

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Toni Griffin: A new vision for rebuilding Detroit | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/toni_griffin_a_new_vision_for_rebuilding_detroit

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym : drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym : commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

chuckle

n. a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a

suppressed or restrained way

synonym : laugh, giggle, snicker

(1) **chuckle** at my cat's silly antics, (2) stifled **chuckle**

I couldn't help but let out a little **chuckle** when I saw the silly photo my friend had sent me.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym : disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

depict

v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

synonym : illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

mural

adj. a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface

synonym : wall painting, fresco, wall art

(1) **mural** painting, (2) a **mural** decoration

The **mural** on the wall depicted the history of the city.

coincide

v. to take place at or near the same time

synonym : overlap, coexist, concur

(1) partly **coincide**, (2) **coincide** with reality

These results **coincide** with our hypothesis.

desolate

adj. deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness

synonym : barren, stark, uninhabited

(1) a **desolate** scene, (2) **desolate** moon
The deserted island was **desolate** and uninhabited.

hover

v. to stay in one place in the air

synonym: hang, float over, drift

(1) **hover** between life and death, (2) **hover** around the table

Two birds were **hovering** overhead.

deplete

v. to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials

synonym: exhaust, consume, use up

(1) **deplete** customer confidence, (2) **deplete** glycogen stores

If we continue to **deplete** the Earth's natural resources, we will cause severe damage to the environment.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

steward

n. a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.

synonym: caretaker, manager, custodian

(1) **steward** duties, (2) **steward** service

The **steward** on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.

speculate

v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

synonym: assume, conjecture, infer

(1) **speculate** about the reason, (2) **speculate** on the outcome

He **speculated** that this investment would lead to success.

farmland

n. land used for farming or agricultural purposes

synonym: agriculture, cropland

(1) **farmland** acreage, (2) fertile **farmland**

The government is encouraging farmers to expand their **farmland** to increase food production.

grandchild

n. a child of someone's son or daughter

synonym: offspring, descendant, progeny

(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

agrarian

adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

synonym : agricultural, farming, rural

(1) **agrarian** society, (2) **agrarian** reform

Most of the people in the **agrarian** community work in agriculture.

ascendant

n. a person's ancestor; the predecessor or originator of something; rising or dominant; in astrology, the zodiacal sign or house that is on the horizon at a particular time and place

synonym : dominant, rising, antecedent

(1) technological **ascendant** trends, (2) **ascendant** sign

The **ascendant** leader of the political party promises to bring change to the country.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

relocate

v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there

synonym : emigrate, resettle, migrate

(1) **relocate** a company, (2) **relocate** with a new job

The university **relocated** to campuses several miles away.

prosperous

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

synonym : successful, thriving, affluent

(1) **prosperous** weather, (2) **prosperous** nation

The company decided to invest in a **prosperous** industry.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym : in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over

the schedule.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

typology

n. the study or classification of types or patterns, particularly in terms of objects, concepts, or characteristics; a system or method of categorizing or organizing things into specific types or groups based on shared traits or attributes

synonym: classification, categorization, taxonomy

(1) **typology** study, (2) psychological **typology**

The linguist studied the **typology** of languages across different regions.

elevate

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

synonym: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

remediate

v. to correct, repair, or improve a problem or pitfall, often in a technological, environmental, or medical context

synonym: correct, rectify, fix

(1) **remediate** damage, (2) **remediate** the situation

We need to **remediate** the contaminated soil before it is safe to use.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym: defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when

demolishing petroleum plants.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation
descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 2. se_____ly connected | <i>adv.</i> used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc. |
| 3. a de_____te scene | <i>adj.</i> deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness |
| 4. st_____ze blood sugar levels | <i>v.</i> to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way |
| 5. sp_____te on the outcome | <i>v.</i> to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence |
| 6. st_____d duties | <i>n.</i> a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc. |
| 7. ho__r between life and death | <i>v.</i> to stay in one place in the air |
| 8. gra_____ld development | <i>n.</i> a child of someone's son or daughter |
| 9. fertile fa_____nd | <i>n.</i> land used for farming or agricultural purposes |
| 10. ag_____an society | <i>adj.</i> relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance |

ANSWERS: 1. industrious, 2. secondly, 3. desolate, 4. stabilize, 5. speculate, 6. steward, 7. hover, 8. grandchild, 9. farmland, 10. agrarian

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|
| 11. co____de with reality | v. | to take place at or near the same time |
| 12. re____te with a new job | v. | to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there |
| 13. re____te damage | v. | to correct, repair, or improve a problem or pitfall, often in a technological, environmental, or medical context |
| 14. fa____nd acreage | n. | land used for farming or agricultural purposes |
| 15. ch____e at my cat's silly antics | n. | a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way |
| 16. de____te moon | adj. | deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness |
| 17. pl____ting sales | v. | to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply |
| 18. pro____us weather | adj. | successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune |
| 19. de____t a feeling of isolation | v. | to illustrate someone or something in a photograph |
| 20. an op____ne remark | adj. | suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 21. de____e my own life | v. | to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose |
| 22. person of gra____nt age | n. | a parent of one's father or mother |

