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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sal Khan: Let's teach for mastery -- not test scores |  
TED Talk

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### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### mastery

*n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity

*synonym* : proficiency, aptitude, domination

(1) **mastery** of mathematics, (2) strive for **mastery**

The country finally gained **mastery** over the whole land of its neighbors.

### mindset

*n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

*synonym* : attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

### edgy

*adj.* being tense, nervous, or irritable; nervous, jittery behavior; having a provocative, unconventional, or avant-garde style or mentality

*synonym* : tense, nervous, anxious

(1) **edgy** haircut, (2) **edgy** fashion

I always feel **edgy** when I have to give a speech in front of a large crowd.

## shepherd

*n.* a person who tends and guards sheep, especially in a rural area

*synonym*: herder, flock-keeper, sheepdog

(1) **shepherd** boy, (2) sheep without a **shepherd**

The **shepherd's** dog helped keep the sheep in line and protect them from predators.

## exponent

*n.* a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself

*synonym*: advocate, representative, exponent

(1) **exponent** function, (2) the **exponent** of the free market

The CEO is an **exponent** of innovation and encourages employees to think outside the box.

## logarithm

*n.* a mathematical function that indicates the power to which a fixed number (the base) must be raised to produce another given number expressed as an exponent

*synonym*: mathematical function, exponent, power

(1) **logarithm** function, (2) **logarithm** table

To solve this equation, you must take both sides' **logarithms**.

## trigonometry

*n.* a branch of mathematics that deals with the relationships and properties of triangles, including the angles and sides, as well as the calculations and measurements involving trigonometric functions such as sine, cosine, and tangent

*synonym*: math, geometry, calculation

(1) **trigonometry** principles, (2) solve **trigonometry** problems

In computer graphics, **trigonometry** functions are often used to calculate angles and distances between points.

## disengage

*v.* to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship

*synonym*:

withdraw, separate, detach

(1) **disengage** the clutch, (2) **disengage** socially

He **disengaged** from the conversation and walked away.

## constrain

*v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

*synonym* : restrict, limit, confine

(1) **constrain** his freedom, (2) **constrain** information flow

The political situation **constrained** the country's economic growth and foreign relations.

## 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.

## skeptic

*n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

*synonym* : doubter, disbeliever, questioner

(1) an ingrained **skeptic**, (2) climate **skeptic**

He was a **skeptic** who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.

## impractical

*adj.* not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome

*synonym* : impracticable, unrealizable, unfeasible

(1) **impractical** idea, (2) **impractical** solution  
It is **impractical** to expect everyone to work for free.

## **pessimistic**

*adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

*synonym*: cynical, defeatist, despairing

(1) take a **pessimistic** view of life, (2) **pessimistic** for our survival

She was unduly **pessimistic** about her future.

## **physicist**

*n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

## **bureaucracy**

*n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

*synonym*: administration, government, system

(1) government **bureaucracy**, (2) arbitrary **bureaucracy**

The bumbling **bureaucracy** made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

## **aspiration**

*n.* 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.

## **invert**

*v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something

*synonym*: turn upside down, reverse, flip

(1) **invert** a glass, (2) **invert** position

He decided to **invert** his investment portfolio, shifting from stocks to bonds.

## utopian

*adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)

*synonym*: idealistic, perfectionistic, unrealistic

(1) **utopian** society, (2) **utopian** goal

He had a **utopian** vision of a world without war.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. sh\_\_\_\_rd boy *n.* a person who tends and guards sheep, especially in a rural area
2. ut\_\_\_\_n society *adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
3. government bur\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
4. dogged per\_\_\_\_nce *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
5. the ex\_\_\_\_nt of the free market *n.* a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself
6. co\_\_\_\_in his freedom *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
7. di\_\_\_\_ge socially *v.* to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship
8. flexible mi\_\_\_\_t *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
9. ut\_\_\_\_n goal *adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)

ANSWERS: 1. shepherd, 2. utopian, 3. bureaucracy, 4. perseverance, 5. exponent, 6. constrain, 7. disengage, 8. mindset, 9. utopian

10. an ingrained sk\_\_\_\_c                      *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
11. ex\_\_\_\_nt function                      *n.* a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself
12. g\_\_t determination                      *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
13. ma\_\_\_\_y of mathematics                      *n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
14. asp\_\_\_\_\_on into the lungs                      *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
15. strive for ma\_\_\_\_y                      *n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
16. talented ph\_\_\_\_\_st                      *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
17. g\_\_t washer                      *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

ANSWERS: 10. skeptic, 11. exponent, 12. grit, 13. mastery, 14. aspiration, 15. mastery, 16. physicist, 17. grit

