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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Ramona Pierson: An unexpected place of healing |*

*TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ramona\\_pierson\\_an\\_unexpected\\_place\\_of\\_healing](https://www.ted.com/talks/ramona_pierson_an_unexpected_place_of_healing)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### leash

*n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

*synonym*: tether, lead, restraint

(1) dog **leash**, (2) walk on a **leash**

Make sure to put the **leash** on your dog before walking.

### grenade

*n.* a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time

*synonym*: bomb, explosive, shrapnel

(1) **grenade** explosion, (2) smoke **grenade**

The soldier threw a **grenade** to destroy the enemy's bunker.

### aorta

*n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart

(1) abdominal **aorta**, (2) repair of an **aorta**

The patient will undergo bypass surgery of the **aorta** today.

### sever

*v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

*synonym*: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship  
He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

## gurgle

*v.* to make the sound of liquid flowing or bubbles popping; to speak in a gurgling or incoherent manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound produced by liquid flowing or moving in a manner that creates a repetitive, water-like sound

*synonym*: bubble, babble, ripple

(1) the **gurgle** of air bubble, (2) **gurgle** softly  
I could hear my stomach **gurgle** loudly after skipping breakfast.

## quiver

*v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion

*synonym*: shake, tremble, shiver

(1) **quiver** in the breeze, (2) **quiver** with excitement  
The archer's hands **quivered** as he aimed the arrow at the target.

## airway

*n.* the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another

*synonym*: air passage, air duct, skyway

(1) **airway** blockage, (2) **airway** beacon  
When performing lifesaving, the first step is to secure the **airway**.

## catastrophic

*adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

*synonym*: fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate change

The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

## coma

*n.* a state of prolonged unconsciousness, typically caused by severe injury or illness, during which a person is unresponsive and lacks awareness of their surroundings

*synonym* : unconsciousness, stupor, sleep

(1) medical **coma**, (2) medically-induced **coma**

Unfortunately, the accident left him in a deep **coma**.

## titanic

*adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

*synonym* : colossal, massive, immense

(1) **titanic** battle, (2) **titanic** compound

The **titanic** ship sank on its maiden voyage.

## cadaver

*n.* a dead body, especially one used for scientific study or medical research

*synonym* : corpse, body, remains

(1) **cadaver** lab, (2) **cadaver** donor

The hospital received a donation of **cadavers** for their research program.

## dart

*n.* a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly

*synonym* : arrow, (verb) dash

(1) blow **dart**, (2) **dart** here and there

A poison **dart** hit him.

## scrub

*v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

*synonym* : clean, wash, sanitize

(1) **scrub** off graffiti, (2) **scrub** dirt from potatoes

She decided to **scrub** the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.

## makeover

*n.* the process or act of a complete transformation, especially relevant to the appearance of someone or something

*synonym* : renovation, refashioning, remodeling

(1) corporate **makeover**, (2) massive **makeover**

The company's drastic **makeover** is well known outside the industry.

## hairstyle

*n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head

*synonym*: hairdo, coiffure, haircut

(1) modern **hairstyle**, (2) bob **hairstyle**

My sister got a new **hairstyle** for her job interview.

## sally

*n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark

*synonym*: sortie, charge, wisecrack

(1) **sally** of wit, (2) **sally** port

The protesters made a sudden **sally** into the town square, surprising everyone.

## 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.

## cuss

*v.* to say offensive words in anger or annoyance

*synonym*: swear, curse, blaspheme

(1) **cuss** out an opponent, (2) **cuss** at the lousy service

He speaks excessively and occasionally **cusses**.

## scrabble

*v.* to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game

*synonym*: scramble, jumble, mix

(1) **scrabble** through her purse, (2) **scrabble** words

The kids eagerly **scrabbled** to find the hidden Easter eggs in the garden.

## Alzheimer

*n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

*synonym* : dementia, memory loss, cognitive decline

(1) **Alzheimer's** brain, (2) **Alzheimer's** risk factors

My grandmother has **Alzheimer's** disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.

## pivotal

*adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something

*synonym* : crucial, essential, important

(1) **pivotal** moment, (2) **pivotal** role

The CEO's decision was **pivotal** in the success of the company's expansion plans.

## whiz

*v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something

*synonym* : zoom, zip, hurry

(1) **whiz** kid, (2) **whiz** through the book

The racing car **whizzed** past the grandstands, leaving a trail of dust behind it.

## Braille

*n.* a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols

(1) **Braille** alphabet, (2) **Braille** system

The museum provided **Braille** labels for visually impaired visitors.

