

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Afra Raymond: Three myths about corruption | TED Talk

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

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

financier

n. a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes

synonym : banker, investor, capitalist

(1) **financier** scandals, (2) powerful **financier**

The wealthy **financier** made a generous donation to the charity.

loot

v. steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

synonym : plunder, pillage, rob

(1) **loot** the ship, (2) war **loot**

The bandits **looted** the small town, leaving it in ruins.

bribe

v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements

synonym : graft, corrupt

(1) **bribe** a politician, (2) **bribe** him with food

He tries to **bribe** the ship's captain to export illegal products.

backhand

n. (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body

(1) **backhand** shot, (2) **backhand** grip

She hit a perfect **backhand** winner down the line to win the match.

dismantle

v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

synonym: take apart, demolish, take down

(1) **dismantle** a machine, (2) **dismantle** a system

The old building had to be **dismantled** because it was structurally unsound.

ridicule

n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

synonym: derision, mockery, satire

(1) public **ridicule**, (2) **ridicule** at his expense

The **ridicule** from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.

mischief

n. playful, minor actions or behavior intended to cause harm, trouble, or annoyance; mischievous behavior that is not intended to cause harm or damage

synonym: impishness, malice, prank

(1) playful **mischief**, (2) malicious **mischief**

The dog's **mischief** led to the destruction of the living room furniture.

treasury

n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual

synonym: coffer, exchequer, bank

(1) **treasury** bonds, (2) **treasury** money

The protracted war nearly depleted the country's **treasury**.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym : sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

irresponsible

adj. not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable

synonym : careless, reckless, thoughtless

(1) **irresponsible** actions, (2) **irresponsible** behavior

It was **irresponsible** of him to drive home after drinking so much alcohol.

embark

v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

synonym : enter, undertake, commence

(1) **embark** on a trip, (2) **embark** on a foolish adventure

We **embarked** on a new project.

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.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

fasco

n. a complete failure or debacle, often resulting from poor planning, execution, or unforeseen circumstances

synonym: debacle, failure, disaster

(1) **fasco** in the project, (2) **fasco** of a performance

The company's decision to launch a product without proper testing resulted in a marketing **fasco**.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

lexicon

n. all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical

synonym: glossary, dictionary, vocabulary

(1) Greek-English **lexicon**, (2) **lexicon** of business phrases

This bilingual **lexicon** was essential for his language improvement.

pervert

v. to change the inherent purpose or function of something; to influence somebody to behave in morally unacceptable ways; to corrupt or lead astray; (noun) a person who engages in sexual behavior or has sexual interests that are considered abnormal or deviant by society

synonym: distort, corrupt, twist

(1) **pervert** justice, (2) **pervert** young men

The teacher warned the students not to **pervert** the story's meaning by twisting the facts.

institutionalize

v. 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.

convene

v. to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity

synonym: assemble, gather, summon

(1) **convene** a press conference, (2) **convene** the council

The parliament will **convene** at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

outwit

v. to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else

synonym: outsmart, outmaneuver, outfox

(1) **outwit** a problem, (2) **outwit** his competitors

He could **outwit** his opponents with his quick thinking and clever strategy.

jubilee

n. a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year

synonym: anniversary, celebration, commemorative event

(1) **jubilee** procession, (2) golden **jubilee**

The royal family celebrated their **jubilee** with a parade and a special concert.

bluff

v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

synonym: abrupt, cliff, precipice

(1) **bluff** the other side, (2) riverside **bluff**

He **bluffed** a person out of going.

reconstruct

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

synonym: rebuild, revamp, reorganize

(1) **reconstruct** an image, (2) **reconstruct** the original text

They've decided to **reconstruct** a ruined castle.

batter

v. to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

synonym: beat, pound, strike

(1) **batter** the eggs, (2) the **batter's** box

He got so angry that he **battered** the door down.

procure

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

synonym: obtain, acquire, secure

(1) **procure** a rare antique, (2) **procure** services

I need to **procure** some supplies for the upcoming project.

transact

v. to carry out or conduct a business or other transaction; to complete or fulfill an agreement, deal, or contract

synonym: conduct, carry out, perform

(1) **transact** internationally, (2) **transact** in cash

I need to **transact** some business at the bank before it closes.

segue

v. to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another

synonym: transit, move, shift

(1) **segue** the conversation, (2) **segue** between topics

He smoothly **segued** from one topic to the next during his presentation.

bailout

n. the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy

synonym: help, aid, support

(1) **bailout** bill, (2) **bailout** bottle

Many countries provided a **bailout** to the private sector to minimize the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

conglomerate

n. a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole

synonym : aggregate, mixture, combination

(1) multinational **conglomerate**, (2) media **conglomerate**
The **conglomerate** of companies managed to dominate the market.

generosity

n. the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely

synonym : goodness, hospitality, unselfishness

(1) act of **generosity**, (2) boundless **generosity**

He is remembered for his **generosity** and civilization.

