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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tim Smith: Big Data | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tim\\_smith\\_big\\_data](https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_smith_big_data)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### elusive

*adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

*synonym*: mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

### voluminous

*adj.* large in volume or bulk

*synonym*: large, bulky, spacious

(1) **voluminous** work, (2) **voluminous** data

The manuscript was **voluminous**, spanning several hundred pages.

### overwhelm

*v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

*synonym*: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

### 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.

## mainframe

*n.* a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications

(1) **mainframe** computer, (2) **mainframe** operating system  
IBM has consistently been a significant supplier of **mainframes** for a long time.

## mushroom

*n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

*synonym* : fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

## dedicate

*v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

*synonym* : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

## homegrown

*adj.* grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area

*synonym* : indigenous, local, native

(1) **homegrown** talent, (2) **homegrown** produce

The restaurant prides itself on its **homegrown** ingredients sourced from local farms.

## dialect

*n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

*synonym* : accent, language, vernacular

(1) a local **dialect**, (2) minority **dialect**

The **dialect** spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.

## torturous

*adj.* causing extreme physical or mental pain or suffering; marked by or involving a slow, painful, or tortuous process or experience

*synonym* : agonizing, grueling, tormenting

(1) **torturous** journey, (2) **torturous** process

The **torturous** hike through the dense jungle tested our endurance.

## fledgling

*n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten

*synonym* : beginner, novice, neophyte

(1) **fledgling** company, (2) **fledgling** birds

The current economic situation is especially tough for **fledgling** businesses.

## outstrip

*v.* to exceed or surpass a particular, measurable quality or attribute, such as speed, efficiency, or quality

*synonym* : outdo, surpass, exceed

(1) **outstrip** competitors, (2) **outstrip** population growth

The company's sales have **outstripped** expectations for the quarter.

## orchestrate

*v.* to plan, coordinate, or arrange something, especially skillfully or cleverly; (noun) the act of organizing or directing the elements of a composition, especially in music

*synonym* : plan, coordinate, arrange

(1) **orchestrate** a takeover, (2) **orchestrate** the political reinstatement

He carefully **orchestrated** the details of his business plan.

## interconnect

*v.* to connect similar things

*synonym* : interlink, complect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

## flourish

*v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully  
*synonym*: boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide  
The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

## paradoxical

*adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true  
*synonym*: contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical**  
it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

## unimaginable

*adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision  
*synonym*: unthinkable, inconceivable, incredulous

(1) **unimaginable** horror, (2) **unimaginable** depths  
The complexity of scientific theories was **unimaginable** for most people.

## fleeting

*adj.* brief or temporary, lasting only a short time  
*synonym*: temporary, brief, transitory

(1) for a **fleeting** moment, (2) **fleeting** opportunity  
She savored the **fleeting** happiness she felt during the vacation.

## collide

*v.* to hit something violently when moving  
*synonym*: clash, slam, contradict

(1) **collide** head-on, (2) **collide** in midair  
The interests of the two countries **collide**.

## 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**.

## 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.

## meteorology

*n.* the branch of science that deals with processes in the Earth's atmosphere that cause weather conditions

(1) agricultural **meteorology**, (2) marine **meteorology**

He conducted his research at the **meteorology** laboratory using large-scale computing.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. theoretical ph_____st                              | <i>n.</i> a scientist who specializes in the field of physics  |
| 2. ma_____me operating system                         | <i>n.</i> a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications   |
| 3. uni_____ble depths                                 | <i>adj.</i> beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision   |
| 4. fl_____ng birds                                    | <i>n.</i> water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten   |
| 5. fl_____ng opportunity                              | <i>adj.</i> brief or temporary, lasting only a short time  |
| 6. fl_____sh economically                             | <i>v.</i> to grow or develop vigorously or successfully  |
| 7. ho_____wn produce                                  | <i>adj.</i> grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area   |
| 8. co_____e in midair                                 | <i>v.</i> to hit something violently when moving   |
| 9. orc_____te a takeover                              | <i>v.</i> to plan, coordinate, or arrange something, especially skillfully or cleverly; (noun) the act of organizing or directing the elements of a composition, especially in music |
| 10. human activities int_____ect with the environment | <i>v.</i> to connect similar things  |

ANSWERS: 1. physicist, 2. mainframe, 3. unimaginable, 4. fledgling, 5. fleeting, 6. flourish, 7. homegrown, 8. collide, 9. orchestrate, 10. interconnect

11. agricultural met\_\_\_\_\_gy *n.* the branch of science that deals with processes in the Earth's atmosphere that cause weather conditions
12. for a fl\_\_\_\_\_ng moment *adj.* brief or temporary, lasting only a short time
13. to\_\_\_\_\_us journey *adj.* causing extreme physical or mental pain or suffering; marked by or involving a slow, painful, or tortuous process or experience
14. mu\_\_\_\_\_om cultivation *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
15. a local di\_\_\_\_\_t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
16. fl\_\_\_\_\_ng company *n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten
17. ou\_\_\_\_\_ip population growth *v.* to exceed or surpass a particular, measurable quality or attribute, such as speed, efficiency, or quality
18. a par\_\_\_\_\_al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
19. vol\_\_\_\_\_us work *adj.* large in volume or bulk
20. he was ov\_\_\_\_\_lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

