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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel: Mysteries of vernacular: Sarcophagus | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica\\_oreck\\_and\\_rachael\\_teel\\_mysteries\\_of\\_vernacular\\_sarcophagus](https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica_oreck_and_rachael_teel_mysteries_of_vernacular_sarcophagus)

### All Words

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### mystery

*n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

*synonym* : enigma, puzzle, secret

(1) **mystery** novel, (2) unsolved **mystery**

The **mystery** surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.

### vernacular

*n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region

*synonym* : dialect, idiom, lingo

(1) **vernacular** language, (2) native **vernacular**

The poet wrote in the **vernacular** of ordinary people.

### sarcophagus

*n.* a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people

*synonym* : coffin, tomb, casket

(1) **sarcophagus** lid, (2) ancient **sarcophagus**

The pharaoh was buried in an ornate **sarcophagus** complete with intricate hieroglyphics.

## coffin

*n.* a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin

*synonym* : casket, box, chest

(1) **coffin** lid, (2) wooden **coffin**

The priest prayed over the **coffin** before it was lowered into the ground.

## typical

*adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things

*synonym* : characteristic, usual, distinctive

(1) **typical** leader, (2) fairly **typical** symptoms

This artwork is **typical** of her work.

## adorn

*v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful

*synonym* : decorate, beautify, embellish

(1) **adorn** a bride, (2) **adorn** the table with flowers

The architect **adorned** the interior with great artworks and frescoes.

## decorative

*adj.* serving to make something look more attractive or pretty; embellishing

*synonym* : ornamental, beautifying, embellishing

(1) **decorative** art, (2) **decorative** design

The **decorative** tiles on the wall added a colorful and unique touch to the room.

## carving

*n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design

*synonym* : sculpture, engraving, sculpture

(1) a wood **carving**, (2) **carving** instrument

The intricate **carving** on the wooden box was the work of a master craftsman.

## 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.

## **crawl**

*v.* to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground

*synonym*: creep, drag

(1) **crawl** across the floor, (2) **crawl** away from a car  
Along the gravel roads, sizeable yellow school buses **crawl**.

## **grotesque**

*adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre

*synonym*: bizarre, deformed, monstrous

(1) have **grotesque** design, (2) **grotesque** appearance  
The **grotesque** sculpture made me feel uneasy.

## **horror**

*n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying

*synonym*: fear, terror, dread

(1) **horror** movie, (2) **horror-struck** look  
The stories of war crimes filled her with **horror**.

## **origin**

*n.* the first existence or beginning of something

*synonym*: root, source, ancestor

(1) **origin** of information, (2) racial **origin**  
There are various hypotheses concerning the **origin** of life.

## **trace**

*v.* to find or discover someone or something that was lost

*synonym*: seek, follow, depict

(1) **trace** a telephone call, (2) **trace** back to medieval times  
Let's **trace** the origins of some familiar foreign words.

## **empire**

*n.* a group of countries ruled by one leader or government

*synonym*: imperium, conglomerate, kingdom

(1) **empire** building, (2) **empire** of the Maya  
He has built a thriving e-commerce **empire**.

## **limestone**

*n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite

*synonym* : calcareous rock, chalk

(1) sheer **limestone** cliffs, (2) **limestone** pavement

The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of **limestone**.

## **accord**

*n.* an official agreement or treaty between two organizations, countries, etc.; (verb) allow to have

*synonym* : alliance, pact, agreement

(1) **accord** with public opinion, (2) binational **accord**

The organization finally signed a peace **accord**.

## **scholar**

*n.* professor; a person who studies a topic in considerable depth, particularly in a university

*synonym* : professor, pupil, learner

(1) **scholar** in international politics, (2) noted **scholar**

You won't have to pay college tuition if you're a **scholar**.

