_sourced_my_brain_cancer



All Words

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Session 1: Word List

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- *n*. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
- synonym: intellect, mind, encephalon
- basic brain function, (2) permanent brain damage
 rays revealed a small tumor in his brain.

cancer

- abnormal growth of cells that can invade and destroy surrounding tissues and organs; a disease characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells
- synonym: tumor, carcinoma, malignancy
- (1) cancer diagnosis, (2) cancer research

Breast **cancer** is the most common type of cancer in women.

phrase

- a group of words that mean something specific when used together
- synonym: expression, idiom, term
- (1) ready-made **phrases**, (2) noun **phrase**

We bought a Spanish **phrase** book.

shocking

- adj. extremely or surprisingly bad, or causing a strong emotional response such as surprise or disgust
- synonym: startling, surprising, astounding
- (1) shocking response, (2) shocking revelation

The news of the accident was **shocking** and left many in shock.

disappear

- v. to cease to exist or be visiblesynonym: fade, evaporate, vanish
- (1) **disappear** without a trace, (2) **disappear** after a week They watched the train **disappear** into the distance.

complexity

 the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand

synonym: intricacy, sophistication, elaboration

(1) cognitive **complexity**, (2) **complexity** theory

The project's **complexity** made it difficult for the team to complete it on time.

replace

- v. to take the place of somethingsynonym: substitute, supersede, displace
- (1) **replace** one word with another, (2) **replace** a phone Eventually, the new design will **replace** all older models.

medical

lab

adj. relating to the treatment of illness or injuries; relating to the practice of medicine

synonym: health, disease, treatment

- (1) a **medical** opinion, (2) temporary **medical** treatment The **medical** team worked quickly to save the patient's life.
- a workplace for the conduct of scientific research; a laboratory

synonym: workshop, laboratory, research chamber

(1) lab instrument, (2) medical lab

The Prime Minister will pay a courtesy visit to the Nobel laureate's **lab**.

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.

suddenly

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

synonym: abruptly, unexpectedly, unawares

(1) **suddenly** attacked by an enemy, (2) die **suddenly** Who answers **suddenly** knows little.

disease

 a disorder or illness that affects the body or mind, often characterized by specific symptoms or abnormal functioning of organs or systems

synonym: illness, ailment, affliction

(1) disease prevention, (2) disease control

The doctor diagnosed him with a rare **disease** that had no known cure.

creative

adj. relating to or involving the use of skill and original and unusual ideas to create something

synonym: imaginative, innovative, inventive

(1) **creative** writing, (2) barren of **creative** spirit

All the supervisor has to do is assign tasks that make his subordinates more **creative**.

deserve

v. to be worthy of or entitled to something, especially something good or valuable

synonym: merit, earn, justify

(1) deserve respect, (2) deserve this prize

The employee **deserved** the promotion for their hard work and dedication.

obvious

adj. easy to see, discover or understand *synonym*: apparent, conspicuous, evident

(1) **obvious** reasons, (2) his conclusion was **obvious** There are **obvious** differences between the two wine-producing regions.

scenario

a description of possible actions or events in the future;
 a written outline of a play, film, or literary work

synonym: plan, scheme, procedure

(1) the worst case **scenario**, (2) number of different **scenarios**

The president prepared several possible **scenarios** for an enemy attack.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

patient

 a person who is receiving medical treatment, care, or attention from a healthcare professional, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist; a personal quality or characteristic

synonym: client, recipient, subject

(1) **patient** in the hospital, (2) **patient** with weight loss. The doctor carefully examined the **patient's** medical history.

torture

n. the act of causing intense pain or suffering to someone to punish them, extract information from them, or for some other reason

synonym: torment, abuse, mistreatment

(1) a **torture** chamber, (2) an instrument of **torture**The use of **torture** is strictly prohibited under international law.

engage

v. to attract and keep someone's attention and interest; to participate in or obtain services of something

synonym: confront, employ, amuse

- (1) **engage** in environmental protection activities,
- (2) engage a new employee

Many multinational companies are **engaged** in the reconstruction of that country.

minimize

 to make something, especially something bad, small or less serious

synonym: diminish, mitigate, belittle

(1) **minimize** a loss, (2) way to **minimize** conflict I bought a gadget before my trip to help **minimize** stress during the flight.

