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# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

John Graham-Cumming: The greatest machine that never was | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/john\_graham\_cumming\_th e\_greatest\_machine\_that\_never\_was



# **Advanced Words Only**

#### **IMPORTANT**

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# **Session 1: Word List**

# unkempt

adj. untidy, disheveled, or messy in appearance; not properly cared for or maintained

synonym: messy, disheveled, untidy

(1) unkempt hair, (2) unkempt garden

She was so absorbed in her research that she often had an **unkempt** appearance, forgetting even basic grooming.

# aristocracy

- n. a group of persons with high social statussynonym: elite, nobility, upper class
- (1) member of the **aristocracy**, (2) the blue-blooded **aristocracy**

Despite his popularity among the **aristocracy**, he was unpopular with the general public.

# intelligentsia

n. the educated and intellectual elite of society, particularly those involved in cultural or artistic pursuits

synonym: intellectuals, intelligents, savants

(1) members of **intelligentsia**, (2) artistic **intelligentsia**The voices of the political and academic **intelligentsia**dominated the debate.

#### soirée

 an evening party or reception, typically in a private house synonym: party, gathering, reception

(1) elegant soirée, (2) take part in a soirée

She was invited to many exclusive **soirées** and social events.

## **Newtonian**

adj. relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation

synonym: classical, physics, mechanics

(1) **Newtonian** physics, (2) **Newtonian** mechanics

The motion of planets can be described using **Newtonian** mechanics.

# hawk

 a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations

synonym: militarist, jingo, aggressor

(1) cast off a hawk, (2) congressional hawk

That team signed a center forward who was a ball- hawk.

#### nerd

 a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

### peel

v. to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables

synonym: pare, unclothe, disrobe

(1) **peel** a fruit, (2) **peel** off easily

The storm had **peeled** all paint off the siding.

# monstrosity

 a thing that is very ugly, shocking, or offensive;
something so large or complex that it seems difficult to understand or control

synonym: monstrous, freak, deformity

(1) monstrosity of war, (2) monstrosity of nature

The creature's **monstrosity** in the horror movie shocked the audience.

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cog

n. a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system

synonym: gear, wheel, sprocket

(1) cog in the system, (2) missing cog

The **cog** in the machine broke down, causing a delay in production.

locomotive

 a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks

synonym: train, engine, motor

(1) locomotive engine, (2) diesel locomotive

The powerful **locomotive** chugged along the tracks, hauling a long line of freight cars.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym: dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

subtraction

 n. the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities

synonym: deduction, minus, withdrawal

(1) **subtraction** equation, (2) double-digit **subtraction**The **subtraction** of expenses from revenue resulted in a net profit for the company.

regularity

n. the quality or state of being done often; conformity to a set of rules, standards, or expectations; the state of occurring with a consistent or predictable pattern or frequency

synonym: consistency, uniformity, regularness

(1) the regularity of his breathing, (2) sleep regularity

The **regularity** of exercise is important for maintaining good health.

# reappear

v. to show up again or return after not being heard of or seen for a period of time

synonym: come again, repeat, re-emerge

(1) **reappear** on the surface, (2) **reappear** throughout this book

Cancer has **reappeared** at the same site.

#### loom

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym: appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

#### weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym: braid, unite, contrive

(1) weave on a loom, (2) weave a story

The girl weaves a garland for her friend.

# repurpose

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

synonym: reutilize, recycle, reuse

(1) **repurpose** an old building, (2) **repurpose** a used car The old barn was **repurposed** into a modern event space.

# revolutionize

v. to bring about a complete or radical change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas

*synonym*: transform, innovate, modernize

(1) **revolutionize** the industry, (2) **revolutionize** the technology

The invention of the smartphone **revolutionized** the way we communicate with each other.

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# dynamo

 a machine that converts mechanical energy into electrical energy, typically consisting of a rotating coil or magnet within a magnetic field

synonym: generator, powerhouse

(1) a **dynamo** of productivity, (2) marketing **dynamo**The electrical **dynamo** produced enough power to light up the entire city.

# ding

v. to make a ringing, chiming, or knocking sound; to damage or dent a surface through impact or collision; (noun, Chinese) a type of ancient cooking vessel that was used for cooking, boiling, and steaming food

synonym: hit, smack, bump

(1) ding a bell, (2) ding a ling

I accidentally **dinged** my new car door in the parking lot.

# obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

# inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym: obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

#### nanoscale

- adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
- (1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

#### ram

v. to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force

synonym: crash, collide, slam

(1) ram the door open, (2) ram into the ice

The car **rammed** into the wall, causing significant damage.

### curator

*n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.

synonym: conservator, custodian, administrator

(1) curator of a library, (2) interim curator

The museum **curator** conserved the ancient manuscripts.