## **quarry**

*n.* a place where a stone or other materials are extracted from the ground; an animal or a person that is the target of hunting

*synonym* : stone pit, prey, target

(1) **quarry** operation, (2) **quarry** site

The hunter tracked down his **quarry** in the woods.

## **dissolve**

*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

*synonym* : disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

## **flesh**

*n.* the soft substance composing the body of a person or animal, as opposed to bones and other structures

*synonym* : meat, muscle, tissue

(1) grow in **flesh**, (2) **flesh** eating

The **flesh** of the fruit is sweet and juicy.

## desirable

*adj.* worth having or achieving; pleasing, attractive, or sought after

*synonym* : appealing, attractive, advisable

(1) **desirable** effect, (2) **desirable** result

The beachfront property had a **desirable** location with stunning ocean views.

## construct

*v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole

*synonym* : build, assemble, create

(1) **construct** a 3D image, (2) **construct** a dam

He **constructs** hypotheses that no mathematician has ever imagined before.

## unclear

*adj.* poorly stated or described and therefore not easy to understand; not easy to perceive

*synonym* : ambiguous, fuzzy, obscure

(1) an **unclear** match, (2) in no **unclear** terms

It is important not to undertake tasks with **unclear** objectives to improve productivity.

## widespread

*adj.* existing or happening in various places or among many people

*synonym* : across-the-board, overall, general

(1) **widespread** use, (2) **widespread** fear of nuclear war

In medieval times, death punishment was **widespread** and socially accepted.

## accurate

*adj.* correct and exact in all details

*synonym* : exact, precise, proper

(1) provide **accurate** information, (2) **accurate** measurements

The official transcript contains **accurate** academic records.

## bacteriophage

*n.* (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria

*synonym* : phage, bacterial virus, bacteriovore

(1) DNA-containing **bacteriophage**, (2) **bacteriophage** infection

Scientists are studying the use of **bacteriophages** to combat bacterial infections.

## verb

*n.* a word or phrase that describes an action, state, or experience

(1) complex **verb**, (2) an auxiliary **verb**

Use a singular **verb** if the subject is singular.

## etymology

*n.* the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase

(1) **etymology** dictionary, (2) the **etymology** of a word

The study of **etymology** helps us to understand the origins of words.

## deceased

*adj.* no longer alive; dead

*synonym*: dead, defunct, expired

(1) **deceased** loved one, (2) **deceased** relative

The **deceased** person's family was notified of their passing.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. et_____gy dictionary               | <i>n.</i> the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase |
| 2. ho___r movie                       | <i>n.</i> intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying   |
| 3. have gr_____ue design              | <i>adj.</i> bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre   |
| 4. in no un_____r terms               | <i>adj.</i> poorly stated or described and therefore not easy to understand; not easy to perceive   |
| 5. sc_____r in international politics | <i>n.</i> professor; a person who studies a topic in considerable depth, particularly in a university   |
| 6. provide ac_____te information      | <i>adj.</i> correct and exact in all details  |
| 7. the et_____gy of a word            | <i>n.</i> the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase |
| 8. noted sc_____r                     | <i>n.</i> professor; a person who studies a topic in considerable depth, particularly in a university   |
| 9. di_____ve the sugar                | <i>v.</i> to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss  |

ANSWERS: 1. etymology, 2. horror, 3. grotesque, 4. unclear, 5. scholar, 6. accurate, 7. etymology, 8. scholar, 9. dissolve

10. binational ac\_\_\_d *n.* an official agreement or treaty between two organizations, countries, etc.; (verb) allow to have
11. ad\_\_n a bride *v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
12. bac\_\_\_\_\_age infection *n.* (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria
13. tr\_\_e a telephone call *v.* to find or discover someone or something that was lost
14. de\_\_\_\_ed loved one *adj.* no longer alive; dead
15. ad\_\_n the table with flowers *v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
16. an un\_\_\_\_\_r match *adj.* poorly stated or described and therefore not easy to understand; not easy to perceive
17. gr\_\_\_\_\_ue appearance *adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
18. dec\_\_\_\_\_ve design *adj.* serving to make something look more attractive or pretty; embellishing
19. ancient sar\_\_\_\_\_us *n.* a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people
20. wid\_\_\_\_\_ad fear of nuclear war *adj.* existing or happening in various places or among many people
21. ac\_\_\_d with public opinion *n.* an official agreement or treaty between two organizations, countries, etc.; (verb) allow to have