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.

entitle

v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

synonym : allow, permit, enable

(1) **entitle** him to a pension, (2) **entitle** the company to use the logo

The employee was **entitled** to a week of vacation time.

plunge

v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

synonym : dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

dignify

v. to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant

synonym : elevate, ennoble, honor

(1) **dignify** the role, (2) **dignify** the occasion

It's important to **dignify** other people's opinions and not dismiss them without consideration.

disperse

v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

synonym: dissipate, spread, scatter

(1) **disperse** false information, (2) **disperse** the protesters

Before authorities **dispersed** the protesters, they yelled slogans.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|
| 1. the ba___r's box | v. | to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting |
| 2. malicious mi_____ef | n. | playful, minor actions or behavior intended to cause harm, trouble, or annoyance; mischievous behavior that is not intended to cause harm or damage |
| 3. pl___e into the water | v. | to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall |
| 4. em_____ss my project | v. | to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed |
| 5. co_____e a press conference | v. | to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity |
| 6. ba_____t bottle | n. | the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy |
| 7. di_____le a system | v. | to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment |
| 8. ac___e his rudeness | v. | to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing |
| 9. tr_____ct in cash | v. | to carry out or conduct a business or other transaction; to complete or fulfill an agreement, deal, or contract |

ANSWERS: 1. batter, 2. mischief, 3. plunge, 4. embarrass, 5. convene, 6. bailout, 7. dismantle, 8. accuse, 9. transact

10. bl__f the other side *v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion
11. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
12. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
13. powerful fi_____er *n.* a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes
14. pr_____e services *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
15. multinational con_____ate *n.* a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole
16. se__e the conversation *v.* to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another
17. pr_____e a rare antique *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
18. golden ju_____e *n.* a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year

ANSWERS: 10. bluff, 11. ironic, 12. motto, 13. financier, 14. procure, 15. conglomerate, 16. segue, 17. procure, 18. jubilee

26. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
27. fi___o of a performance *n.* a complete failure or debacle, often resulting from poor planning, execution, or unforeseen circumstances
28. ac___e each other *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
29. br___e him with food *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
30. ri_____le at his expense *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
31. ou___t his competitors *v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else
32. ju_____e procession *n.* a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year
33. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
34. pe_____t justice *v.* to change the inherent purpose or function of something; to influence somebody to behave in morally unacceptable ways; to corrupt or lead astray; (noun) a person who engages in sexual behavior or has sexual interests that are considered abnormal or deviant by society

ANSWERS: 26. creditor, 27. fiasco, 28. accuse, 29. bribe, 30. ridicule, 31. outwit, 32. jubilee, 33. creditor, 34. pervert

35. ba___r the eggs *v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
36. em___k on a foolish adventure *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
37. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
38. co_____e the council *v.* to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity
39. Greek-English le_____n *n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical
40. br__e a politician *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
41. di_____y the occasion *v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant
42. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
43. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

ANSWERS: 35. batter, 36. embark, 37. sect, 38. convene, 39. lexicon, 40. bribe, 41. dignify, 42. institutionalize, 43. institutionalize

44. an ir___c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
45. di_____le a machine *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
46. ou___t a problem *v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else
47. media con_____ate *n.* a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole
48. boundless gen_____ty *n.* the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely
49. se__e between topics *v.* to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another
50. l__t the ship *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
51. public ri_____le *n.* speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way

ANSWERS: 44. ironic, 45. dismantle, 46. outwit, 47. conglomerate, 48. generosity, 49. segue, 50. loot, 51. ridicule

52. irr_____ble behavior *adj.* not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable
53. ba_____t bill *n.* the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy
54. act of gen_____ty *n.* the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely
55. di_____y the role *v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant
56. en_____e the company to use the logo *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
57. fi_____er scandals *n.* a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes
58. le_____n of business phrases *n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical
59. playful mi_____ef *n.* playful, minor actions or behavior intended to cause harm, trouble, or annoyance; mischievous behavior that is not intended to cause harm or damage
60. irr_____ble actions *adj.* not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable

ANSWERS: 52. irresponsible, 53. bailout, 54. generosity, 55. dignify, 56. entitle, 57. financier, 58. lexicon, 59. mischief, 60. irresponsible