obtain

- v. to get something, especially by making a great effort synonym: accept, acquire, receive
- (1) **obtain** a license, (2) **obtain** a bid Where can I **obtain** the application form?

determinant

 a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

relation

 the way two persons or groups of people feel and act toward one another

synonym: association, linkage, connection

(1) **relation** between cause and effect, (2) **relation** of inclusion

The industrial **relations** laws were passed with little to no alteration.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym: extreme, fierce, radical

(1) drastic measures, (2) make drastic revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

surgery

medical treatment of injuries or diseases involving an incision with instruments and often removing or replacing some parts of the body; the branch of medical science that treats disease or injury by operative procedures

synonym: operation, (medical) procedure

- (1) cardiac **surgery**, (2) the professor of **surgery** He had undergone heart **surgery** years before.
- v. to risk money on the result of an event or a competition, such as a race or game, to get more money; to have faith or confidence in something

synonym: stake, wager, gamble

(1) **bet** on a race, (2) **bet** my future I **bet** that you know it.

hack

bet

v. to hit and cut somebody or something roughly and violently; to find a bug in a computer program and break into their systems or networks

synonym: cut, chop, crack

(1) **hack** through the jungle, (2) **hack** into the program This blog offers a variety of tips for **hacking** everyday life.

eradicate

v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

synonym: destroy, eliminate, exterminate

- (1) **eradicate** the deficit, (2) **eradicate** racial discrimination We are trying to **eradicate** this disease from the world.
- v. to change something's direction, order, position, decision, etc., to the opposite one; (adjective) directed or moving toward the rear

synonym: overturn, shift, switch

(1) reverse the trend, (2) reverse the order

Cidaloate

reverse

The restaurant **reversed** a ban on smoking.

healthcare

- the organized activity or business of preserving mental and physical health by preventing or treating illness through services offered by the health profession
- (1) **healthcare** agency, (2) rising **healthcare** cost In an aging population, citizens must pay more to maintain quality **healthcare**.

provider

 a person or an organization that supplies somebody with something needed or wanted

synonym: supplier

(1) an information **provider**, (2) the **provider** of the family People select Internet **providers** not only in terms of price but also in terms of transmission speed.

poet

- n. a person who writes poetrysynonym: versifier, rhymer, writer
- a court poet,
 a poet of sorts
 a talented poet who has been recognized for her work.

psychology

- n. the scientific study of mind and behavior
- (1) **psychology** experiment, (2) **psychology** of crowd She had a master's degree in **psychology**.

spiritual

adj. relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things

synonym: otherworldly, ethereal, transcendental

(1) constant **spiritual** striving, (2) **spiritual** leader

The meditation class was focused on finding inner peace and cultivating a more **spiritual** connection with the universe.

emotional

adj. relating to people's feelings

synonym: affecting, impactful, impressive

(1) emotional health, (2) emotional distress

Human **emotional** responses vary widely depending on the society to which they belong.

viral

adj. relating to or caused by a virus

fight viral infections, (2) detect a viral code
 This device can more accurately detect viral pathogens.

individual

- n. a single person or thing, as distinct from a group synonym: person, being, self
- (1) a private **individual**, (2) **individual** freedom
 As an **individual**, he had the right to make his own decisions and live his life as he saw fit.

sculpture

 the art of creating three-dimensional objects or forms, typically by carving, modeling, or casting in a variety of materials such as stone, wood, metal, or clay

synonym: statuary, carving, modeling

(1) create **sculpture**, (2) abstract **sculpture**The ancient Greek **sculptures** are known for their realism and attention to detail.

tumor

 a mass of diseased tissue that forms when cells in the body divide and grow in an uncontrolled way

synonym: neoplasm, mass, lump

(1) **tumor** growth, (2) **tumor** at remote sites

The patient was diagnosed with a **tumor** in her lung.

tradition

 a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society

synonym: custom, practice, ritual

(1) a **tradition** of a culture, (2) against **tradition**It is a **tradition** in many families to have a big Thanksgiving dinner with all their relatives.

neurosurgeon

 a medical doctor who specializes in the surgical treatment of conditions affecting the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves synonym: brain surgeon, neurologist, surgical specialist

