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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Christopher Warner: In on a secret? That's dramatic irony | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher\\_warner\\_in\\_on\\_a\\_secret\\_that\\_s\\_dramatic\\_irony](https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher_warner_in_on_a_secret_that_s_dramatic_irony)

### All Words

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### 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**.

### comedy

*n.* a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment

*synonym* : humor, farce, satire

(1) **comedy** series, (2) romantic **comedy**

I love going to see live **comedy** shows with my friends.

### genre

*n.* a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics

*synonym* : type, category, style

(1) **genre** of music, (2) a literary **genre**

He is known for creating **genre-busting** paintings.

### dramatic

*adj.* very sudden, very excellent, or full of action and excitement

*synonym* :

striking, theatrical, breathtaking

(1) make **dramatic** changes, (2) a **dramatic** rescue at sea  
The statement had a **dramatic** impact on house prices.

## irony

*n.* the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect

*synonym*: sarcasm, cynicism, wit

(1) bitter **irony**, (2) **irony** humor

The **irony** of the situation is that he won the lottery on the day he lost his job.

## clarify

*v.* to make something, such as a statement or situation, less confusing and more understandable

*synonym*: explain, ascribe, purify

(1) **clarify** a goal, (2) **clarify** his feelings

The police tried to **clarify** the facts concerning her death.

## opposition

*n.* the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement

*synonym*: resistance, hostility, antagonism

(1) **opposition** campaign, (2) meet with **opposition**

The **opposition** party strongly disagreed with the government's proposed legislation.

## verbal

*adj.* expressed in spoken rather than written words

*synonym*: speaking, lingual, oral

(1) **verbal** communication, (2) **verbal** abuse

The candidate must have excellent **verbal** skills.

## conversation

*n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.

*synonym*: chat, discussion, dialogue

(1) **conversation** in English, (2) a friendly **conversation**

Your **conversation** reflects your thoughts.

## storytelling

*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

*synonym*: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

## device

*n.* a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic

*synonym*: gadget, instrument, tool

(1) electronic **device**, (2) tracking **device**

I always carry a backup **device** in case my phone runs out of battery.

## tremendous

*adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good

*synonym*: enormous, giant, immense

(1) **tremendous** amount, (2) **tremendous** popularity

We had a **tremendous** time yesterday.

## emotion

*n.* a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others

*synonym*: feeling, sentiment, passion

(1) control my **emotion**, (2) afraid to show **emotion**

Some **emotions** are common across cultures and backgrounds.

## scare

*v.* to frighten a person or animal, or to become frightened

*synonym*: frighten, spook, intimidate

(1) **scare** off her attacker by screaming, (2) **scare** the birds away

We hit the ground to **scare** out the rabbits.

## villain

*n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel

*synonym*: scoundrel, rogue, antagonist

(1) evil **villain**, (2) authoritarian **villain**

The **villain** in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.

## **eerie**

*adj.* strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural  
*synonym*: bizarre, creepy, dreadful

(1) **eerie** silence, (2) the **eerie** whistle of dropping bombs

The street was entirely silent and a bit **eerie**.

## **shadow**

*n.* a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner

*synonym*: shade, silhouette, outline

(1) **shadow** cast, (2) **shadow** puppetry

The tree cast a **shadow** over the picnic area, providing relief from the sun.

## **hero**

*n.* a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a character in literature or history who is central to the plot and who exhibits heroic qualities

*synonym*: champion, protagonist, savior

(1) local **hero**, (2) unsung **hero**

The soldier who sacrificed his life for his country is considered a national **hero**.

## **tension**

*n.* a state of mental or emotional strain or excitement; the state of being stretched tight

*synonym*: stress, strain, anxiety

(1) **tension** headache, (2) a high- **tension** wire

The **tension** in the room was palpable as the team waited for their leader to speak.

## suspense

*n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome

*synonym*: tension, anticipation, excitement

(1) **suspense** thriller, (2) **suspense-filled** movie

The mystery novel was full of **suspense**, keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the end.

## 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.

## probable

*adj.* likely to happen or likely to be true

*synonym*: likely, possible, potential

(1) **probable** outcome, (2) **probable** cause of a fire

It seems **probable** that he has forgotten our scheduled meeting.

## misunderstand

*v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

*synonym*: misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

## overhear

*v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge

*synonym*: catch, eavesdrop

(1) happen to **overhear** a conversation, (2) accidentally **overheard** their talk

She was inside at the time and **overheard** the conversation.

## hallway

*n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

*synonym*: foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor

He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

## confusion

*n.* the state of being mixed up or unclear, or the state of disorder or uncertainty

*synonym*: disorder, disarray, chaos

(1) administrative **confusion**, (2) in great **confusion**

The sudden policy change has caused **confusion** among employees.

## plot

*n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal

*synonym*: scheme, plan, design

(1) **plot** twist, (2) **plot** a revolution

The **plot** of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.

## progression

*n.* the act or process of changing to the next stage or phase or moving forward

*synonym*: advancement, development, evolution

(1) **progression** of civilization, (2) **progression** of disease

The company has made great strides in its **progression** toward sustainability.

