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# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jason Pontin: Can technology solve our big

problems? | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/jason\_pontin\_can\_technolo

gy\_solve\_our\_big\_problems



# **Advanced Words Only**

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# **Session 1: Word List**

**lunar** 

adj. of or pertaining to the moon

synonym: moony

(1) lunar crater, (2) lunar surface

Ancient people felt mystified by the patterns on the **lunar** surface.

descend

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

synonym: dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

tranquility

 a state of calmness or peacefulness; absence of agitation, disturbance, or turbulence; a peaceful or serene environment

synonym: calmness, serenity, peace

(1) the **tranquility** of the environment, (2) feeling of **tranquility** 

She found **tranquility** by meditating in the garden.

culmination

 the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time

synonym: climax, completion, ending

(1) the **culmination** of her ambition, (2) **culmination** altitude

Their achievements stand as a **culmination** of centuries of development.

#### convulse

to experience a sudden and violent contraction of the muscles, often caused by pain, illness, or emotional distress, or to make someone or something do this

synonym: spasm, tremble, seize

(1) **convulse** with laughter, (2) **convulse** with anger He **convulsed** in pain as the injury was severe.

## peacetime

n. the state of a country or the world during a period when there is no war

synonym: peace, non-war, non-conflict

(1) peacetime era, (2) peacetime treaty

Tensions were high during wartime, but the countries were friendly in **peacetime**.

#### mobilize

v. to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

synonym: activate, rally, marshal

(1) **mobilize** cooperation, (2) **mobilize** a stiff joint The military **mobilized** troops to the border.

# fragility

 the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable

synonym: delicacy, weakness, frailty

(1) fragility of life, (2) emotional fragility

The **fragility** of the glass required careful handling during shipping.

# cynical

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

synonym: skeptical, mistrustful, doubtful

(1) cynical remarks, (2) cynical worldview

He was very **cynical** and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

#### transcendent

 adj. going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime

synonym: beyond human experience, divine, spiritual

(1) transcendent wisdom, (2) transcendent joy

The transcendent beauty of the Grand Canyon took his

breath away.

#### penicillin

 an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections

synonym: antibiotic, bacitracin

(1) **penicillin** allergy, (2) **penicillin** sensitivity testing The doctor prescribed **penicillin** to treat the bacterial infection.

## polio

 an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability

synonym: poliomyelitis, infantile paralysis

(1) polio epidemic, (2) polio eradication

The **polio** vaccine development is regarded as one of the greatest medical achievements of the 20th century.

#### 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.

smallpox

 a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

synonym: variola

(1) smallpox epidemic, (2) smallpox vaccine

An outbreak of **smallpox** occurred in the 1920s.

#### blithe

adj. lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry

synonym: carefree, lighthearted, joyous

(1) blithe manner, (2) blithe disregard

She had a **blithe** attitude toward her responsibilities, which caused her to miss important deadlines.

## optimism

n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism** 

There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

## evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

synonym: vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

#### intractable

*adj.* difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate *synonym*: obstinate, stubborn, unyielding

(1) **intractable** pain, (2) **intractable** situation The **intractable** problem defied a solution.

liftoff

n. the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor

synonym: takeoff, launching, ascent

(1) liftoff time, (2) liftoff procedure

The spacecraft had a successful **liftoff**, launching into the atmosphere.

#### fiery

adj. very intense; like or suggestive of fire synonym: igneous, passionate, fervent(1) a fiery speech, (2) a fiery sunsetHe is a man of fiery temperament.

#### commonplace

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest synonym: ordinary, routine, mundane

(1) become a **commonplace** sight, (2) **commonplace** event

Forgetting someone's name is a **commonplace** occurrence.

#### divert

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym: distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **divert** attention, (2) **divert** an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

#### enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym: enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

#### smartphone

- a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
- (1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

#### app

 n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym: application, software

(1) killer app, (2) cannot log in to the app

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

#### parochial

adj. related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings

*synonym*: narrow-minded, insular, provincial

(1) parochial views, (2) parochial community

The **parochial** attitude of the small town made it difficult for outsiders to feel welcome.

#### biofuel

 a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels

*synonym*: renewable energy, green fuel, alternative fuel

(1) biofuel production, (2) biofuel technology
The airplane was powered by a biofuel made from plant-based materials.

#### spur

 a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something

*synonym*: encouragement, motivation, stimulus

(1) **spur** of the moment, (2) **spur** a momentum of economic growth

The threat of losing his job was the **spur** he needed to work harder.