ANSWERS: 10. accord, 11. adorn, 12. bacteriophage, 13. trace, 14. deceased, 15. adorn, 16. unclear, 17. grotesque, 18. decorative, 19. sarcophagus, 20. widespread, 21. accord



22. native ver\_\_\_\_\_ar *n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
23. ver\_\_\_\_\_ar language *n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
24. a wood ca\_\_\_\_\_g *n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
25. li\_\_\_\_\_ne pavement *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
26. cr\_\_l away from a car *v.* to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground
27. ac\_\_\_\_\_te measurements *adj.* correct and exact in all details
28. wooden co\_\_\_\_n *n.* a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
29. my\_\_\_\_\_y novel *n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
30. co\_\_\_\_\_ct a dam *v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
31. fl\_\_h eating *n.* the soft substance composing the body of a person or animal, as opposed to bones and other structures

ANSWERS: 22. vernacular, 23. vernacular, 24. carving, 25. limestone, 26. crawl, 27. accurate, 28. coffin, 29. mystery, 30. construct, 31. flesh

32. qu\_\_\_y site *n.* a place where a stone or other materials are extracted from the ground; an animal or a person that is the target of hunting
33. de\_\_\_\_\_le result *adj.* worth having or achieving; pleasing, attractive, or sought after
34. qu\_\_\_y operation *n.* a place where a stone or other materials are extracted from the ground; an animal or a person that is the target of hunting
35. or\_\_\_n of information *n.* the first existence or beginning of something
36. dec\_\_\_\_\_ve art *adj.* serving to make something look more attractive or pretty; embellishing
37. complex v\_\_b *n.* a word or phrase that describes an action, state, or experience
38. sar\_\_\_\_\_us lid *n.* a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people
39. an auxiliary v\_\_b *n.* a word or phrase that describes an action, state, or experience
40. DNA-containing bac\_\_\_\_\_age *n.* (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria
41. 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
42. unsolved my\_\_\_y *n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

ANSWERS: 32. quarry, 33. desirable, 34. quarry, 35. origin, 36. decorative, 37. verb, 38. sarcophagus, 39. verb, 40. bacteriophage, 41. inscription, 42. mystery

43. funerary ins\_\_\_\_\_ons *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
44. ho\_\_\_r-struck look *n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
45. tr\_\_\_e back to medieval times *v.* to find or discover someone or something that was lost
46. co\_\_\_n lid *n.* a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
47. sheer li\_\_\_\_\_ne cliffs *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
48. co\_\_\_\_\_ct a 3D image *v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
49. grow in fl\_\_\_h *n.* the soft substance composing the body of a person or animal, as opposed to bones and other structures
50. em\_\_\_e building *n.* a group of countries ruled by one leader or government
51. de\_\_\_\_\_le effect *adj.* worth having or achieving; pleasing, attractive, or sought after
52. wid\_\_\_\_\_ad use *adj.* existing or happening in various places or among many people
53. ca\_\_\_\_\_g instrument *n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
54. cr\_\_\_l across the floor *v.* to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground

ANSWERS: 43. inscription, 44. horror, 45. trace, 46. coffin, 47. limestone, 48. construct, 49. flesh, 50. empire, 51. desirable, 52. widespread, 53. carving, 54. crawl