18. co\_\_\_\_\_in information flow      *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
19. pes\_\_\_\_\_ic for our survival      *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
20. tri\_\_\_\_\_try principles      *n.* a branch of mathematics that deals with the relationships and properties of triangles, including the angles and sides, as well as the calculations and measurements involving trigonometric functions such as sine, cosine, and tangent
21. take a pes\_\_\_\_\_ic view of life      *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
22. the mi\_\_\_\_\_t in an education system      *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
23. lo\_\_\_\_\_hm function      *n.* a mathematical function that indicates the power to which a fixed number (the base) must be raised to produce another given number expressed as an exponent
24. imp\_\_\_\_\_al solution      *adj.* not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
25. in\_\_\_\_t a glass      *v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something
26. unwavering per\_\_\_\_\_nce      *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

ANSWERS: 18. constrain, 19. pessimistic, 20. trigonometry, 21. pessimistic, 22. mindset, 23. logarithm, 24. impractical, 25. invert, 26. perseverance



27. in\_\_\_t position *v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something
28. climate sk\_\_\_\_\_c *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
29. solve tri\_\_\_\_\_try problems *n.* a branch of mathematics that deals with the relationships and properties of triangles, including the angles and sides, as well as the calculations and measurements involving trigonometric functions such as sine, cosine, and tangent
30. e\_\_y haircut *adj.* being tense, nervous, or irritable; nervous, jittery behavior; having a provocative, unconventional, or avant-garde style or mentality
31. theoretical ph\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
32. no asp\_\_\_\_\_on for fame *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
33. sheep without a sh\_\_\_\_\_rd *n.* a person who tends and guards sheep, especially in a rural area
34. imp\_\_\_\_\_al idea *adj.* not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
35. di\_\_\_\_\_ge the clutch *v.* to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship

ANSWERS: 27. invert, 28. skeptic, 29. trigonometry, 30. edgy, 31. physicist, 32. aspiration, 33. shepherd, 34. impractical, 35. disengage

36. arbitrary bur\_\_\_\_\_cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
37. e\_\_y fashion *adj.* being tense, nervous, or irritable; nervous, jittery behavior; having a provocative, unconventional, or avant-garde style or mentality
38. lo\_\_\_\_\_hm table *n.* a mathematical function that indicates the power to which a fixed number (the base) must be raised to produce another given number expressed as an exponent

ANSWERS: 36. bureaucracy, 37. edgy, 38. logarithm

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ from the conversation and walked away.  
*v.* to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship
  
2. He decided to \_\_\_\_\_ his investment portfolio, shifting from stocks to bonds.  
*v.* to turn something upside down, inside out; to reverse the position, order, or relationship of something
  
3. Einstein was an outstanding and famous \_\_\_\_\_ of the 20th century.  
*n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
  
4. The political situation \_\_\_\_\_ the country's economic growth and foreign relations.  
*v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
  
5. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial \_\_\_\_\_ in each individual.  
*n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
  
6. He had a \_\_\_\_\_ vision of a world without war.  
*adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
  
7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. disengaged, 2. invert, 3. physicist, 4. constrained, 5. mindset, 6. utopian, 7. perseverance

8. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.  
*n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ dog helped keep the sheep in line and protect them from predators.  
*n.* a person who tends and guards sheep, especially in a rural area
10. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to expect everyone to work for free.  
*adj.* not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
11. In computer graphics, \_\_\_\_\_ functions are often used to calculate angles and distances between points.  
*n.* a branch of mathematics that deals with the relationships and properties of triangles, including the angles and sides, as well as the calculations and measurements involving trigonometric functions such as sine, cosine, and tangent
12. She was unduly \_\_\_\_\_ about her future.  
*adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
13. The CEO is an \_\_\_\_\_ of innovation and encourages employees to think outside the box.  
*n.* a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself
14. 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

ANSWERS: 8. skeptic, 9. shepherd's, 10. impractical, 11. trigonometry, 12. pessimistic, 13. exponent, 14. grit

15. The bumbling \_\_\_\_\_ made it difficult to get the permits we needed.  
*n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
16. To solve this equation, you must take both sides' \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a mathematical function that indicates the power to which a fixed number (the base) must be raised to produce another given number expressed as an exponent
17. He has an \_\_\_\_\_ to become a doctor.  
*n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
18. The country finally gained \_\_\_\_\_ over the whole land of its neighbors.  
*n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
19. I always feel \_\_\_\_\_ when I have to give a speech in front of a large crowd.  
*adj.* being tense, nervous, or irritable; nervous, jittery behavior; having a provocative, unconventional, or avant-garde style or mentality

ANSWERS: 15. bureaucracy, 16. logarithms, 17. aspiration, 18. mastery, 19. edgy