(1) skilled **neurosurgeon**, (2) leading **neurosurgeon**The hospital recruited experienced **neurosurgeons**worldwide to treat complex neurological disorders
comprehensively.

oncology

- n. the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignanciessynonym: cancer treatment, study of tumors
- (1) **oncology** center, (2) modern **oncology** treatment The pharmaceutical company unveiled its latest breakthrough drug for the **oncology** market.

volunteer

- a person who performs or offers to perform a job or service without being paid for or forced to do
- synonym: unpaid worker, draftee, enlistee
- seek volunteers, (2) my volunteer work
 The teachers make full use of volunteer assistance.

discuss

- v. to talk about or examine in detail through conversation or debate; to exchange ideas, opinions, or information on a particular topic
- synonym: talk about, converse, debate
- (1) **discuss** options, (2) **discuss** solutions
 We need to **discuss** the next steps for the project during our meeting tomorrow.

strategy

- a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
- synonym: approach, procedure, scenario
- (1) military **strategy**, (2) develop a **strategy**Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing **strategy**.

span

 the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that

something covers

synonym: interval, period, length

(1) the **span** of a bird's wings, (2) the average life **span** He slightly modified the **span** of training because it was just before a match.

remarkable

adj. worthy of attention because unusual or specialsynonym: outstanding, exceptional, extraordinary

(1) **remarkable** achievement, (2) the **remarkable** breadth of knowledge

The election was a **remarkable** success for the Whigs.

pity

 a feeling of sorrow and compassion caused by the suffering or misfortunes of others; an object of contempt or disdain

synonym: sympathy, compassion, mercy

synonym: result, consequence, effect

(1) allow self- **pity**, (2) **pity** speech It is a **pity** that the concert had to be canceled due to the storm.

outcome

- n. the result or effect of an action, event, etc.
- (1) improved student **outcomes**, (2) a desirable **outcome** They awaited news of the **outcome** of the election.

grade

- n. a particular level of quality, size, importance, etc.synonym: score, rate, degree
- (1) boys in the twelfth **grade**, (2) students at all **grade** levels Departments may set requirements for a higher **grade** point average.

glioma

 a type of tumor that arises from glial cells in the brain or spinal cord, which provide structural support and insulation for neurons

synonym: brain tumor, glioblastoma, astrocytoma

(1) malignant **glioma**, (2) brain **glioma**

The prognosis for patients with **gliomas** varies depending on the type and stage of the tumor.

intense

adj. (especially of a feeling) very strong; extremely sharp or severe

synonym: extreme, fierce, harsh

(1) **intense** heat, (2) develop **intense** itching That statement by the prime minister drew **intense** international criticism.

matrix

 a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops

synonym: grid, cast, table

(1) the **matrix** of Western civilization, (2) **matrix** multiplication

The **matrix** of numbers on the spreadsheet allowed the accountant to track the company's profits and losses easily.

electrode

- either of two points or ends of a conductor at which electricity enters or leaves an object, substance, or region
- (1) platinum **electrodes**, (2) **electrode** corrosion It is important to place the **electrodes** in the correct position for accurate electro-cardiogram recording.

implant

- v. to insert or fix an artificial device in a person's body; to put an idea, attitude, etc., firmly in the mindsynonym: insert, fix, place
- (1) **implant** genes in the animals, (2) **implant** into the uterus The doctor will **implant** a pacemaker to regulate his heart rate.

functional

adj. designed for or capable of a particular activity, purpose, or task; practical or ready for use or servicesynonym: applicable, practical, usable

(1) field of **functional** medicine, (2) **functional** deafness The mobile phone was still **functional** even after being dropped.

fundamental

adj. forming an essential base or core from which everything else develops or is affected

synonym: basic, essential, entire

(1) **fundamental** education, (2) **fundamental** rights Human behavior has **fundamental** characteristics.

consult

 to seek or get advice or information from a person, book, or other source having special knowledge on a particular subject

synonym: confer, consider, see

(1) regularly **consult** with a doctor, (2) **consult** my wallet Always **consult** a lawyer before launching a business.

continuous

adj. occurring or existing without a pause or interruption synonym: ceaseless, regular, repeated

