



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Jane Hirshfield: The art of the metaphor | TED Talk*  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/jane\\_hirshfield\\_the\\_art\\_of\\_the\\_metaphor](https://www.ted.com/talks/jane_hirshfield_the_art_of_the_metaphor)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### conjure

*v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

*synonym*: summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

### roundabout

*n.* a circuitous or indirect route or path; a traffic circle or rotary used to regulate the flow of traffic

*synonym*: detour, circuitous route, indirect path

(1) **roundabout** junction, (2) traffic **roundabout**

Because of the road closure, we had to take a **roundabout** route to reach the destination.

### blossom

*n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

*synonym*: flower, bloom, bud

(1) apple **blossom**, (2) **blossom** garden

The cherry **blossom** trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.

## chili

*n.* a small hot-tasting fruit of a type of pepper plant used in sauces, relishes, and spice powders; a spicy stew made from ground beef and beans, typically seasoned with chili peppers

*synonym*: capsicum, pepper

(1) **chili** sauce, (2) red **chili** powder

I love making a big pot of **chili** on a cold winter day.

## pep

*n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness

*synonym*: energy, enthusiasm, liveliness

(1) **pep** me up, (2) have a lot of **peps**

The coach gave a **pep** talk to the team before the game to boost their spirits.

## explode

*v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

*synonym*: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

## beagle

*n.* a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares

*synonym*: hound, dog, pup

(1) legal **beagle**, (2) **beagle** nose

His pet **beagle** sniffed at the ground, following the rabbit's trail.

## confuse

*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

*synonym*: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

## paradox

*n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

*synonym*: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap  
There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

## simile

*n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"

*synonym*: comparison, analogy, metaphor

(1) **simile** usage, (2) poetic **simile**

Her poetry is full of beautiful **similes** comparing nature to human emotion.

## sew

*v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

*synonym*: stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

## adjective

*n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun

*synonym*: modifier, accessory, attribute

(1) **adjective** clause, (2) an attributive **adjective**

The **adjective** "red" describes the color of the apple.

## singe

*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

*synonym*: sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

## passee

*adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

*synonym*: outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passee** entertainment, (2) **passee** trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passee** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

## vanish

v. disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely

*synonym*: disappear, go away, evaporate

(1) **vanish** into thin air, (2) **vanish** amid the crowd

Two months later, my tumor **vanished** utterly.

## tack

n. a method of changing the course of a sailing vessel by turning the bow through the wind so that the wind switches from one side of the vessel to the other; a course of action or strategy, particularly in politics or business; (verb) to fasten or attach something, such as pinning or nailing an object in place

*synonym*: course, direction, approach

(1) change **tack**, (2) **tack** to the refrigerator door

I need to change the **tack** of the sailboat to avoid hitting the rocks.

## splinter

n. a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger

*synonym*: shard, fragment, sliver

(1) **splinter** cell, (2) remove a **splinter**

The car window shattered into a million little **splinters** during the crash.

## comp

v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment

*synonym*: waive, cover, provide

(1) **comp** their meal, (2) **comp** the employees with a bonus

The casino **comped** her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.

## wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

*synonym*: collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

## haunch

*n.* the hip, buttock, and upper thigh area of a human or animal; the lateral side of an arch or similar structure

*synonym*: hip, hindquarter, rump

(1) **haunch** bone, (2) injured **haunch**

The **haunch** joint in some animals, like deer or rabbit, is considered a delicacy in many cuisines.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. co\_\_\_\_e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
2. pa\_\_e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
3. si\_\_e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
4. s\_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
5. French pa\_\_\_\_x *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
6. have a lot of p\_ps *n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
7. a worthless wr\_\_k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
8. the pa\_\_\_\_x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
9. legal be\_\_\_\_e *n.* a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares

ANSWERS: 1. confuse, 2. passe, 3. singe, 4. sew, 5. paradox, 6. pep, 7. wreck, 8. paradox, 9. beagle

10. ch\_\_i sauce *n.* a small hot-tasting fruit of a type of pepper plant used in sauces, relishes, and spice powders; a spicy stew made from ground beef and beans, typically seasoned with chili peppers
11. p\_p me up *n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
12. va\_\_\_h amid the crowd *v.* disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely
13. remove a sp\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
14. ad\_\_\_\_\_ve clause *n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
15. va\_\_\_h into thin air *v.* disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely
16. poetic si\_\_\_e *n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"
17. rou\_\_\_\_\_ut junction *n.* a circuitous or indirect route or path; a traffic circle or rotary used to regulate the flow of traffic
18. the house was a wr\_\_k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
19. co\_\_\_\_\_e evil spirits away *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

ANSWERS: 10. chili, 11. pep, 12. vanish, 13. splinter, 14. adjective, 15. vanish, 16. simile, 17. roundabout, 18. wreck, 19. conjure