## rev

*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

*synonym*: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

## identity

*n.* the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another

*synonym*: character, personality, individuality

(1) mistaken **identity**, (2) **identity** as an individual  
The terrorist's **identity** remains unknown.

## hallmark

*n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing

*synonym*: symbol, authentication, indication

(1) the **hallmark** of a good scientist, (2) the **hallmark** of modern life

A clear and simple expression is the **hallmark** of good writing.

## writ

*n.* a written legal order or command

*synonym*: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. happen to ov\_\_\_\_\_ar a conversation      *v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
2. mistaken id\_\_\_\_\_ty      *n.* the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another
3. sh\_\_\_\_w puppetry      *n.* a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner
4. a high-te\_\_\_\_\_n wire      *n.* a state of mental or emotional strain or excitement; the state of being stretched tight
5. cl\_\_\_\_\_y a goal      *v.* to make something, such as a statement or situation, less confusing and more understandable
6. ho\_\_\_\_r-struck look      *n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
7. r\_v up the crowd      *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 1. overhear, 2. identity, 3. shadow, 4. tension, 5. clarify, 6. horror, 7. rev



8. ee\_\_e silence *adj.* strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural
9. ty\_\_\_\_l leader *adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
10. mis\_\_\_\_\_and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
11. mis\_\_\_\_\_and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
12. pr\_\_\_\_le cause of a fire *adj.* likely to happen or likely to be true
13. low-r\_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
14. bitter ir\_\_y *n.* the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect
15. authoritarian vi\_\_\_\_n *n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
16. sc\_\_e off her attacker by screaming *v.* to frighten a person or animal, or to become frightened
17. afraid to show em\_\_\_\_n *n.* a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others
18. ir\_\_y humor *n.* the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect

ANSWERS: 8. eerie, 9. typical, 10. misunderstand, 11. misunderstand, 12. probable, 13. rev, 14. irony, 15. villain, 16. scare, 17. emotion, 18. irony

19. pr\_\_\_\_le outcome *adj.* likely to happen or likely to be true
20. ge\_\_e of music *n.* a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics
21. the ha\_\_\_\_rk of modern life *n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
22. a literary ge\_\_e *n.* a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics
23. te\_\_\_\_n headache *n.* a state of mental or emotional strain or excitement; the state of being stretched tight
24. cl\_\_\_\_y his feelings *v.* to make something, such as a statement or situation, less confusing and more understandable
25. in great co\_\_\_\_on *n.* the state of being mixed up or unclear, or the state of disorder or uncertainty
26. id\_\_\_\_ty as an individual *n.* the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another
27. a w\_\_t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
28. sh\_\_\_\_w cast *n.* a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner

ANSWERS: 19. probable, 20. genre, 21. hallmark, 22. genre, 23. tension, 24. clarify, 25. confusion, 26. identity, 27. writ, 28. shadow

29. ve\_\_\_l abuse *adj.* expressed in spoken rather than written words
30. administrative co\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the state of being mixed up or unclear, or the state of disorder or uncertainty
31. tracking de\_\_\_e *n.* a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
32. courtroom sto\_\_\_\_\_ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
33. pro\_\_\_\_\_on of civilization *n.* the act or process of changing to the next stage or phase or moving forward
34. electronic de\_\_\_e *n.* a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
35. meet with opp\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement
36. tre\_\_\_\_\_us amount *adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
37. co\_\_\_y series *n.* a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment
38. make dr\_\_\_\_\_ic changes *adj.* very sudden, very excellent, or full of action and excitement
39. a friendly con\_\_\_\_\_ion *n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.

ANSWERS: 29. verbal, 30. confusion, 31. device, 32. storytelling, 33. progression, 34. device, 35. opposition, 36. tremendous, 37. comedy, 38. dramatic, 39. conversation

40. sto\_\_\_\_\_ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
41. unsung h\_\_o *n.* a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a character in literature or history who is central to the plot and who exhibits heroic qualities
42. evil vi\_\_\_\_\_n *n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
43. control my em\_\_\_\_\_n *n.* a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others
44. the ee\_\_e whistle of dropping bombs *adj.* strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural
45. the head of a ha\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
46. ho\_\_\_r movie *n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
47. tre\_\_\_\_\_us popularity *adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
48. su\_\_\_\_\_se-filled movie *n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome
49. sc\_\_e the birds away *v.* to frighten a person or animal, or to become frightened
50. local h\_\_o *n.* a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a character in literature or history who is central to the plot and who exhibits heroic qualities

ANSWERS: 40. storytelling, 41. hero, 42. villain, 43. emotion, 44. eerie, 45. hallway, 46. horror, 47. tremendous, 48. suspense, 49. scare, 50. hero