(1) **continuous** improvement, (2) a **continuous** row of warehouses

The heavy snow has been **continuous** since last morning.

translate

- v. to convert or change words into another language synonym: convert, transcribe, render
- (1) **translate** a document into English, (2) **translate** the emotion to a movement

Translate the text from Italian into English.

emotion

- n. a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with otherssynonym: feeling, sentiment, passion
- (1) control my **emotion**, (2) afraid to show **emotion**Some **emotions** are common across cultures and backgrounds.

conventional

adj. based on or following traditional rules, standards, customs, etc.

synonym: ancestral, customary, established

(1) a **conventional** style, (2) get a **conventional** loan She is very **conventional** in her thoughts.

component

 one of several parts that combines with others to form something bigger

synonym: element, part, factor

(1) key **component**, (2) spare **components** for cars

The researchers try to discover a common **component** in all types of successful organizations.

Session 2: Spelling

de____e respect

di____e control

b t my future

de____e this prize

temporary me I treatment

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

1. re____on of inclusion

n. the way two persons or groups of people feel and act toward one another

against tr____on
 a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society

3. develop in___e itching adj. (especially of a feeling) very strong; extremely sharp or severe

4. h_k into the program

v. to hit and cut somebody or something roughly and violently; to find a bug in a computer program and break into their systems or networks

 v. to be worthy of or entitled to something, especially something good or valuable

 a disorder or illness that affects the body or mind, often characterized by specific symptoms or abnormal functioning of organs or systems

v. to risk money on the result of an event or a competition, such as a race or game, to get more money; to have faith or confidence in something

adj. relating to the treatment of illness or injuries; relating to the practice of medicine

v. to be worthy of or entitled to something, especially something good or valuable

ANSWERS: 1. relation, 2. tradition, 3. intense, 4. hack, 5. deserve, 6. disease, 7. bet, 8. medical, 9. deserve

- something bad, small or less serious
- a factor, circumstance, or condition that n. contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 10. spiritual, 11. lab, 12. functional, 13. reverse, 14. remarkable, 15. lab, 16. drastic, 17. pity, 18. relation, 19. minimize, 20. determinant

20. a det____nt of crop yields

ANSWERS: 21. translate, 22. engage, 23. dedicate, 24. patient, 25. disease, 26. oncology, 27. suddenly, 28. poet, 29. neurosurgeon

ANSWERS: 30. obvious, 31. brain, 32. strategy, 33. electrode, 34. component, 35. electrode, 36. consult, 37. healthcare, 38. outcome, 39. drastic, 40. surgery

procedures

- 41. improved student ou____es
- 42. number of different sc____ios
- 43. detect a vi__I code
- 44. ob___s reasons
- 45. get a con____nal loan
- 46. di____ar after a week
- 47. em____al health
- 48. re____e the order
- 49. me____al chemistry
- 50. the rem____le breadth of knowledge
- 51. cr___ve writing
- 52. ma___x multiplication

- *n.* the result or effect of an action, event, etc.
- a description of possible actions or events in the future; a written outline of a play, film, or literary work
- adj. relating to or caused by a virus
- adj. easy to see, discover or understand
- adj. based on or following traditional rules, standards, customs, etc.
- v. to cease to exist or be visible
- adj. relating to people's feelings
- v. to change something's direction, order, position, decision, etc., to the opposite one; (adjective) directed or moving toward the rear
- adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
- adj. worthy of attention because unusual or special
- adj. relating to or involving the use of skill and original and unusual ideas to create something
- a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops

ANSWERS: 41. outcome, 42. scenario, 43. viral, 44. obvious, 45. conventional, 46. disappear, 47. emotional, 48. reverse, 49. medicinal, 50. remarkable, 51. creative, 52. matrix

ANSWERS: 53. creative, 54. bet, 55. glioma, 56. provider, 57. torture, 58. conventional, 59. fundamental, 60. discuss, 61. viral, 62. emotion

ANSWERS: 63. poet, 64. tumor, 65. individual, 66. implant, 67. surgery, 68. functional, 69. replace, 70. shocking, 71. continuous, 72. complexity, 73. suddenly

importance, etc.

