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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Lunney: Where does gold come from? | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_lunney\\_where\\_does\\_gold\\_come\\_from](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_lunney_where_does_gold_come_from)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### alchemy

*n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

*synonym*: sorcery, magic, transmutation

(1) **alchemy** experiment, (2) **alchemy** of emotions

Today, the study of **alchemy** remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

### gleam

*v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

*synonym*: glitter, shimmer, shine

(1) **gleam** in eyes, (2) **gleam** like honey

The diamond ring **gleamed** in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.

### portray

*v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

*synonym*: depict, describe, illustrate

(1) **portray** feelings in words, (2) accurately **portray** the condition

We often **portray** political problems as religious issues.

### **eccentric**

*adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

*synonym* : bizarre, abnormal, curious

(1) display **eccentric** behavior, (2) **eccentric** characters

He was **eccentric**, but he was also a genius.

### **extraterrestrial**

*adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

*synonym* : alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence

Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

### **cataclysm**

*n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war

*synonym* : disaster, catastrophe, turmoil

(1) global **cataclysm**, (2) existential **cataclysm**

The earthquake was a **cataclysm** from which the local people never recovered.

### **supernova**

*n.* a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant

*synonym* : explosion, detonation, blast

(1) extragalactic **supernova**, (2) **supernova** remnant

The **supernova** explosion created a bright new star in the night sky.

### **gravitational**

*adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

*synonym* : weighty, heavy, earthbound

(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves

The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.

## compress

*v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

*synonym* : condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

## helium

*n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

*synonym* : He, light gas, noble gas

(1) **helium** atom, (2) **helium** gas

The **helium-filled** balloons floated into the sky.

## explode

*v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

*synonym* : detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

## proton

*n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

(1) **proton** decay, (2) **proton** conductivity

The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and **protons**.

## repel

*v.* to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat

*synonym* : turn away, fight off, force back

(1) **repel** bandits, (2) **repel** bad luck

This material can **repel** moisture swiftly.

## shockwave

*n.* a wave or series of waves produced by a sudden disturbance, such as an explosion or a supersonic flow, capable of producing significant changes in pressure, temperature, and density of the medium through which it travels

*synonym* : blast, shock, impact

(1) the propagation of **shockwaves**, (2) **shockwave** effect  
The **shockwave** from the explosion shattered windows for several blocks.

## propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

*synonym* : drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

## interstellar

*adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars

*synonym* : galactic, cosmic, intergalactic

(1) **interstellar** communication, (2) **interstellar** space

The **interstellar** medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

## swirl

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

*synonym* : spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust

The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

## condense

v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated

*synonym* : compress, compact, shorten

(1) **condense** the text, (2) **condense** water vapor

I need to **condense** all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.

## knead

v. to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device

*synonym* : massage, rub, manipulate

(1) **knead** clay, (2) **knead** muscles

I need to **knead** the dough before I can bake the bread.

**geothermal**

*adj.* relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth; often used to refer to energy produced by tapping into the natural heat of the earth

*synonym* : underground, thermal, subterranean

(1) **geothermal** activity, (2) **geothermal** drilling

The town is exploring using **geothermal** energy to power its homes and buildings.

**rarity**

*n.* the condition or trait of being unusual; something that is unusual

*synonym* : rareness, infrequency, uncommonness

(1) the **rarity** of the event, (2) book of great **rarity**

Due to their **rarity**, diamonds are expensive.

**covet**

*v.* to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for

*synonym* : desire, yearn, crave

(1) **covet** wealth, (2) **covet** fame

She couldn't help but **covet** her friend's designer handbag.

**mimic**

*v.* 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.

**bury**

*v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

*synonym* : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

**dissolve**

*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

*synonym* : disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

### **minuscule**

*adj.* extremely small; tiny

*synonym* : tiny, insignificant, microscopic

(1) **minuscule** amount, (2) **minuscule** letters

This ore emits **minuscule** quantities of radiation

### **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.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. pr\_\_\_l growth  
*v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
2. su\_\_\_\_\_va remnant  
*n.* a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant
3. mi\_\_\_\_\_le letters  
*adj.* extremely small; tiny
4. pr\_\_\_n conductivity  
*n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
5. he\_\_\_m atom  
*n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
6. gl\_\_m in eyes  
*v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
7. pr\_\_\_l the ship  
*v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
8. book of great ra\_\_\_y  
*n.* the condition or trait of being unusual; something that is unusual
9. sh\_\_\_\_\_ve effect  
*n.* a wave or series of waves produced by a sudden disturbance, such as an explosion or a supersonic flow, capable of producing significant changes in pressure, temperature, and density of the medium through which it travels

ANSWERS: 1. propel, 2. supernova, 3. minuscule, 4. proton, 5. helium, 6. gleam, 7. propel, 8. rarity, 9. shockwave

10. the ra\_\_\_y of the event *n.* the condition or trait of being unusual; something that is unusual
11. kn\_\_d muscles *v.* to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device
12. kn\_\_d clay *v.* to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device
13. co\_\_\_\_\_ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
14. display ec\_\_\_\_\_ic behavior *adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
15. mi\_\_c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
16. pr\_\_\_n decay *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
17. al\_\_\_\_\_y of emotions *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
18. he\_\_\_m gas *n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

ANSWERS: 10. rarity, 11. knead, 12. knead, 13. compress, 14. eccentric, 15. mimic, 16. proton, 17. alchemy, 18. helium