51. con\_\_\_\_\_ion in English *n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.
52. fairly ty\_\_\_\_\_l symptoms *adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things
53. issue a w\_\_t *n.* a written legal order or command
54. a dr\_\_\_\_\_ic rescue at sea *adj.* very sudden, very excellent, or full of action and excitement
55. p\_\_t a revolution *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
56. accidentally ov\_\_\_\_\_ard their talk *v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
57. p\_\_t twist *n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
58. su\_\_\_\_\_se thriller *n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome
59. pro\_\_\_\_\_on of disease *n.* the act or process of changing to the next stage or phase or moving forward
60. wax a ha\_\_\_\_\_y floor *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
61. romantic co\_\_\_\_\_y *n.* a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment

ANSWERS: 51. conversation, 52. typical, 53. writ, 54. dramatic, 55. plot, 56. overhear, 57. plot, 58. suspense, 59. progression, 60. hallway, 61. comedy

62. ve\_\_\_l communication *adj.* expressed in spoken rather than written words
63. opp\_\_\_\_\_on campaign *n.* the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement
64. the ha\_\_\_\_\_rk of a good scientist *n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing

ANSWERS: 62. verbal, 63. opposition, 64. hallmark

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He dashed down a \_\_\_\_\_ to a bathroom.  
*n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ party strongly disagreed with the government's proposed legislation.  
*n.* the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement
3. The street was entirely silent and a bit \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* strange, or frightening; suggestive of the supernatural
4. We hit the ground to \_\_\_\_\_ out the rabbits.  
*v.* to frighten a person or animal, or to become frightened
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the room was palpable as the team waited for their leader to speak.  
*n.* a state of mental or emotional strain or excitement; the state of being stretched tight
6. The stories of war crimes filled her with \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* intense fear or disgust, especially at something shocking or terrifying
7. A clear and simple expression is the \_\_\_\_\_ of good writing.  
*n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
8. The police tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the facts concerning her death.  
*v.* to make something, such as a statement or situation, less confusing and more understandable

ANSWERS: 1. hallway, 2. opposition, 3. eerie, 4. scare, 5. tension, 6. horror, 7. hallmark, 8. clarify

9. The soldier who sacrificed his life for his country is considered a national \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a character in literature or history who is central to the plot and who exhibits heroic qualities
10. I love going to see live \_\_\_\_\_ shows with my friends.  
*n.* a genre of dramatic entertainment that aims to amuse and provoke laughter by depicting amusing or ludicrous situations, characters, or events; the use of humor, wit, and satire in writing, films, and other forms of entertainment
11. I always carry a backup \_\_\_\_\_ in case my phone runs out of battery.  
*n.* a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
12. Your \_\_\_\_\_ reflects your thoughts.  
*n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.
13. He was served with a \_\_\_\_\_ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.  
*n.* a written legal order or command
14. He is known for creating \_\_\_\_\_ paintings.  
*n.* a particular type or style of literature, art, music, or film that involves a particular set of characteristics
15. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 9. hero, 10. comedy, 11. device, 12. conversation, 13. writ, 14. genre-busting, 15. rev



16. The company has made great strides in its \_\_\_\_\_ toward sustainability.  
*n.* the act or process of changing to the next stage or phase or moving forward
17. The sudden policy change has caused \_\_\_\_\_ among employees.  
*n.* the state of being mixed up or unclear, or the state of disorder or uncertainty
18. The mystery novel was full of \_\_\_\_\_ keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the end.  
*n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the novel centers around a group of friends who uncover a conspiracy to control the world's water supply.  
*n.* a secret plan or scheme to achieve a specific goal; the plan or main story of a literary work; (verb) to plan secretly, usually something illegal
20. It seems \_\_\_\_\_ that he has forgotten our scheduled meeting.  
*adj.* likely to happen or likely to be true
21. You should not \_\_\_\_\_ the meaning of freedom.  
*v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
22. Some \_\_\_\_\_ are common across cultures and backgrounds.  
*n.* a strong feeling such as love, anger, etc. deriving from one's situation, mood, or relationships with others
23. The candidate must have excellent \_\_\_\_\_ skills.  
*adj.* expressed in spoken rather than written words

ANSWERS: 16. progression, 17. confusion, 18. suspense, 19. plot, 20. probable, 21. misunderstand, 22. emotions, 23. verbal

24. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation is that he won the lottery on the day he lost his job.
- n.* the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect
25. We had a \_\_\_\_\_ time yesterday.
- adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
26. The tree cast a \_\_\_\_\_ over the picnic area, providing relief from the sun.
- n.* a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner
27. She was inside at the time and \_\_\_\_\_ the conversation.
- v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
28. The terrorist's \_\_\_\_\_ remains unknown.
- n.* the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another
29. The statement had a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on house prices.
- adj.* very sudden, very excellent, or full of action and excitement
30. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.
- n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
31. This artwork is \_\_\_\_\_ of her work.
- adj.* having the usual characteristics or traits of a specific group of things

ANSWERS: 24. irony, 25. tremendous, 26. shadow, 27. overheard, 28. identity, 29. dramatic, 30. villain, 31. typical

32. She was skilled in \_\_\_\_\_ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

*n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

ANSWERS: 32. storytelling