## robotic

*adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

*synonym* : automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

## hematoma

*n.* a localized swelling or mass of blood that forms outside of blood vessels, usually as a result of an injury or a ruptured blood vessel

*synonym*: bruise, contusion, swelling

(1) renal **hematoma**, (2) abdominal **hematoma**

After the accident, the X-ray revealed a significant **hematoma** formation in his leg.

## tactile

*adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch

*synonym*: touchable, tangible, palpable

(1) **tactile** stimulation, (2) **tactile** feedback

The **tactile** sensation of the fabric was soft and smooth to the touch.

## crowdsourcing

*n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

(1) **crowdsourcing** apps, (2) **crowdsourcing** in climate policy

The company used this **crowdsourcing** platform to gather ideas for its next product.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. c\_\_s at the lousy service  
*v.* to say offensive words in anger or annoyance
2. abdominal ao\_\_a  
*n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart
3. sc\_\_\_\_\_le words  
*v.* to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game
4. walk on a le\_\_h  
*n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions
5. gu\_\_\_e softly  
*v.* to make the sound of liquid flowing or bubbles popping; to speak in a gurgling or incoherent manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound produced by liquid flowing or moving in a manner that creates a repetitive, water-like sound
6. ai\_\_\_y blockage  
*n.* the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another

ANSWERS: 1. cuss, 2. aorta, 3. scrabble, 4. leash, 5. gurgle, 6. airway

7. Br\_\_\_\_e alphabet *n.* a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols
8. qu\_\_\_\_r with excitement *v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
9. renal he\_\_\_\_ma *n.* a localized swelling or mass of blood that forms outside of blood vessels, usually as a result of an injury or a ruptured blood vessel
10. bob ha\_\_\_\_le *n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
11. repair of an ao\_\_a *n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart
12. se\_\_r a positive relationship *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
13. ca\_\_\_\_r lab *n.* a dead body, especially one used for scientific study or medical research
14. pi\_\_\_\_l moment *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
15. c\_\_s out an opponent *v.* to say offensive words in anger or annoyance
16. massive ma\_\_\_\_er *n.* the process or act of a complete transformation, especially relevant to the appearance of someone or something

ANSWERS: 7. Braille, 8. quiver, 9. hematoma, 10. hairstyle, 11. aorta, 12. sever, 13. cadaver, 14. pivotal, 15. cuss, 16. makeover



17. Al\_\_\_\_\_er's risk factors *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
18. w\_\_z through the book *v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something
19. d\_\_t here and there *n.* a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly
20. victim of cat\_\_\_\_\_hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
21. sa\_\_y of wit *n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark
22. dog le\_\_h *n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions
23. ro\_\_\_\_c guide operation *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
24. sc\_\_b dirt from potatoes *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
25. cro\_\_\_\_\_ing apps *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

ANSWERS: 17. Alzheimer, 18. whiz, 19. dart, 20. catastrophic, 21. sally, 22. leash, 23. robotic, 24. scrub, 25. crowdsourcing

26. corporate ma\_\_\_\_\_er *n.* the process or act of a complete transformation, especially relevant to the appearance of someone or something
27. the gu\_\_\_e of air bubble *v.* to make the sound of liquid flowing or bubbles popping; to speak in a gurgling or incoherent manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound produced by liquid flowing or moving in a manner that creates a repetitive, water-like sound
28. ai\_\_\_y beacon *n.* the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another
29. gr\_\_\_\_\_e explosion *n.* a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time
30. qu\_\_\_r in the breeze *v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
31. Al\_\_\_\_\_er's brain *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
32. abdominal he\_\_\_\_\_ma *n.* a localized swelling or mass of blood that forms outside of blood vessels, usually as a result of an injury or a ruptured blood vessel

ANSWERS: 26. makeover, 27. gurgle, 28. airway, 29. grenade, 30. quiver, 31. Alzheimer, 32. hematoma

33. sa\_\_y port *n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark
34. pi\_\_\_\_\_l role *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
35. Br\_\_\_\_\_e system *n.* a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols
36. medical c\_\_a *n.* a state of prolonged unconsciousness, typically caused by severe injury or illness, during which a person is unresponsive and lacks awareness of their surroundings
37. medically-induced c\_\_a *n.* a state of prolonged unconsciousness, typically caused by severe injury or illness, during which a person is unresponsive and lacks awareness of their surroundings
38. blow d\_\_t *n.* a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly
39. cat\_\_\_\_\_hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
40. ti\_\_\_\_\_c battle *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

ANSWERS: 33. sally, 34. pivotal, 35. Braille, 36. coma, 37. coma, 38. dart, 39. catastrophic, 40. titanic