61. di_____se the protesters *v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
62. ba_____nd shot *n.* (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body
63. fi____o in the project *n.* a complete failure or debacle, often resulting from poor planning, execution, or unforeseen circumstances
64. en_____e him to a pension *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
65. tr_____ry bonds *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
66. di_____se false information *v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
67. tr_____ct internationally *v.* to carry out or conduct a business or other transaction; to complete or fulfill an agreement, deal, or contract
68. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
69. pl____e a dagger through his heart *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

ANSWERS: 61. disperse, 62. backhand, 63. fiasco, 64. entitle, 65. treasury, 66. disperse, 67. transact, 68. sect, 69. plunge

70. rec_____ct the original text v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
71. rec_____ct an image v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
72. em___k on a trip v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

ANSWERS: 70. reconstruct, 71. reconstruct, 72. embark

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

2. The old building had to be _____ because it was structurally unsound.
v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

3. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.
v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

4. Before authorities _____ the protesters, they yelled slogans.
v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

5. The dog's _____ led to the destruction of the living room furniture.
n. playful, minor actions or behavior intended to cause harm, trouble, or annoyance; mischievous behavior that is not intended to cause harm or damage

6. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.
adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

7. The teacher warned the students not to _____ the story's meaning by twisting the facts.
v. to change the inherent purpose or function of something; to influence somebody to behave in morally unacceptable ways; to corrupt or lead astray;
(noun) a person who engages in sexual behavior or has sexual interests that are considered abnormal or deviant by society

ANSWERS: 1. sect, 2. dismantled, 3. reconstruct, 4. dispersed, 5. mischief, 6. ironic, 7. pervert

8. The witness _____ the defendant of committing the robbery.
- v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
9. The bandits _____ the small town, leaving it in ruins.
- v. steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
10. He is remembered for his _____ and civilization.
- n. the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely
11. It's important to _____ other people's opinions and not dismiss them without consideration.
- v. to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant
12. He tries to _____ the ship's captain to export illegal products.
- v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
13. The _____ of companies managed to dominate the market.
- n. a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole
14. The royal family celebrated their _____ with a parade and a special concert.
- n. a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year

ANSWERS: 8. accused, 9. looted, 10. generosity, 11. dignify, 12. bribe, 13. conglomerate, 14. jubilee

15. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
16. The company's decision to launch a product without proper testing resulted in a marketing _____.
- n.* a complete failure or debacle, often resulting from poor planning, execution, or unforeseen circumstances
17. Many countries provided a _____ to the private sector to minimize the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- n.* the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy
18. We _____ on a new project.
- v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
19. He could _____ his opponents with his quick thinking and clever strategy.
- v.* to defeat or overcome someone cleverly or cunningly by outsmarting them; to be more clever or cunning than someone else
20. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
21. This bilingual _____ was essential for his language improvement.
- n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical
22. The employee was _____ to a week of vacation time.
- v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

ANSWERS: 15. embarrass, 16. fiasco, 17. bailout, 18. embarked, 19. outwit, 20. creditor, 21. lexicon, 22. entitled

23. He got so angry that he _____ the door down.
- v. to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
24. The parliament will _____ at 1 p.m. tomorrow.
- v. to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity
25. The _____ from his classmates made him feel embarrassed and ashamed.
- n. speech or behavior that makes fun of or mocks someone or something; teasing, sarcasm, or scornful remarks that are intended to belittle or humiliate; (verb) to mock, criticize, or make fun of someone or something in a scornful or derisive way
26. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
- n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
27. The protracted war nearly depleted the country's _____.
- n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
28. The wealthy _____ made a generous donation to the charity.
- n. a person or organization that deals with or manages large sums of money, particularly for investment or financial trading purposes
29. I need to _____ some supplies for the upcoming project.
- v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
30. 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.)

ANSWERS: 23. battered, 24. convene, 25. ridicule, 26. motto, 27. treasury, 28. financier, 29. procure, 30. institutionalize

31. He smoothly _____ from one topic to the next during his presentation.

- v. to make a smooth and uninterrupted transition from one topic or activity to another

32. It was _____ of him to drive home after drinking so much alcohol.

- adj. not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable

33. He _____ a person out of going.

- v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

34. I need to _____ some business at the bank before it closes.

- v. to carry out or conduct a business or other transaction; to complete or fulfill an agreement, deal, or contract

35. The company's profits _____ after the recall of their new product.

- v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

36. She hit a perfect _____ winner down the line to win the match.

- n. (in sports such as tennis and squash) a stroke or shot made with the back of the hand facing forward is used to hit the ball on the non-dominant side of the body

ANSWERS: 31. segued, 32. irresponsible, 33. bluffed, 34. transact, 35. plunged, 36. backhand