20. pa\_\_e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
21. ha\_\_\_h bone *n.* the hip, buttock, and upper thigh area of a human or animal; the lateral side of an arch or similar structure
22. sp\_\_\_\_\_er cell *n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
23. red ch\_\_i powder *n.* a small hot-tasting fruit of a type of pepper plant used in sauces, relishes, and spice powders; a spicy stew made from ground beef and beans, typically seasoned with chili peppers
24. s\_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
25. change t\_\_k *n.* a method of changing the course of a sailing vessel by turning the bow through the wind so that the wind switches from one side of the vessel to the other; a course of action or strategy, particularly in politics or business; (verb) to fasten or attach something, such as pinning or nailing an object in place
26. bl\_\_\_\_\_m garden *n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

ANSWERS: 20. passe, 21. haunch, 22. splinter, 23. chili, 24. sew, 25. tack, 26. blossom



27. ex\_\_\_\_e in popularity      *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
28. co\_\_\_\_e fantasy with reality      *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
29. be\_\_\_\_e nose      *n.* a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares
30. c\_\_p their meal      *v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
31. ex\_\_\_\_e in anger      *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
32. si\_\_\_\_e usage      *n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"
33. an attributive ad\_\_\_\_ve      *n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
34. co\_\_\_\_e a vision      *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
35. apple bl\_\_\_\_m      *n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
36. traffic rou\_\_\_\_ut      *n.* a circuitous or indirect route or path; a traffic circle or rotary used to regulate the flow of traffic

ANSWERS: 27. explode, 28. confuse, 29. beagle, 30. comp, 31. explode, 32. simile, 33. adjective, 34. conjure, 35. blossom, 36. roundabout

37. c\_\_p the employees with a bonus      *v.*    short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
38. injured ha\_\_\_h      *n.*    the hip, buttock, and upper thigh area of a human or animal; the lateral side of an arch or similar structure
39. si\_\_e off the hair over the flames      *v.*    to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
40. t\_\_k to the refrigerator door      *n.*    a method of changing the course of a sailing vessel by turning the bow through the wind so that the wind switches from one side of the vessel to the other; a course of action or strategy, particularly in politics or business; (verb) to fasten or attach something, such as pinning or nailing an object in place

ANSWERS: 37. comp, 38. haunch, 39. singe, 40. tack

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered \_\_\_\_\_ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.  
*adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ joint in some animals, like deer or rabbit, is considered a delicacy in many cuisines.  
*n.* the hip, buttock, and upper thigh area of a human or animal; the lateral side of an arch or similar structure
3. I love making a big pot of \_\_\_\_\_ on a cold winter day.  
*n.* a small hot-tasting fruit of a type of pepper plant used in sauces, relishes, and spice powders; a spicy stew made from ground beef and beans, typically seasoned with chili peppers
4. There are many theories to explain this \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
5. The casino \_\_\_\_\_ her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.  
*v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
6. The old building \_\_\_\_\_ in a fiery inferno.  
*v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
7. Because of the road closure, we had to take a \_\_\_\_\_ route to reach the destination.  
*n.* a circuitous or indirect route or path; a traffic circle or rotary used to regulate the flow of traffic

ANSWERS: 1. passe, 2. haunch, 3. chili, 4. paradox, 5. comped, 6. exploded, 7. roundabout

8. His pet \_\_\_\_\_ sniffed at the ground, following the rabbit's trail.  
*n.* a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares
9. Her remarks \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.  
*v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
10. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and \_\_\_\_\_ my dress.  
*v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
11. Her poetry is full of beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ comparing nature to human emotion.  
*n.* a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as"
12. I need to change the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sailboat to avoid hitting the rocks.  
*n.* a method of changing the course of a sailing vessel by turning the bow through the wind so that the wind switches from one side of the vessel to the other; a course of action or strategy, particularly in politics or business; (verb) to fasten or attach something, such as pinning or nailing an object in place
13. The car window shattered into a million little \_\_\_\_\_ during the crash.  
*n.* a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or other material that has broken off from a larger piece; a fragment or small piece that has separated from something larger
14. The coach gave a \_\_\_\_\_ talk to the team before the game to boost their spirits.  
*n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
15. The magician \_\_\_\_\_ up a rabbit out of thin air.  
*v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

ANSWERS: 8. beagle, 9. confused, 10. singed, 11. similes, 12. tack, 13. splinters, 14. pep, 15. conjured

16. The divers accidentally discovered a \_\_\_\_\_ on the ocean floor.

- n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

17. My mother taught me how to \_\_\_\_\_.

- v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

18. Two months later, my tumor \_\_\_\_\_ utterly.

- v.* disappear or stop being present or existing suddenly and completely

19. The cherry \_\_\_\_\_ trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.

- n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

20. The \_\_\_\_\_ "red" describes the color of the apple.

- n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun

ANSWERS: 16. wreck, 17. sew, 18. vanished, 19. blossom, 20. adjective