#### famine

 a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

*synonym*: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) famine relief, (2) coal famine

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

#### catastrophic

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

synonym: fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate change

The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

#### elude

fiend

v. to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning

synonym: evade, avoid, dodge

- (1) **elude** the law, (2) **elude** responsibility for the failure The suspect **eluded** capture for weeks before being caught by the police.
- an evil or wicked person or supernatural being;
   someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something

synonym: monster, demon, devil

(1) **fiend** for chocolate, (2) fitness **fiend** 

The **fiend** in the horror movie gave me nightmares for weeks.

#### institutionalize

 to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

# reproducibility

 the ability of an experiment, study, or result to be replicated or repeated by different researchers or laboratories, often seen as a key aspect of scientific rigor

synonym: repeatability, replicability, consistency

(1) **reproducibility** measure, (2) scientific **reproducibility** The researchers spent considerable effort to ensure the **reproducibility** of their experiments.

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# galvanize

- v. to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rustsynonym: energize, invigorate, motivate
- (1) **galvanize** steel, (2) **galvanize** the country

  The motivational speech **galvanized** the team and gave them the drive to succeed.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1.	intle situation	adj.	difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate
2.	fae relief	n.	a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
3.	lur crater	adj.	of or pertaining to the moon
4.	repity measure	n.	the ability of an experiment, study, or result to be replicated or repeated by different researchers or laboratories, often seen as a key aspect of scientific rigor
5.	cyl worldview	adj.	believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
6.	traent wisdom	adj.	going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime
7.	paal community	adj.	related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings
8.	cathic climate change	adj.	extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
9.	victim of cathic injuries	adj.	extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

ANSWERS: 1. intractable, 2. famine, 3. lunar, 4. reproducibility, 5. cynical, 6. transcendent, 7. parochial, 8. catastrophic, 9. catastrophic

10.	penin sensitivity testing	n.	an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
11.	dit attention	ν.	to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
12.	become a comce sight	adj.	occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
13.	cannot log in to the a_p	n.	(abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
14.	biI technology	n.	a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
15.	ded by elevator	ν.	to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
16.	scientific repity	n.	the ability of an experiment, study, or result to be replicated or repeated by different researchers or laboratories, often seen as a key aspect of scientific rigor
17.	emotional frty	n.	the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
18.	gaze the country	<i>v</i> .	to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rust

ANSWERS: 10. penicillin, 11. divert, 12. commonplace, 13. app, 14. biofuel, 15. descend, 16. reproducibility, 17. fragility, 18. galvanize

19.	political opsm	n.	a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
20.	the culon of her ambition	n.	the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
21.	enh a gas with a balloon	<i>v</i> .	to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
22.	ele responsibility for the failure	<i>v</i> .	to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
23.	fitness fid	n.	an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something
24.	sr of the moment	n.	a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
25.	a fiy sunset	adj.	very intense; like or suggestive of fire
26.	the traty of the environment	n.	a state of calmness or peacefulness; absence of agitation, disturbance, or turbulence; a peaceful or serene environment
27.	gaze steel	<i>v</i> .	to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rust
28.	lur surface	adj.	of or pertaining to the moon
29.	lif procedure	n.	the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor

ANSWERS: 19. optimism, 20. culmination, 21. enrich, 22. elude, 23. fiend, 24. spur, 25. fiery, 26. tranquility, 27. galvanize, 28. lunar, 29. liftoff

30.	ble disregard	adj.	lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry
31.	moze a stiff joint	v.	to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
32.	killer a_p	n.	(abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
33.	smox epidemic	n.	a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
34.	sr a momentum of economic growth	n.	a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
35.	moze cooperation	v.	to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
36.	ble manner	adj.	lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry
37.	erte the deficit	<i>v</i> .	to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
38.	poo epidemic	n.	an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability

ANSWERS: 30. blithe, 31. mobilize, 32. app, 33. smallpox, 34. spur, 35. mobilize, 36. blithe, 37. eradicate, 38. polio

39.	insize customary laws	ν.	to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
40.	penin allergy	n.	an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
41.	evte almost overnight	ν.	to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
42.	traent joy	adj.	going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime
43.	sense of opsm	n.	a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
44.	frty of life	n.	the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
45.	feeling of traty	n.	a state of calmness or peacefulness; absence of agitation, disturbance, or turbulence; a peaceful or serene environment
46.	ele the law	ν.	to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
47.	cyI remarks	adj.	believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
48.	comce event	adj.	occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

