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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Carvens Lissaint: "Put the financial aid in the bag" |

TED Talk

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### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### subsidize

v. to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially

*synonym*: finance, endow, sponsor

(1) **subsidize** the project, (2) **subsidize** the cost

Governments **subsidize** renewable energy generation in various ways.

### woo

v. to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

*synonym*: court, pursue, charm

(1) **woo** consumers, (2) **woo** voters with promises

He tried to **woo** her with his charm and wit.

### beastie

n. a small or insignificant animal often used to describe insects, rodents, or other vermin

*synonym*: critter, creature, animal

(1) cute little **beastie**, (2) monster **beastie**

Scientists discovered a new species of **beastie** in the rainforest.

### rive

v. to tear or split apart forcefully; to break or divide by a sharp blow or force

*synonym*: split, cleave, rip

(1) **rive** the sails of the ship, (2) **rive** the stone into precise shapes

The lumberjack used a strong axe to **rive** the logs into smaller pieces.

## thug

*n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang

*synonym*: gangster, hooligan, criminal

(1) local **thug**, (2) notorious **thug**

The police arrested the **thug** who robbed the convenience store.

## biggie

*n.* something important or significant

*synonym*: important, significant, crucial

(1) a media **biggie**, (2) **biggie** in the market

Winning the lottery is a **biggie** for most people.

## genesis

*n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind

*synonym*: beginning, creation, provenance

(1) the **genesis** of civilization, (2) in the Book of **Genesis**

The politician's remarks became the **genesis** of the clash between the two countries.

## cuckoo

*n.* a bird of the Cuculidae family, known for its distinctive call; (informally) a person who is crazy, eccentric, or foolish

*synonym*: loony, nut, madcap

(1) **cuckoo** clock, (2) **cuckoo** in the nest

The **cuckoo** bird's call echoed through the forest.

## cocoa

*n.* a powder made from roasted cacao beans used to flavor sweets and drinks; the dried and fermented seeds from which the powder is made

(1) **cocoa** powder, (2) **cocoa** butter

The culinary class learned how to make homemade **cocoa** mix from scratch.

## opportune

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

*synonym*: suitable, timely, practical

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

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

## ancestor

*n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

*synonym*: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

## strangle

*v.* to choke or suffocate someone by compressing their neck; to inhibit or suppress something, such as a movement or idea

*synonym*: choke, suffocate, throttle

(1) **strangle** a cry, (2) **strangle** economic growth

The killer used his hands to **strangle** his victim.

## lynch

*v.* to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance

*synonym*: hang, execute, mob

(1) **lynch** law, (2) **lynch** him to death

The mob wanted to **lynch** the suspect before he could be tried in court.

## deception

*n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

*synonym*: fraud, deceit, trickery

(1) **deception** tactics, (2) **deception** in advertising

The politician was accused of **deception** for making false promises during his campaign.

## malfunction

*v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

*synonym*: malfunction, break down, fail

(1) **malfunction** alarm, (2) **malfunction** and start moving unpredictably

The car's engine **malfunctioned** on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.

## backbreaking

*adj.* extremely physically demanding or strenuous, often to the point of causing fatigue or pain in the back or body

*synonym*: demanding, strenuous, arduous

(1) **backbreaking** effort, (2) **backbreaking** work

The construction workers endured **backbreaking** labor under the scorching sun.

## shackle

*n.* a metal ring, bar, or other device used to confine, restrain, or limit freedom of movement; a restraint or impediment of any kind

*synonym*: chains, fetters, handcuffs

(1) **shackle** chains, (2) metal **shackle**

The prisoner wore heavy **shackles** on his wrists and ankles.

## muffle

*v.* to wrap or cover something to deaden sound or prevent others from hearing it; to suppress or soften the sound of something; to decrease the intensity or impact of something

*synonym*: mute, stifle, embower

(1) **muffle** the sound, (2) **muffle** my cries

He tried to **muffle** his coughs during the movie not to disturb the other viewers.

## feeble

*adj.* lacking physical or mental strength; weak or frail; lacking force, effectiveness, or impact

*synonym*: weak, frail, feeble-minded

(1) **feeble** attempt, (2) **feeble** excuse

The older man's **feeble** voice suggested he was not feeling well.

## thievery

*n.* the act of stealing or theft, often without the use of force or violence

*synonym*: theft, stealing, larceny

(1) **thievery** charges, (2) organized **thievery**

The police arrested the suspect for **thievery** after he was caught stealing from a local store.

## aspiration

*n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

*synonym*: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs

He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

## barricade

*n.* a barrier, often improvised or temporary, used to block passage or protect against danger or attack

*synonym*: barrier, obstacle, blockade

(1) **barricade** fencing, (2) police **barricade**

The protestors built a **barricade** to prevent police from entering the area.

