

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kenneth Cukier: Big data is better data | TED Talk

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

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

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.

archaeology

n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**

She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

inscription

n. a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal

synonym: engraving, writing, script

(1) **inscription** on a plaque, (2) funerary **inscriptions**

The ancient coin had an **inscription** in Latin and a picture of the emperor on the other side.

fingernail

n. the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger

synonym: claw, paw

(1) **fingernail** biting, (2) fake **fingernail**

The car body scraped off with a **fingernail**.

feathery

adj. having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance

synonym : fluffy, plumed, downy

(1) **feathery** fronds, (2) delicate **feathery**

The **feathery** leaves of the plant gently swayed in the breeze.

quill

n. a hard, hollow, and spiky feature found on the skin of some animals, such as porcupines, used for protection and puncturing; a pen made from the shaft of a bird feather, used historically for writing

synonym : feather, plume, spike

(1) **quill-like** hairs, (2) porcupine **quill**

The historian carefully examined the **quill** pen to determine its age and origin.

fingerprint

n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person

synonym : print, mark, impression

(1) **fingerprint** at a crime scene, (2) **fingerprint** identification

The police used a **fingerprint** scanner to identify the suspect.

hijack

v. to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence

synonym : commandeer, seize, pirate

(1) **hijack** a helicopter, (2) **hijack** a phone number

He made a desperate effort to **hijack** an airliner.

dashboard

n. a control panel set within the central console of a vehicle or small aircraft; a diagram that depicts critical information, typically one that provides a business overview

synonym : control panel

(1) auto **dashboard**, (2) business **dashboard**

He noticed that the oil warning light on the **dashboard** of his car had turned on.

telltale

adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

synonym : revealing, indicative, suggestive

(1) **telltale** evidence, (2) **telltale** heart

The **telltale** signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.

slump

v. to fall or sink suddenly, often due to loss of support or stability; to decline or decrease abruptly, as in business or economic conditions; to become despondent or dispirited; (noun) a sudden or prolonged decline or drop in value, price, or quality

synonym : drop, sink, sag

(1) **slump** against pillows, (2) economic **slump**

Sales of the product **slumped** after the negative reviews were published.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

synonym : guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

honk

n. a loud, harsh sound made by a vehicle's horn to signal a warning or attract attention

synonym : beep, toot, blare

(1) **honk** sound, (2) **honk** for attention

The incessant **honk** of the car's horn woke me from sleep.

instruct

v. to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something

synonym: train, coach, guide

(1) **instruct** a student, (2) **instruct** a computer

The facility manager **instructed** the security guards to be on high alert.

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym: excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales

The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

enshrine

v. to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect

synonym: ensconce, preserve, cherish

(1) **enshrine** memories, (2) **enshrine** tradition

The Constitution **enshrines** the rights and freedoms of citizens.

overt

adj. open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret

synonym: open, unhidden, obvious

(1) **overt** hostility, (2) **overt** symptoms

His **overt** lack of enthusiasm was noticeable to everyone in the room.

biopsy

n. the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease

synonym : examination, autopsy

(1) **biopsy** of bone marrow, (2) liquid **biopsy**

The doctor performed an excisional breast **biopsy**.

determinant

n. 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.

machine-learning

n. the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data

(1) **machine-learning** method, (2) **machine-learning** processor

Many software engineers are developing applications to build **machine-learning** algorithms more quickly.

trait

n. a particular feature of your nature

synonym : attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym : joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

criminology

n. the scientific study of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system encompassing a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, and

statistics, among others

synonym: criminalistics, forensic science, penology

(1) forensic **criminology**, (2) behavioral **criminology**

The professor of **criminology** conducted an extensive study on the relationship between poverty and crime.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

biochemical

adj. relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms

synonym: molecular, biological

(1) **biochemical** reaction, (2) complex **biochemical**

Biochemical research is essential to understanding the complex chemical reactions in living organisms.

volition

n. the power or ability to make choices or decisions by one's own will or conscious choice; the act of consciously choosing or deciding

synonym: choice, decision, free will

(1) **volition** level, (2) freedom of **volition**

He canceled the meeting of his own **volition** as he thought it was unnecessary.

dislocate

v. to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship

synonym: displace

(1) **dislocate** my shoulder, (2) **dislocate** residents

X-rays revealed that several of his joints were **dislocated**.

outset

n. the beginning of something

synonym: beginning, start, initiation

(1) month's **outset**, (2) the **outset** of the crisis

At the **outset** of the project, we encountered several

obstacles.

recast

v. to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film

synonym: modify, remake, remodel

(1) **recast** the Republican party, (2) **recast** the story

He had to **recast** his image to convince the electorate in his home state.

timeless

adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

synonym: dateless, everlasting, imperishable

(1) **timeless** masterpiece, (2) **timeless** topic

There is a **timeless** aspect to his most remarkable work.