55. fairly ty\_\_\_\_l symptoms *adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
56. racial or\_\_\_\_n *n.* the first existence or beginning of something
57. em\_\_\_\_e of the Maya *n.* a group of countries ruled by one leader or government
58. officially di\_\_\_\_ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
59. ty\_\_\_\_l leader *adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
60. de\_\_\_\_ed relative *adj.* no longer alive; dead

ANSWERS: 55. typical, 56. origin, 57. empire, 58. dissolve, 59. typical, 60. deceased

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The beachfront property had a \_\_\_\_\_ location with stunning ocean views.  
*adj.* worth having or achieving; pleasing, attractive, or sought after
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ hypotheses that no mathematician has ever imagined before.  
*v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ person's family was notified of their passing.  
*adj.* no longer alive; dead
4. The poet wrote in the \_\_\_\_\_ of ordinary people.  
*n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
5. Use a singular \_\_\_\_\_ if the subject is singular.  
*n.* a word or phrase that describes an action, state, or experience
6. It is important not to undertake tasks with \_\_\_\_\_ objectives to improve productivity.  
*adj.* poorly stated or described and therefore not easy to understand; not easy to perceive
7. You won't have to pay college tuition if you're a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* professor; a person who studies a topic in considerable depth, particularly in a university
8. Along the gravel roads, sizeable yellow school buses \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground

ANSWERS: 1. desirable, 2. constructs, 3. deceased, 4. vernacular, 5. verb, 6. unclear, 7. scholar, 8. crawl

9. The priest prayed over the \_\_\_\_\_ before it was lowered into the ground.  
*n.* a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ tiles on the wall added a colorful and unique touch to the room.  
*adj.* serving to make something look more attractive or pretty; embellishing
11. In medieval times, death punishment was \_\_\_\_\_ and socially accepted.  
*adj.* existing or happening in various places or among many people
12. This artwork is \_\_\_\_\_ of her work.  
*adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
13. The architect \_\_\_\_\_ the interior with great artworks and frescoes.  
*v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
14. There are various hypotheses concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.  
*n.* the first existence or beginning of something
15. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
16. 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
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.  
*n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

ANSWERS: 9. coffin, 10. decorative, 11. widespread, 12. typical, 13. adorned, 14. origin, 15. limestone, 16. inscription, 17. mystery

18. The pharaoh was buried in an ornate \_\_\_\_\_ complete with intricate hieroglyphics.  
*n.* a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people
19. The study of \_\_\_\_\_ helps us to understand the origins of words.  
*n.* the study of the origin and history of words, including changes in meaning and form over time; the history of a particular word or phrase
20. The political party \_\_\_\_\_ after much internal fighting.  
*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ sculpture made me feel uneasy.  
*adj.* bizarre or fantastic in shape, appearance, or character; fantastic; bizarre
22. The stories of war crimes filled her with \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
23. The official transcript contains \_\_\_\_\_ academic records.  
*adj.* correct and exact in all details
24. The intricate \_\_\_\_\_ on the wooden box was the work of a master craftsman.  
*n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
25. He has built a thriving e-commerce \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a group of countries ruled by one leader or government

ANSWERS: 18. sarcophagus, 19. etymology, 20. dissolved, 21. grotesque, 22. horror, 23. accurate, 24. carving, 25. empire

26. The hunter tracked down his \_\_\_\_\_ in the woods.

- n.* a place where a stone or other materials are extracted from the ground; an animal or a person that is the target of hunting

27. The organization finally signed a peace \_\_\_\_\_.

- n.* an official agreement or treaty between two organizations, countries, etc.;
- (verb) allow to have

28. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the fruit is sweet and juicy.

- n.* the soft substance composing the body of a person or animal, as opposed to bones and other structures

29. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ the origins of some familiar foreign words.

- v.* to find or discover someone or something that was lost

30. Scientists are studying the use of \_\_\_\_\_ to combat bacterial infections.

- n.* (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria

ANSWERS: 26. quarry, 27. accord, 28. flesh, 29. trace, 30. bacteriophages