## noose

*n.* a loop or knot, typically made of rope, used for hanging or executing a person or animal; a trap or snare in which the neck catches the prey

*synonym*: loop, snare, halter

(1) **noose** knot, (2) hangman's **noose**

The criminal was caught in the **noose** of the law and faced severe consequences for their actions.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. ba\_\_\_\_\_de fencing *n.* a barrier, often improvised or temporary, used to block passage or protect against danger or attack
  
2. the ge\_\_\_\_\_s of civilization *n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind
  
3. st\_\_\_\_\_le a cry *v.* to choke or suffocate someone by compressing their neck; to inhibit or suppress something, such as a movement or idea
  
4. w\_o consumers *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery
  
5. hangman's no\_\_\_e *n.* a loop or knot, typically made of rope, used for hanging or executing a person or animal; a trap or snare in which the neck catches the prey
  
6. mu\_\_\_e the sound *v.* to wrap or cover something to deaden sound or prevent others from hearing it; to suppress or soften the sound of something; to decrease the intensity or impact of something
  
7. local t\_\_g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang

ANSWERS: 1. barricade, 2. genesis, 3. strangle, 4. woo, 5. noose, 6. muffle, 7. thug

- |                                |           |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 8. asp_____on into the lungs   | <i>n.</i> | a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath  |
| 9. an_____or language          | <i>n.</i> | a person from whom one is descended; a forefather  |
| 10. cu___o clock               | <i>n.</i> | a bird of the Cuculidae family, known for its distinctive call; (informally) a person who is crazy, eccentric, or foolish  |
| 11. metal sh_____e             | <i>n.</i> | a metal ring, bar, or other device used to confine, restrain, or limit freedom of movement; a restraint or impediment of any kind  |
| 12. organized th_____ry        | <i>n.</i> | the act of stealing or theft, often without the use of force or violence   |
| 13. co__a powder               | <i>n.</i> | a powder made from roasted cacao beans used to flavor sweets and drinks; the dried and fermented seeds from which the powder is made   |
| 14. th_____ry charges          | <i>n.</i> | the act of stealing or theft, often without the use of force or violence   |
| 15. mu___e my cries            | <i>v.</i> | to wrap or cover something to deaden sound or prevent others from hearing it; to suppress or soften the sound of something; to decrease the intensity or impact of something |
| 16. r__e the sails of the ship | <i>v.</i> | to tear or split apart forcefully; to break or divide by a sharp blow or force   |
| 17. police ba_____de           | <i>n.</i> | a barrier, often improvised or temporary, used to block passage or protect against danger or attack  |

ANSWERS: 8. aspiration, 9. ancestor, 10. cuckoo, 11. shackle, 12. thievery, 13. cocoa, 14. thievery, 15. muffle, 16. rive, 17. barricade

18. a media bi\_\_\_e *n.* something important or significant
19. mal\_\_\_\_\_on and start moving unpredictably *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
20. in the Book of Ge\_\_\_\_\_s *n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind
21. notorious t\_\_g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
22. cute little be\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* a small or insignificant animal often used to describe insects, rodents, or other vermin
23. fe\_\_\_e attempt *adj.* lacking physical or mental strength; weak or frail; lacking force, effectiveness, or impact
24. r\_\_e the stone into precise shapes *v.* to tear or split apart forcefully; to break or divide by a sharp blow or force
25. st\_\_\_\_\_le economic growth *v.* to choke or suffocate someone by compressing their neck; to inhibit or suppress something, such as a movement or idea
26. w\_o voters with promises *v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

ANSWERS: 18. biggie, 19. malfunction, 20. genesis, 21. thug, 22. beastie, 23. feeble, 24. rive, 25. strangle, 26. woo



27. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
28. su\_\_\_\_\_ze the cost *v.* to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially
29. bac\_\_\_\_\_ing work *adj.* extremely physically demanding or strenuous, often to the point of causing fatigue or pain in the back or body
30. fe\_\_\_e excuse *adj.* lacking physical or mental strength; weak or frail; lacking force, effectiveness, or impact
31. de\_\_\_\_\_on in advertising *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
32. ly\_\_\_h law *v.* to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance
33. no\_\_\_e knot *n.* a loop or knot, typically made of rope, used for hanging or executing a person or animal; a trap or snare in which the neck catches the prey
34. sh\_\_\_\_\_e chains *n.* a metal ring, bar, or other device used to confine, restrain, or limit freedom of movement; a restraint or impediment of any kind

ANSWERS: 27. opportune, 28. subsidize, 29. backbreaking, 30. feeble, 31. deception, 32. lynch, 33. noose, 34. shackle