41. se\_\_r a rope *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
42. modern ha\_\_\_\_\_le *n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
43. cro\_\_\_\_\_ing in climate policy *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
44. smoke gr\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time
45. sc\_\_\_\_\_le through her purse *v.* to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game
46. w\_\_z kid *v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something
47. em\_\_\_\_\_ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
48. em\_\_\_\_\_ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
49. ti\_\_\_\_\_c compound *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

ANSWERS: 41. sever, 42. hairstyle, 43. crowdsourcing, 44. grenade, 45. scrabble, 46. whiz, 47. embarrass, 48. embarrass, 49. titanic

50. sc\_\_b off graffiti                      *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
51. ta\_\_\_\_e feedback                      *adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch
52. ro\_\_\_\_c arm                              *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
53. ca\_\_\_\_r donor                            *n.* a dead body, especially one used for scientific study or medical research
54. ta\_\_\_\_e stimulation                      *adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch

ANSWERS: 50. scrub, 51. tactile, 52. robotic, 53. cadaver, 54. tactile

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The soldier threw a \_\_\_\_\_ to destroy the enemy's bunker.  
*n.* a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time
  
2. He speaks excessively and occasionally \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to say offensive words in anger or annoyance
  
3. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
  
4. The protesters made a sudden \_\_\_\_\_ into the town square, surprising everyone.  
*n.* a sudden, impulsive outing or excursion; a witty or clever remark
  
5. The hospital received a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ for their research program.  
*n.* a dead body, especially one used for scientific study or medical research
  
6. The patient will undergo bypass surgery of the \_\_\_\_\_ today.  
*n.* the main and largest artery (= thick tube that carries blood from the heart to the body) in the human body originating from the heart
  
7. I could hear my stomach \_\_\_\_\_ loudly after skipping breakfast.  
*v.* to make the sound of liquid flowing or bubbles popping; to speak in a gurgling or incoherent manner; (noun) a bubbling or gurgling sound produced by liquid flowing or moving in a manner that creates a repetitive, water-like sound
  
8. My grandmother has \_\_\_\_\_ disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.  
*n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

ANSWERS: 1. grenade, 2. cusses, 3. catastrophic, 4. sally, 5. cadavers, 6. aorta, 7. gurgle, 8. Alzheimer's

9. The \_\_\_\_\_ sensation of the fabric was soft and smooth to the touch.  
*adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch
10. When performing lifesaving, the first step is to secure the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ ship sank on its maiden voyage.  
*adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
12. He looked for an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ that actor in public.  
*v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
13. The company's drastic \_\_\_\_\_ is well known outside the industry.  
*n.* the process or act of a complete transformation, especially relevant to the appearance of someone or something
14. The kids eagerly \_\_\_\_\_ to find the hidden Easter eggs in the garden.  
*v.* to scratch or scrape at something with one's hands or claws frantically or desperately; to arrange or rearrange letter tiles to form words in a game of Scrabble (= a popular word game using a 15x15 square board and letter tiles) or a similar word game
15. The archer's hands \_\_\_\_\_ as he aimed the arrow at the target.  
*v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
16. The surgeon removed the tumor using \_\_\_\_\_ video assistance.  
*adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

ANSWERS: 9. tactile, 10. airway, 11. titanic, 12. embarrass, 13. makeover, 14. scrabbled, 15. quivered, 16. robotic

17. My sister got a new \_\_\_\_\_ for her job interview.
- n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
18. The racing car \_\_\_\_\_ past the grandstands, leaving a trail of dust behind it.
- v.* to move or run quickly and smoothly with a hissing or buzzing sound; to excel or perform skillfully in a particular area; to urinate; (noun) a person who is very clever or skilled at something
19. After the accident, the X-ray revealed a significant \_\_\_\_\_ formation in his leg.
- n.* a localized swelling or mass of blood that forms outside of blood vessels, usually as a result of an injury or a ruptured blood vessel
20. Unfortunately, the accident left him in a deep \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a state of prolonged unconsciousness, typically caused by severe injury or illness, during which a person is unresponsive and lacks awareness of their surroundings
21. The company used this \_\_\_\_\_ platform to gather ideas for its next product.
- n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
22. The CEO's decision was \_\_\_\_\_ in the success of the company's expansion plans.
- adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
23. The museum provided \_\_\_\_\_ labels for visually impaired visitors.
- n.* a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols

ANSWERS: 17. hairstyle, 18. whizzed, 19. hematoma, 20. coma, 21. crowdsourcing, 22. pivotal, 23. Braille



24. A poison \_\_\_\_\_ hit him.

- n.* a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly

25. She decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.

- v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

26. He \_\_\_\_\_ a branch from a tree quickly.

- v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

27. Make sure to put the \_\_\_\_\_ on your dog before walking.

- n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

ANSWERS: 24. dart, 25. scrub, 26. severed, 27. leash