19. co\_\_\_\_ss the chest      *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
20. existential ca\_\_\_\_\_sm      *n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war
21. b\_\_y emotion      *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
22. ext\_\_\_\_\_ial planet      *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
23. the propagation of sh\_\_\_\_\_ves      *n.* a wave or series of waves produced by a sudden disturbance, such as an explosion or a supersonic flow, capable of producing significant changes in pressure, temperature, and density of the medium through which it travels
24. global ca\_\_\_\_\_sm      *n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war
25. di\_\_\_\_\_ve the sugar      *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
26. re\_\_l bad luck      *v.* to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
27. ec\_\_\_\_\_ic characters      *adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
28. gra\_\_\_\_\_nal energy      *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

ANSWERS: 19. compress, 20. cataclysm, 21. bury, 22. extraterrestrial, 23. shockwave, 24. cataclysm, 25. dissolve, 26. repel, 27. eccentric, 28. gravitational

29. sw\_\_l up dirt and dust                    *v.*    to move in a circular or spiral pattern
30. er\_\_\_\_\_te racial discrimination       *v.*    to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
31. ext\_\_\_\_\_ial intelligence               *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
32. er\_\_\_\_\_te the deficit                    *v.*    to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
33. int\_\_\_\_\_lar space                      *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
34. int\_\_\_\_\_lar communication           *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
35. co\_\_\_\_\_se the text                      *v.*    to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
36. po\_\_\_\_\_y feelings in words            *v.*    to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
37. co\_\_t fame                                  *v.*    to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for
38. geo\_\_\_\_\_al activity                      *adj.* relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth; often used to refer to energy produced by tapping into the natural heat of the earth

ANSWERS: 29. swirl, 30. eradicate, 31. extraterrestrial, 32. eradicate, 33. interstellar, 34. interstellar, 35. condense, 36. portray, 37. covet, 38. geothermal

39. co\_\_\_\_se water vapor      v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
40. ex\_\_\_\_e in popularity      v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
41. gl\_\_m like honey      v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
42. gra\_\_\_\_\_nal waves      *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
43. re\_\_l bandits      v. to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
44. co\_\_t wealth      v. to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for
45. geo\_\_\_\_\_al drilling      *adj.* relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth; often used to refer to energy produced by tapping into the natural heat of the earth
46. b\_\_y in the earth      v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
47. ex\_\_\_\_e in anger      v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

ANSWERS: 39. condense, 40. explode, 41. gleam, 42. gravitational, 43. repel, 44. covet, 45. geothermal, 46. bury, 47. explode

48. officially di\_\_\_\_ved the marriage      *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
49. extragalactic su\_\_\_\_va      *n.* a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant
50. mi\_\_c numerous instruments      *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
51. al\_\_\_\_y experiment      *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
52. sw\_\_l the wine      *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
53. mi\_\_\_\_le amount      *adj.* extremely small; tiny
54. accurately po\_\_\_\_y the condition      *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

ANSWERS: 48. dissolve, 49. supernova, 50. mimic, 51. alchemy, 52. swirl, 53. minuscule, 54. portray

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.  
*adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
2. This ore emits \_\_\_\_\_ quantities of radiation  
*adj.* extremely small; tiny
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ from the explosion shattered windows for several blocks.  
*n.* a wave or series of waves produced by a sudden disturbance, such as an explosion or a supersonic flow, capable of producing significant changes in pressure, temperature, and density of the medium through which it travels
4. An increase in employment helps \_\_\_\_\_ economic growth.  
*v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
5. Due to their \_\_\_\_\_ diamonds are expensive.  
*n.* the condition or trait of being unusual; something that is unusual
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ balloons floated into the sky.  
*n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
7. The earthquake was a \_\_\_\_\_ from which the local people never recovered.  
*n.* a sudden violent event that changes the earth's environment, such as a flood or a war

ANSWERS: 1. gravitational, 2. minuscule, 3. shockwave, 4. propel, 5. rarity, 6. helium-filled, 7. cataclysm

8. We often \_\_\_\_\_ political problems as religious issues.
- v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
- v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
10. The political party \_\_\_\_\_ after much internal fighting.
- v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
11. He was \_\_\_\_\_ but he was also a genius.
- adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
12. The diamond ring \_\_\_\_\_ in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.
- v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
13. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of \_\_\_\_\_ life in the universe.
- adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
14. The old building \_\_\_\_\_ in a fiery inferno.
- v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
15. Today, the study of \_\_\_\_\_ remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy
- n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

ANSWERS: 8. portray, 9. compressed, 10. dissolved, 11. eccentric, 12. gleamed, 13. extraterrestrial, 14. exploded, 15. alchemy

16. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.
- v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ explosion created a bright new star in the night sky.
- n.* a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant
18. The town is exploring using \_\_\_\_\_ energy to power its homes and buildings.
- adj.* relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth; often used to refer to energy produced by tapping into the natural heat of the earth
19. The chef expertly \_\_\_\_\_ the sauce onto the plate.
- v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
20. She couldn't help but \_\_\_\_\_ her friend's designer handbag.
- v.* to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for
21. This material can \_\_\_\_\_ moisture swiftly.
- v.* to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
22. He is very popular at school because he can \_\_\_\_\_ all the teachers' accents.
- v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
23. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ the dough before I can bake the bread.
- v.* to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device

ANSWERS: 16. condense, 17. supernova, 18. geothermal, 19. swirled, 20. covet, 21. repel, 22. mimic, 23. knead



24. We are trying to \_\_\_\_\_ this disease from the world.

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

25. The \_\_\_\_\_ medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

*adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars

26. There is plenty of space to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone.

*v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

27. The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

ANSWERS: 24. eradicate, 25. interstellar, 26. bury, 27. protons