35. mal\_\_\_\_\_on alarm      *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
36. ly\_\_h him to death      *v.* to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance
37. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark      *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
38. cu\_\_\_o in the nest      *n.* a bird of the Cuculidae family, known for its distinctive call; (informally) a person who is crazy, eccentric, or foolish
39. earliest human an\_\_\_\_or      *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
40. bac\_\_\_\_\_ing effort      *adj.* extremely physically demanding or strenuous, often to the point of causing fatigue or pain in the back or body
41. no asp\_\_\_\_\_on for fame      *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
42. bi\_\_\_e in the market      *n.* something important or significant
43. monster be\_\_\_\_e      *n.* a small or insignificant animal often used to describe insects, rodents, or other vermin

ANSWERS: 35. malfunction, 36. lynch, 37. opportune, 38. cuckoo, 39. ancestor, 40. backbreaking, 41. aspiration, 42. biggie, 43. beastie

44. co\_\_a butter *n.* a powder made from roasted cacao beans used to flavor sweets and drinks; the dried and fermented seeds from which the powder is made
45. de\_\_\_\_\_on tactics *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
46. su\_\_\_\_\_ze the project *v.* to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially

ANSWERS: 44. cocoa, 45. deception, 46. subsidize

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The police arrested the \_\_\_\_\_ who robbed the convenience store.  
*n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
2. My remote \_\_\_\_\_ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.  
*n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
3. The culinary class learned how to make homemade \_\_\_\_\_ mix from scratch.  
*n.* a powder made from roasted cacao beans used to flavor sweets and drinks; the dried and fermented seeds from which the powder is made
4. The mob wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the suspect before he could be tried in court.  
*v.* to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance
5. The politician was accused of \_\_\_\_\_ for making false promises during his campaign.  
*n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
6. The killer used his hands to \_\_\_\_\_ his victim.  
*v.* to choke or suffocate someone by compressing their neck; to inhibit or suppress something, such as a movement or idea
7. The politician's remarks became the \_\_\_\_\_ of the clash between the two countries.  
*n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind

ANSWERS: 1. thug, 2. ancestor, 3. cocoa, 4. lynch, 5. deception, 6. strangle, 7. genesis

8. The car's engine \_\_\_\_\_ on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.
- v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
9. Winning the lottery is a \_\_\_\_\_ for most people.
- n.* something important or significant
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ bird's call echoed through the forest.
- n.* a bird of the Cuculidae family, known for its distinctive call; (informally) a person who is crazy, eccentric, or foolish
11. The lumberjack used a strong axe to \_\_\_\_\_ the logs into smaller pieces.
- v.* to tear or split apart forcefully; to break or divide by a sharp blow or force
12. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
13. The protestors built a \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent police from entering the area.
- n.* a barrier, often improvised or temporary, used to block passage or protect against danger or attack
14. He has an \_\_\_\_\_ to become a doctor.
- n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
15. The construction workers endured \_\_\_\_\_ labor under the scorching sun.
- adj.* extremely physically demanding or strenuous, often to the point of causing fatigue or pain in the back or body

ANSWERS: 8. malfunctioned, 9. biggie, 10. cuckoo, 11. rive, 12. opportune, 13. barricade, 14. aspiration, 15. backbreaking

16. He tried to \_\_\_\_ her with his charm and wit.

- v.* to seek the affection or favor of someone; to court or pursue someone romantically or with flattery

17. The police arrested the suspect for \_\_\_\_\_ after he was caught stealing from a local store.

- n.* the act of stealing or theft, often without the use of force or violence

18. The prisoner wore heavy \_\_\_\_\_ on his wrists and ankles.

- n.* a metal ring, bar, or other device used to confine, restrain, or limit freedom of movement; a restraint or impediment of any kind

19. The older man's \_\_\_\_\_ voice suggested he was not feeling well.

- adj.* lacking physical or mental strength; weak or frail; lacking force, effectiveness, or impact

20. Scientists discovered a new species of \_\_\_\_\_ in the rainforest.

- n.* a small or insignificant animal often used to describe insects, rodents, or other vermin

21. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ his coughs during the movie not to disturb the other viewers.

- v.* to wrap or cover something to deaden sound or prevent others from hearing it; to suppress or soften the sound of something; to decrease the intensity or impact of something

22. The criminal was caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law and faced severe consequences for their actions.

- n.* a loop or knot, typically made of rope, used for hanging or executing a person or animal; a trap or snare in which the neck catches the prey

ANSWERS: 16. woo, 17. thievery, 18. shackles, 19. feeble, 20. beastie, 21. muffle, 22. noose

23. Governments \_\_\_\_\_ renewable energy generation in various ways.

- v. to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially

ANSWERS: 23. subsidize