ANSWERS: 39. institutionalize, 40. penicillin, 41. evaporate, 42. transcendent, 43. optimism, 44. fragility, 45. tranquility, 46. elude, 47. cynical, 48. commonplace

49.	smane addict	n.	a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
50.	insize a system	ν.	to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
51.	intle pain	adj.	difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate
52.	poo eradication	n.	an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
53.	cose with laughter	v.	to experience a sudden and violent contraction of the muscles, often caused by pain, illness, or emotional distress, or to make someone or something do this
54.	fid for chocolate	n.	an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something
55.	dit an assault	ν.	to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
56.	paal views	adj.	related to or characteristic of a small or narrow-minded community, often referring to a geographic location or mindset; having limited or narrow knowledge or experience of the world outside one's immediate surroundings

ANSWERS: 49. smartphone, 50. institutionalize, 51. intractable, 52. polio, 53. convulse, 54. fiend, 55. divert, 56. parochial

coal fae	n.	a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
cose with anger	v.	to experience a sudden and violent contraction of the muscles, often caused by pain, illness, or emotional distress, or to make someone or something do this
enh public services	<i>v</i> .	to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
peme era	n.	the state of a country or the world during a period when there is no war
biI production	n.	a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
peme treaty	n.	the state of a country or the world during a period when there is no war
lif time	n.	the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor
evte the water	<i>v</i> .	to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
erte racial discrimination	<i>v</i> .	to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
culon altitude	n.	the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
a fiy speech	adj.	very intense; like or suggestive of fire
	enh public services  peme era  bil production  peme treaty  lif time  evte the water  erte racial discrimination  culon altitude	enh public services v.  peme era n.  bil production n.  peme treaty n.  lif time n.  evte the water v.  erte racial discrimination v.  culon altitude n.

ANSWERS: 57. famine, 58. convulse, 59. enrich, 60. peacetime, 61. biofuel, 62. peacetime, 63. liftoff, 64. evaporate, 65. eradicate, 66. culmination, 67. fiery

68. de\_\_\_\_d a steep hill

 v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

 69. sma\_\_\_\_ne app developer

 a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

 70. sm\_\_\_\_ox vaccine

 a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

ANSWERS: 68. descend, 69. smartphone, 70. smallpox

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

1.	There is considerable that the economy will recover soon.
n.	a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
2.	An outbreak of occurred in the 1920s.
n.	a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
3.	The motivational speech the team and gave them the drive to succeed.
<i>v</i> .	to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zine to protect it from rust
4.	Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of
n.	a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
5.	The doctor prescribed to treat the bacterial infection.
n.	an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
6.	The researchers spent considerable effort to ensure the of their experiments.
n.	the ability of an experiment, study, or result to be replicated or repeated by different researchers or laboratories, often seen as a key aspect of scientific rigor
7.	The severe caused by the drought has left many people without food.
n.	a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
	SWERS: 1. optimism, 2. smallpox, 3. galvanized, 4. smartphones, 5. penicillin, 6. roducibility, 7. famine

ANSWERS: 8. polio, 9. parochial, 10. evaporate, 11. tranquility, 12. divert, 13. eluded, 14. catastrophic

15. Tensions were high during wartime, but the countries were friendly in
n. the state of a country or the world during a period when there is no war
16. Forgetting someone's name is a occurrence.
adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
17. He was very and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.
adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
18. The problem defied a solution.
adj. difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate
19. He in pain as the injury was severe.
ν. to experience a sudden and violent contraction of the muscles, often caused by pain, illness, or emotional distress, or to make someone or something do this
20. The military troops to the border.
$\nu$ . to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
21. She was from an old Italian noble family.
$\nu$ . to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
22. We are trying to this disease from the world.
v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
ANSWERS: 15. peacetime, 16. commonplace, 17. cynical, 18. intractable, 19. convulsed, 20. mobilized, 21. descended, 22. eradicate

ANSWERS: 23. liftoff, 24. lunar, 25. spur, 26. culmination, 27. fragility, 28. app's, 29. blithe, 30. enriches

31.	The new policy aims to the use of renewable energy sources.
v.	to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
32.	The beauty of the Grand Canyon took his breath away.
adj	going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or knowledge; surpassing the usual or expected; exalted or sublime
33.	The airplane was powered by a made from plant-based materials.
n.	a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
34.	The in the horror movie gave me nightmares for weeks.
n.	an evil or wicked person or supernatural being; someone who is excessively devoted or addicted to something
35.	He is a man of temperament.
adj	very intense; like or suggestive of fire

ANSWERS: 31. institutionalize, 32. transcendent, 33. biofuel, 34. fiend, 35. fiery