ANSWERS: 11. meteorology, 12. fleeting, 13. torturous, 14. mushroom, 15. dialect, 16. fledgling, 17. outstrip, 18. paradoxical, 19. voluminous, 20. overwhelm

21. mu\_\_\_\_\_om spores *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
22. ma\_\_\_\_\_me computer *n.* a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications
23. talented ph\_\_\_\_\_st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
24. minority di\_\_\_\_\_t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
25. orc\_\_\_\_\_te the political reinstatement *v.* to plan, coordinate, or arrange something, especially skillfully or cleverly; (noun) the act of organizing or directing the elements of a composition, especially in music
26. de\_\_\_\_\_te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
27. marine met\_\_\_\_\_gy *n.* the branch of science that deals with processes in the Earth's atmosphere that cause weather conditions
28. ov\_\_\_\_\_lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
29. 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

ANSWERS: 21. mushroom, 22. mainframe, 23. physicist, 24. dialect, 25. orchestrate, 26. dedicate, 27. meteorology, 28. overwhelm, 29. proton



30. ou\_\_\_\_ip competitors      *v.* to exceed or surpass a particular, measurable quality or attribute, such as speed, efficiency, or quality
31. de\_\_\_\_te a chapter to the subject      *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
32. en\_\_\_\_h public services      *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
33. 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
34. uni\_\_\_\_ble horror      *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
35. directly int\_\_\_\_ect with those systems      *v.* to connect similar things
36. apparently par\_\_\_\_al      *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
37. fl\_\_\_\_sh worldwide      *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
38. track down an el\_\_\_\_e fact      *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
39. vol\_\_\_\_us data      *adj.* large in volume or bulk
40. ho\_\_\_\_wn talent      *adj.* grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area

ANSWERS: 30. outstrip, 31. dedicate, 32. enrich, 33. proton, 34. unimaginable, 35. interconnect, 36. paradoxical, 37. flourish, 38. elusive, 39. voluminous, 40. homegrown

41. co\_\_\_\_\_e head-on                      *v.*    to hit something violently when moving
42. to\_\_\_\_\_us process                      *adj.*    causing extreme physical or mental pain or suffering; marked by or involving a slow, painful, or tortuous process or experience
43. an el\_\_\_\_\_e criminal                      *adj.*    difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
44. en\_\_\_\_h a gas with a balloon                      *v.*    to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

ANSWERS: 41. collide, 42. torturous, 43. elusive, 44. enrich

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. IBM has consistently been a significant supplier of \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time.  
*n.* a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications
2. The physicist who found the \_\_\_\_\_ particle won the Nobel Prize.  
*adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
3. The Ottoman Empire \_\_\_\_\_ for over five centuries.  
*v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
4. Too much variety may \_\_\_\_\_ and confuse viewers.  
*v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
5. The manuscript was \_\_\_\_\_ spanning several hundred pages.  
*adj.* large in volume or bulk
6. She savored the \_\_\_\_\_ happiness she felt during the vacation.  
*adj.* brief or temporary, lasting only a short time
7. He carefully \_\_\_\_\_ the details of his business plan.  
*v.* to plan, coordinate, or arrange something, especially skillfully or cleverly;  
(noun) the act of organizing or directing the elements of a composition, especially in music
8. The company's sales have \_\_\_\_\_ expectations for the quarter.  
*v.* to exceed or surpass a particular, measurable quality or attribute, such as speed, efficiency, or quality

ANSWERS: 1. mainframes, 2. elusive, 3. flourished, 4. overwhelm, 5. voluminous, 6. fleeting, 7. orchestrated, 8. outstripped

9. Reading not only increases knowledge but also \_\_\_\_\_ life.  
*v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.  
*n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
11. The interests of the two countries \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to hit something violently when moving
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.  
*n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ hike through the dense jungle tested our endurance.  
*adj.* causing extreme physical or mental pain or suffering; marked by or involving a slow, painful, or tortuous process or experience
14. He conducted his research at the \_\_\_\_\_ laboratory using large-scale computing.  
*n.* the branch of science that deals with processes in the Earth's atmosphere that cause weather conditions
15. Einstein was an outstanding and famous \_\_\_\_\_ of the 20th century.  
*n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
16. The current economic situation is especially tough for \_\_\_\_\_ businesses.  
*n.* water creatures that live in shells, especially one of the types that can be eaten

ANSWERS: 9. enriches, 10. dialect, 11. collide, 12. mushroom, 13. torturous, 14. meteorology, 15. physicist, 16. fledgling

17. 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
18. Our system can now \_\_\_\_\_ with other databases.
- v.* to connect similar things
19. The complexity of scientific theories was \_\_\_\_\_ for most people.
- adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
20. it is \_\_\_\_\_ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
- adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
21. The restaurant prides itself on its \_\_\_\_\_ ingredients sourced from local farms.
- adj.* grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area
22. He \_\_\_\_\_ his life to helping others.
- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

ANSWERS: 17. protons, 18. interconnect, 19. unimaginable, 20. paradoxical, 21. homegrown, 22. dedicated