# determinant

 a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

*synonym*: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

# humongous

adj. extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big synonym: gigantic, enormous, colossal

(1) **humongous** appetite, (2) **humongous** amount The new office building was **humongous** and could fit hundreds of employees comfortably.

fiddle

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

synonym: tinker, diddle, play

(1) **fiddle** with a PC, (2) **fiddle** away the whole afternoon She was able to **fiddle** a free trip to the United States.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1. missing c\_g

2. d\_g a bell

3. mon\_\_\_\_ty of nature

4. fi e with a PC

5. loc\_\_\_\_ve engine

6. mon ty of war

n. a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system

v. to make a ringing, chiming, or knocking sound; to damage or dent a surface through impact or collision; (noun, Chinese) a type of ancient cooking vessel that was used for cooking, boiling, and steaming food

 a thing that is very ugly, shocking, or offensive; something so large or complex that it seems difficult to understand or control

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

n. a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks

 a thing that is very ugly, shocking, or offensive; something so large or complex that it seems difficult to understand or control

ANSWERS: 1. cog, 2. ding, 3. monstrosity, 4. fiddle, 5. locomotive, 6. monstrosity

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and 7. an b mind movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity ob\_\_\_s over her weight to fill the mind of someone continually 8. ν. so that one can't think of anything else Ne an mechanics adj. relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws 9. of motion and universal gravitation 10. in\_\_\_\_t estate to receive money, property, or a title ν. from someone after they have died to strike or push forcefully, often to 11. r m the door open cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force to appear or take shape as a large, 12. I\_\_m on the horizon ν. especially in a frightening way to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., 13. we\_\_e a story ν. by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., 14. we\_\_e on a loom ν. by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them an evening party or reception, typically 15. elegant so e in a private house 16. sleep reg ty the quality or state of being done often;

ANSWERS: 7. numb, 8. obsess, 9. Newtonian, 10. inherit, 11. ram, 12. loom, 13. weave, 14. weave, 15. soirée, 16. regularity

conformity to a set of rules, standards, or expectations; the state of occurring with a consistent or predictable pattern

or frequency

ANSWERS: 17. intelligentsia, 18. regularity, 19. nerd, 20. dynamo, 21. nanoscale, 22. reappear, 23. humongous, 24. hawk, 25. unkempt

maintained

appearance; not properly cared for or

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and 26. n b with cold movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity a bird of prey typically having short 27. congressional h k n. rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations to make a ringing, chiming, or knocking 28. d\_\_g a ling sound; to damage or dent a surface through impact or collision; (noun, Chinese) a type of ancient cooking vessel that was used for cooking, boiling, and steaming food to strike or push forcefully, often to 29. r\_m into the ice cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force 30. rev ize the industry to bring about a complete or radical ν. change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas 31. in t ancestral property to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died 32. interim cu\_\_\_\_r a person whose job is to manage the n. objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc. a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or 33. c g in the system sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system

ANSWERS: 26. numb, 27. hawk, 28. ding, 29. ram, 30. revolutionize, 31. inherit, 32. curator, 33. cog

34.	rear throughout this	book	<i>v</i> .	to show up again or return after not being heard of or seen for a period of time
35.	members of int	_sia	n.	the educated and intellectual elite of society, particularly those involved in cultural or artistic pursuits
36.	pl a fruit		<i>v</i> .	to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables
37.	pl off easily		<i>v</i> .	to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables
38.	a dyo of productivity		n.	a machine that converts mechanical energy into electrical energy, typically consisting of a rotating coil or magnet within a magnetic field
39.	rese an old building	g	<i>v</i> .	to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
40.	revize the techr	ology	ν.	to bring about a complete or radical change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas
41.	take part in a soe		n.	an evening party or reception, typically in a private house
42.	subon equation		n.	the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities
43.	he is obsed with the	ear	<i>v</i> .	to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
44.	unt hair		adj.	untidy, disheveled, or messy in appearance; not properly cared for or maintained

ANSWERS: 34. reappear, 35. intelligentsia, 36. peel, 37. peel, 38. dynamo, 39. repurpose, 40. revolutionize, 41. soirée, 42. subtraction, 43. obsess, 44. unkempt

52. a det\_\_\_\_nt of crop yields

 a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

53. hu\_\_\_\_us amount

adj. extremely large; gigantic; huge; excessively big

or result

ANSWERS: 45. nanoscale, 46. repurpose, 47. subtraction, 48. curator, 49. fiddle, 50. aristocracy, 51. determinant, 52. determinant, 53. humongous

54.	a computer nd	n.	a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
55.	the blue-blooded aricy	n.	a group of persons with high social status
56.	Im over the global economy	<i>v</i> .	to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
57.	Nean physics	adj.	relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
58.	diesel locve	n.	a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the

ANSWERS: 54. nerd, 55. aristocracy, 56. loom, 57. Newtonian, 58. locomotive

train to move on the tracks

# **Session 3: Fill in the Blanks**

1.	She was invited to many exclusive and social events.						
n.	an evening party or reception, typically in a private house						
2.	The issue of divorce large in his mind.						
ν.	to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way						
3.	I accidentally my new car door in the parking lot.						
ν.	to make a ringing, chiming, or knocking sound; to damage or dent a surface through impact or collision; (noun, Chinese) a type of ancient cooking vessel that was used for cooking, boiling, and steaming food						
4.	After his death, his sons his business.						
v.	to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died						
5.	The powerful chugged along the tracks, hauling a long line of freight cars.						
n.	a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks						
6.	The of exercise is important for maintaining good health.						
n.	the quality or state of being done often; conformity to a set of rules, standards, or expectations; the state of occurring with a consistent or predictable pattern or frequency						
7.	The of expenses from revenue resulted in a net profit for the company.						
n.	the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities						
	SWERS: 1. soirées, 2. loomed, 3. dinged, 4. inherited, 5. locomotive, 6. regularity subtraction						

Vocab-Builder Ref from "John Graham-Cumming: The greatest machine that never was | TED Talk" (29 words)

ANSWERS: 16. cog, 17. repurposed, 18. unkempt, 19. fiddle, 20. nanoscale, 21. rammed, 22. peeled

to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables

Vocab-Builder Ref from "John Graham-Cumming: The greatest machine that never was | TED Talk" (29 words)