84. a tr on of a culture

a belief, custom, or way of doing n. something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society

ANSWERS: 74. replace, 75. tumor, 76. spiritual, 77. neurosurgeon, 78. complexity, 79. oncology, 80. grade, 81. scenario, 82. consult, 83. grade, 84. tradition

ANSWERS: 85. obtain, 86. minimize, 87. patient, 88. glioma, 89. component, 90. obtain, 91. emotion, 92. cancer, 93. provider, 94. sculpture

ANSWERS: 95. torture, 96. volunteer, 97. span, 98. sculpture, 99. discuss, 100. eradicate, 101. individual, 102. medical, 103. implant

the scientific study of mind and behavior 104. psy____gy of crowd n. 105. tr____te a document into English to convert or change words into another ν. language 106. con____us improvement adj. occurring or existing without a pause or interruption adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of 107. traditional me____al disease 108. noun ph___e a group of words that mean something n. specific when used together 109. the s_n of a bird's wings the entire length of something, such as n. time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers 110. in____e heat adj. (especially of a feeling) very strong; extremely sharp or severe a group of words that mean something 111. ready-made ph___es n. specific when used together 112. psy____gy experiment the scientific study of mind and behavior n. 113. rising hea____re cost the organized activity or business of n. preserving mental and physical health by preventing or treating illness through services offered by the health profession 114. er te the deficit to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad to hit and cut somebody or something 115. h k through the jungle ν. roughly and violently; to find a bug in a

ANSWERS: 104. psychology, 105. translate, 106. continuous, 107. medicinal, 108. phrase, 109. span, 110. intense, 111. phrase, 112. psychology, 113. healthcare, 114. eradicate, 115. hack

computer program and break into their

systems or networks

116. emal distress	adj.	relating to people's feelings
117. car diagnosis	n.	abnormal growth of cells that can invade and destroy surrounding tissues and organs; a disease characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells
118. environmental detr	nt n.	a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
119. shng response	adj.	extremely or surprisingly bad, or causing a strong emotional response such as surprise or disgust
120. ene in environmental p activities	rotection v.	to attract and keep someone's attention and interest; to participate in or obtain services of something
121. dete a few hours	v.	to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
122. the max of Western civ	vilization n.	a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops
123. develop a stgy	n.	a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
124. py speech	n.	a feeling of sorrow and compassion caused by the suffering or misfortunes of others; an object of contempt or

ANSWERS: 116. emotional, 117. cancer, 118. determinant, 119. shocking, 120. engage, 121. dedicate, 122. matrix, 123. strategy, 124. pity

disdain

126. fun____al education

127. di____ar without a trace

125. my vo____er work

128. basic br__n function

- a person who performs or offers to perform a job or service without being paid for or forced to do
- adj. forming an essential base or core from which everything else develops or is affected
- v. to cease to exist or be visible
- n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling

ANSWERS: 125. volunteer, 126. fundamental, 127. disappear, 128. brain

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	The president prepared several possible for an enemy attack.
n.	a description of possible actions or events in the future; a written outline of a play, film, or literary work
2.	Human behavior has characteristics.
adj	forming an essential base or core from which everything else develops or is affected
3.	the text from Italian into English.
v.	to convert or change words into another language
4.	The meditation class was focused on finding inner peace and cultivating a more connection with the universe.
adj	relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things
5.	I bought a gadget before my trip to help stress during the flight.
v.	to make something, especially something bad, small or less serious
6.	The project's made it difficult for the team to complete it on time.
n.	the state or quality of being complicated or intricate and difficult to understand
7.	The employee the promotion for their hard work and dedication.
v.	to be worthy of or entitled to something, especially something good or valuable
8.	Breast is the most common type of cancer in women.
n.	abnormal growth of cells that can invade and destroy surrounding tissues and organs; a disease characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells
	SWERS: 1. scenarios, 2. fundamental, 3. Translate, 4. spiritual, 5. minimize, 6. nplexity, 7. deserved, 8. cancer

Vocab-Builder Ref from	"Salvatore laconesi: Wh	nat happened when I	open-sourced my bra	ain cancer TED Ta	lk" (64 words)
4 NOW/ED 0					
ANSWERS:					