Session 2: Spelling

1. Ar_____an romances *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
2. hi___k a phone number *v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence
3. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
4. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
5. mac_____ing processor *n.* the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data
6. fin_____nt at a crime scene *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
7. h___k for attention *n.* a loud, harsh sound made by a vehicle's horn to signal a warning or attract attention
8. hi___k a helicopter *v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence
9. st___r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

ANSWERS: 1. Arthurian, 2. hijack, 3. creditor, 4. Arthurian, 5. machine-learning, 6. fingerprint, 7. honk, 8. hijack, 9. steer

10. funerary ins_____ons *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
11. bio_____al reaction *adj.* relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms
12. st__r a conversation *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
13. fin_____nt identification *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
14. vi_____e at a regular frequency *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
15. behavioral cri_____gy *n.* the scientific study of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system encompassing a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, and statistics, among others
16. economic sl__p *v.* to fall or sink suddenly, often due to loss of support or stability; to decline or decrease abruptly, as in business or economic conditions; to become despondent or dispirited; (noun) a sudden or prolonged decline or drop in value, price, or quality
17. liquid bi___y *n.* the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease

ANSWERS: 10. inscription, 11. biochemical, 12. steer, 13. fingerprint, 14. vibrate, 15. criminology, 16. slump, 17. biopsy

18. in_____ct a computer *v.* to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something
19. h__k sound *n.* a loud, harsh sound made by a vehicle's horn to signal a warning or attract attention
20. qu__l-like hairs *n.* a hard, hollow, and spiky feature found on the skin of some animals, such as porcupines, used for protection and puncturing; a pen made from the shaft of a bird feather, used historically for writing
21. the institute of arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
22. 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
23. di_____te my shoulder *v.* to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship
24. ins_____on on a plaque *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
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. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature

ANSWERS: 18. instruct, 19. honk, 20. quill, 21. archaeology, 22. electrify, 23. dislocate, 24. inscription, 25. electrify, 26. trait

27. mac_____ing method *n.* the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data
28. su_____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
29. month's ou____t *n.* the beginning of something
30. chemical tr__t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
31. te_____le evidence *adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
32. di_____te residents *v.* to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship
33. fe_____ry fronds *adj.* having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance
34. fake fin_____il *n.* the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger
35. en_____ne memories *v.* to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect
36. bi____y of bone marrow *n.* the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease

ANSWERS: 27. machine-learning, 28. surpass, 29. outset, 30. trait, 31. telltale, 32. dislocate, 33. feathery, 34. fingernail, 35. enshrine, 36. biopsy

37. auto da_____rd *n.* a control panel set within the central console of a vehicle or small aircraft; a diagram that depicts critical information, typically one that provides a business overview
38. complex bio_____al *adj.* relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms
39. prehistoric arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
40. the ou___t of the crisis *n.* the beginning of something
41. delicate fe_____ry *adj.* having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance
42. ti_____ss masterpiece *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
43. vi_____e with anger *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
44. sl___p against pillows *v.* to fall or sink suddenly, often due to loss of support or stability; to decline or decrease abruptly, as in business or economic conditions; to become despondent or dispirited; (noun) a sudden or prolonged decline or drop in value, price, or quality
45. re___t the story *v.* to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film

ANSWERS: 37. dashboard, 38. biochemical, 39. archaeology, 40. outset, 41. feathery, 42. timeless, 43. vibrate, 44. slump, 45. recast

46. en____ne tradition *v.* to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect
47. te____le heart *adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
48. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
49. in____ct a student *v.* to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something
50. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
51. silly p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
52. ti____ss topic *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
53. forensic cri____gy *n.* the scientific study of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system encompassing a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, and statistics, among others
54. su____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

ANSWERS: 46. enshrine, 47. telltale, 48. pun, 49. instruct, 50. creditor, 51. pun, 52. timeless, 53. criminology, 54. surpass

55. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
56. porcupine qu___l *n.* a hard, hollow, and spiky feature found on the skin of some animals, such as porcupines, used for protection and puncturing; a pen made from the shaft of a bird feather, used historically for writing
57. business da_____rd *n.* a control panel set within the central console of a vehicle or small aircraft; a diagram that depicts critical information, typically one that provides a business overview
58. re___t the Republican party *v.* to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film
59. fin_____il biting *n.* the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger
60. freedom of vo_____on *n.* the power or ability to make choices or decisions by one's own will or conscious choice; the act of consciously choosing or deciding
61. ov___t symptoms *adj.* open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret
62. vo_____on level *n.* the power or ability to make choices or decisions by one's own will or conscious choice; the act of consciously choosing or deciding

ANSWERS: 55. determinant, 56. quill, 57. dashboard, 58. recast, 59. fingernail, 60. volition, 61. overt, 62. volition

63. ov__t hostility

adj. open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret

64. environmental det_____nt

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

ANSWERS: 63. overt, 64. determinant

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Many software engineers are developing applications to build _____ algorithms more quickly.
 - n.* the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data

2. He noticed that the oil warning light on the _____ of his car had turned on.
 - n.* a control panel set within the central console of a vehicle or small aircraft; a diagram that depicts critical information, typically one that provides a business overview

3. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
 - n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

4. He had to _____ his image to convince the electorate in his home state.
 - v.* to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film

5. She teaches _____ at the local university.
 - n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

6. The doctor performed an excisional breast _____.
 - n.* the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease

7. He canceled the meeting of his own _____ as he thought it was unnecessary.
 - n.* the power or ability to make choices or decisions by one's own will or conscious choice; the act of consciously choosing or deciding

ANSWERS: 1. machine-learning, 2. dashboard, 3. pun, 4. recast, 5. archaeology, 6. biopsy, 7. volition

8. The professor of _____ conducted an extensive study on the relationship between poverty and crime.
- n.* the scientific study of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system encompassing a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, and statistics, among others
9. The incessant _____ of the car's horn woke me from sleep.
- n.* a loud, harsh sound made by a vehicle's horn to signal a warning or attract attention
10. He made a desperate effort to _____ an airliner.
- v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence
11. At the _____ of the project, we encountered several obstacles.
- n.* the beginning of something
12. The _____ leaves of the plant gently swayed in the breeze.
- adj.* having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance
13. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
- v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
14. 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

ANSWERS: 8. criminology, 9. honk, 10. hijack, 11. outset, 12. feathery, 13. surpassed, 14. electrify

15. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
16. The police used a _____ scanner to identify the suspect.
n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
17. The facility manager _____ the security guards to be on high alert.
v. to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something
18. The car body scraped off with a _____.
n. the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger
19. His _____ lack of enthusiasm was noticeable to everyone in the room.
adj. open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret
20. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.
v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
21. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
n. a particular feature of your nature
22. Sales of the product _____ after the negative reviews were published.
v. to fall or sink suddenly, often due to loss of support or stability; to decline or decrease abruptly, as in business or economic conditions; to become despondent or dispirited; (noun) a sudden or prolonged decline or drop in value, price, or quality

ANSWERS: 15. creditor, 16. fingerprint, 17. instructed, 18. fingernail, 19. overt, 20. vibrate, 21. traits, 22. slumped

23. _____ research is essential to understanding the complex chemical reactions in living organisms.

adj. relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms

24. The historian carefully examined the _____ pen to determine its age and origin.

n. a hard, hollow, and spiky feature found on the skin of some animals, such as porcupines, used for protection and puncturing; a pen made from the shaft of a bird feather, used historically for writing

25. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

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

26. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

27. The Constitution _____ the rights and freedoms of citizens.

v. to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect

28. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

29. There is a _____ aspect to his most remarkable work.

adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

ANSWERS: 23. Biochemical, 24. quill, 25. determinant, 26. steer, 27. enshrines, 28. Arthurian, 29. timeless

30. The ancient coin had an _____ in Latin and a picture of the emperor on the other side.

n. a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal

31. X-rays revealed that several of his joints were _____.

v. to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship

32. The _____ signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.

adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

ANSWERS: 30. inscription, 31. dislocated, 32. telltale