ANSWERS: 11. coincide, 12. relocate, 13. remediate, 14. farmland, 15. chuckle, 16. desolate, 17. plummet, 18. prosperous, 19. depict, 20. opportune, 21. devote, 22. grandparent

23. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
24. a mu__l decoration *adj.* a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface
25. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
26. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
27. ty_____gy study *n.* the study or classification of types or patterns, particularly in terms of objects, concepts, or characteristics; a system or method of categorizing or organizing things into specific types or groups based on shared traits or attributes
28. re_____te the situation *v.* to correct, repair, or improve a problem or pitfall, often in a technological, environmental, or medical context
29. de_____e customer confidence *v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
30. sp_____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
31. ag_____an reform *adj.* relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

ANSWERS: 23. descendant, 24. mural, 25. electrify, 26. electrify, 27. typology, 28. remediate, 29. deplete, 30. speculate, 31. agrarian

32. st____d service *n.* a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
33. ind____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
34. mu__l painting *adj.* a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface
35. el____e educational standards *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
36. ho__r around the table *v.* to stay in one place in the air
37. em____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
38. pl____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
39. psychological ty____gy *n.* the study or classification of types or patterns, particularly in terms of objects, concepts, or characteristics; a system or method of categorizing or organizing things into specific types or groups based on shared traits or attributes
40. de____e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 32. steward, 33. industrious, 34. mural, 35. elevate, 36. hover, 37. embarrass, 38. plummet, 39. typology, 40. devote

41. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
42. con_____te his ego *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
43. des_____nt of a pioneer *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
44. stifled ch_____e *n.* a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way
45. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
46. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
47. el_____e a close relationship *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
48. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
49. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
50. as_____nt sign *n.* a person's ancestor; the predecessor or originator of something; rising or dominant; in astrology, the zodiacal sign or house that is on the horizon at a particular time and place
51. con_____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
52. pro_____us nation *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

ANSWERS: 41. embarrass, 42. contaminate, 43. descendant, 44. chuckle, 45. grandparent, 46. stabilize, 47. elevate, 48. grandchild, 49. footprint, 50. ascendant, 51. contaminate, 52. prosperous

53. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
54. technological as_____nt trends *n.* a person's ancestor; the predecessor or originator of something; rising or dominant; in astrology, the zodiacal sign or house that is on the horizon at a particular time and place
55. partly co_____de *v.* to take place at or near the same time
56. de_____e glycogen stores *v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
57. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
58. fo_____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
59. se_____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
60. re_____te a company *v.* to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there
61. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
62. de_____t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

ANSWERS: 53. smashing, 54. ascendant, 55. coincide, 56. deplete, 57. smashing, 58. footprint, 59. secondly, 60. relocate, 61. opportune, 62. depict

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.
adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
2. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
n. a parent of one's father or mother
3. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.
v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
4. Two birds were _____ overhead.
v. to stay in one place in the air
5. These results _____ with our hypothesis.
v. to take place at or near the same time
6. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.
adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
7. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
8. The government is encouraging farmers to expand their _____ to increase food production.
n. land used for farming or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 1. secondly, 2. grandparents, 3. stabilizes, 4. hovering, 5. coincide, 6. prosperous, 7. embarrass, 8. farmland

9. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
n. a child of someone's son or daughter
10. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
11. The _____ on the wall depicted the history of the city.
adj. a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface
12. Most of the people in the _____ community work in agriculture.
adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance
13. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
14. The university _____ to campuses several miles away.
v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there
15. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.
v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
16. I couldn't help but let out a little _____ when I saw the silly photo my friend had sent me.
n. a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way

ANSWERS: 9. grandchild, 10. footprint, 11. mural, 12. agrarian, 13. depicted, 14. relocated, 15. speculated, 16. chuckle

17. If we continue to _____ the Earth's natural resources, we will cause severe damage to the environment.
- v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
18. The _____ leader of the political party promises to bring change to the country.
- n.* a person's ancestor; the predecessor or originator of something; rising or dominant; in astrology, the zodiacal sign or house that is on the horizon at a particular time and place
19. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
- v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
20. The _____ on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.
- n.* a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
21. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
22. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
- v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
23. The linguist studied the _____ of languages across different regions.
- n.* the study or classification of types or patterns, particularly in terms of objects, concepts, or characteristics; a system or method of categorizing or organizing things into specific types or groups based on shared traits or attributes

ANSWERS: 17. deplete, 18. ascendant, 19. devoted, 20. steward, 21. industrious, 22. plummeted, 23. typology

24. Eating food in a hurry _____ blood glucose levels.
- v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
25. We need to _____ the contaminated soil before it is safe to use.
- v.* to correct, repair, or improve a problem or pitfall, often in a technological, environmental, or medical context
26. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
27. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
28. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
- n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
29. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.
- v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
30. The deserted island was _____ and uninhabited.
- adj.* deserted, barren, or lonely; causing a feeling of sadness or hopelessness
31. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
- adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

ANSWERS: 24. elevates, 25. remediate, 26. electrify, 27. opportune, 28. descendants, 29. contaminate, 30. desolate, 31. smashing

ANSWERS: