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# Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christopher Warner: Situational irony: The opposite of

what you think | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher\_warner\_situati

onal\_irony\_the\_opposite\_of\_what\_you\_think



# **All Words**

#### **IMPORTANT**

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# **Session 1: Word List**

#### sitcom

 a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format

synonym: comedy, TV show

(1) sitcom series, (2) popular sitcom

I love to watch sitcoms when I need a good laugh.

#### sassy

adj. rude and showing a lack of respect; energetic, bold, and full of spirit

*synonym*: impudent, audacious, rude

(1) a **sassy** child, (2) talk **sassy** to the teacher My son has been getting **sassy** recently.

#### sidekick

 a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion

synonym: companion, helper, ally

(1) a detective's **sidekick**, (2) his best friend's **sidekick** The superhero's **sidekick** was always there to help him.

#### tier

 one of a series of rows or levels arranged one above the other, typically used to describe the arrangement of objects or levels of importance

synonym:

level, layer, class

(1) a two-tier system, (2) tier one company

The company operates on a three- **tier** pricing structure.

### laughter

n. the act or sound of laughing

synonym: laugh, chuckle, giggle

(1) laughter all around, (2) bring laughter

Some doctor says **laughter** is the best medicine.

#### ridiculous

adj. very silly or unreasonable and deserving to be laughed at

synonym: absurd, fatuous, foolish

(1) a **ridiculous** amount of money, (2) a **ridiculous** suggestion

Everyone regarded the theory he advocated as **ridiculous** but was later proven correct.

#### ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym: sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) ironic result, (2) an ironic turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

# grievous

adj. causing great suffering, pain, or sorrow; serious, grave, or dire

synonym: atrocious, severe, painful

(1) **grievous** condition, (2) **grievous** mistake

The **grievous** injury he sustained in the car accident left him unable to walk.

# misinterpretation

 a mistake or error in understanding or explaining something; the act of interpreting incorrectly; an incorrect interpretation

synonym: misunderstanding, mistake, misreading

(1) **misinterpretation** of data, (2) **misinterpretation** of signals

The news article's **misinterpretation** of the study's findings confused readers

### irony

 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.

#### caution

 great care and attention that you take to avoid danger or mistakes; a warning against certain acts

synonym: carefulness, warming, notice

(1) extreme caution, (2) act with caution

He gave a stern **caution** to the naughty student.

#### latter

adj. situated nearer to the end of something than the beginning; recent

*synonym*: following, recent, latest

(1) the **latter** part of the 20th century, (2) the **latter** half of life

We plan to schedule the feature update for the **latter** ten days of September.

# unfortunately

adv. by bad luck; unluckily

synonym: regrettably, unluckily, alas

(1) **unfortunately** caught in a shower, (2) even more **unfortunately** 

The treatments were done but, **unfortunately**, were unsuccessful.

#### misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way synonym: misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

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

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

#### coincident

adj. happening or operating in the same place or at the same time

synonym: concurrent, accompanying, coextensive

(1) **coincident** indicators, (2) a series of **coincident** events **Coincident** with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.

# opposition

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.

# slapstick

 a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps

*synonym*: farce, comedy, humor

(1) **slapstick** comedy, (2) **slapstick** performance

The classic comedy routine was filled with **slapstick** humor.

## precarious

adj. not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditionssynonym: precariousness, instability, uncertainty

(1) **precarious** job, (2) **precarious** financial situation She had a **precarious** hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.

#### balance

 a condition in which everything has the same weight or force; something left after other parts have been taken away

synonym: equilibrium, counterpoise, remainder

(1) the **balance** of power, (2) asset on the company's

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#### **balance** sheet

Try to keep a **balance** between work and off.

#### mess

- n. a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy
   synonym: disarray, confusion, predicament
- (1) have a whole **mess**, (2) get into a **mess** He made a frightful **mess** in his room.

### 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.

# single-handed

- *adj.* done or accomplished by one person alone *synonym*: alone, unassisted, solo
- (1) **single-handed** responsibility, (2) **single-handed** victory He started a **single-handed** project to earn additional money.

# align

 to put or arrange two or more things in a straight line or to form a straight line

synonym: coordinate, regulate, adjust

(1) **align** the economic interest of each other, (2) **align** with a historical trend

Both parties are now entirely ideologically aligned.

#### medal

 a flat, usually circular piece of metal or other material that is often given as an award or commemoration for an achievement, victory, or honor

synonym: award, decoration, badge

(1) gold medal, (2) a prize medal

She was proud to receive a **medal** for her hard work and dedication to the sport.

### olympiad

- n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
- (1) the modern **olympiad**, (2) summer **olympiad**She won a gold medal in the physics **olympiad** and was praised by her teachers and peers.

# professional

adj. having or showing the skill appropriate to a particular job; competent or skillful

synonym: skilled, competent, accomplished

(1) **professional** athlete, (2) certified **professional** secretary

He has a **professional** demeanor and always presents himself in a polished manner.

# tripping

adj. describing a state of mind or perception characterized by altered or distorted sensory experiences, often as a result of taking drugs or psychedelics; stumbling or faltering while walking or moving, often due to a loss of balance or coordination

synonym: trippy, hallucinogenic, mind-altering

(1) **tripping** hazards, (2) **tripping** on acid

Her **tripping** laughter echoed through the room, spreading contagious joy to everyone present.

# exemplify

- v. to serve as a typical example of something synonym: illustrate, show, demonstrate
- (1) **exemplify** the importance, (2) **exemplify** the solution The example of a successful startup serves to **exemplify** the potential of the industry.

#### brick

 a rectangular block of baked clay used as a building material

synonym: block, tile, paver

(1) brick wall, (2) dressed brick

The wall was made of hard bricks that had been used for

#### centuries.

# technological

adj. based on scientific and industrial progress

synonym: specialized, technical

(1) **technological** advancement, (2) **technological** policy **Technological** advances have disrupted many industries.

# savvy

n. the condition of being aware of and able to deal with a situation effectively; (adjective) having knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or activity

synonym: know-how, expertise, skill

(1) a **savvy** investor, (2) tech- **savvy** 

His business **savvy** was evident in the success of his company.

# newfangled

adj. recently invented or introduced and often not well-tested or proven

synonym: innovative, modern, novel

(1) **newfangled** technology, (2) **newfangled** idea
The **newfangled** gadget was a hit at the trade show.

# granny

 a grandmother; an older adult, especially one who is seen as conservative or cautious, often used as a term of affection or familiarity

synonym: older woman, grandmother, grandma

(1) granny leave, (2) granny annex

Seeing **granny's** smiling face whenever I visit her is always a treat.

#### denture

- a removable set of artificial teeth made from materials such as acrylic resin or porcelain used to replace missing teeth and restore oral function and appearance
- (1) partial **denture**, (2) **denture** cleaning solution My grandfather wears a full set of **dentures**.

### grandkid

n. the grandchildren of a particular person

synonym: grandchildren, grandnieces, grandnephews

(1) spend the weekend with their **grandkids**, (2) cute **grandkids** 

She was so proud of her **grandkids**, who were all doing well in school and had great personalities.

ensue

 to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something

synonym: follow, occur, result

(1) **ensue** within a few years, (2) predict what will **ensue** A power outage **ensued** after the storm knocked out the electricity.

situ

adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

synonym: situational, contextual, circumstantial

(1) ex- **situ** conservation, (2) in- **situ** control Melanoma in **situ** is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.

# **Session 2: Spelling**

1. sl\_\_\_\_ck comedy

2. summer ol ad

al\_\_n with a historical trend

4. in-s\_\_u control

5. a series of coi\_\_\_\_nt events

6. mis\_\_\_\_\_ion of data

7. new\_\_\_\_ed technology

8. tec\_\_\_\_cal policy

9. get into a m\_\_s

 a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps

n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years

v. to put or arrange two or more things in a straight line or to form a straight line

adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

adj. happening or operating in the same place or at the same time

 a mistake or error in understanding or explaining something; the act of interpreting incorrectly; an incorrect interpretation

adj. recently invented or introduced and often not well-tested or proven

adj. based on scientific and industrial progress

 a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy

ANSWERS: 1. slapstick, 2. olympiad, 3. align, 4. situ, 5. coincident, 6. misinterpretation, 7. newfangled, 8. technological, 9. mess

10.	asset on the company's bae sheet	n.	a condition in which everything has the same weight or force; something left after other parts have been taken away
11.	misand each other	<i>v</i> .	to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
12.	slck performance	n.	a type of comedy in which humor is generated through exaggerated physical activity especially falls and other mishaps
13.	a say investor	n.	the condition of being aware of and able to deal with a situation effectively; (adjective) having knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or activity
14.	have a whole ms	n.	a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy
15.	aln the economic interest of each other	<i>v</i> .	to put or arrange two or more things in a straight line or to form a straight line
16.	the lar half of life	adj.	situated nearer to the end of something than the beginning; recent
17.	exfy the solution	<i>v</i> .	to serve as a typical example of something
18.	preus financial situation	adj.	not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
19.	sim series	n.	a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format

ANSWERS: 10. balance, 11. misunderstand, 12. slapstick, 13. savvy, 14. mess, 15. align, 16. latter, 17. exemplify, 18. precarious, 19. sitcom

ANSWERS: 20. professional, 21. tier, 22. tripping, 23. laughter, 24. tripping, 25. exemplify, 26. opposition, 27. probable, 28. medal

achievement, victory, or honor

29.	the lar part of the 20th century	adj.	situated nearer to the end of something than the beginning; recent
30.	a say child	adj.	rude and showing a lack of respect; energetic, bold, and full of spirit
31.	irc result	adj.	using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
32.	popular sim	n.	a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
33.	laer all around	n.	the act or sound of laughing
34.	certified pronal secretary	adj.	having or showing the skill appropriate to a particular job; competent or skillful
35.	prle outcome	adj.	likely to happen or likely to be true
36.	a ridus amount of money	adj.	very silly or unreasonable and deserving to be laughed at
37.	teccal advancement	adj.	based on scientific and industrial progress
38.	a detective's sick	n.	a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion
39.	spend the weekend with their grids	n.	the grandchildren of a particular person
40.	partial dee	n.	a removable set of artificial teeth made from materials such as acrylic resin or porcelain used to replace missing teeth and restore oral function and appearance

ANSWERS: 29. latter, 30. sassy, 31. ironic, 32. sitcom, 33. laughter, 34. professional, 35. probable, 36. ridiculous, 37. technological, 38. sidekick, 39. grandkid, 40. denture

41. sin\_\_\_\_\_ded responsibility adj. done or accomplished by one person alone adj. rude and showing a lack of respect; 42. talk sa\_\_y to the teacher energetic, bold, and full of spirit 43. gr\_\_\_us mistake adj. causing great suffering, pain, or sorrow; serious, grave, or dire 44. gr\_\_y leave a grandmother; an older adult, n. especially one who is seen as conservative or cautious, often used as a term of affection or familiarity 45. an ir\_\_\_c turn of events adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect adj. causing great suffering, pain, or sorrow; 46. gr us condition serious, grave, or dire 47. ir y humor the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect 48. ex-s\_\_u conservation adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance 49. gr\_\_\_y annex a grandmother; an older adult, especially one who is seen as conservative or cautious, often used as a term of affection or familiarity 50. dressed br k a rectangular block of baked clay used n. as a building material

ANSWERS: 41. single-handed, 42. sassy, 43. grievous, 44. granny, 45. ironic, 46. grievous, 47. irony, 48. situ, 49. granny, 50. brick

activity

against certain acts

against certain acts

great care and attention that you take to

great care and attention that you take to

avoid danger or mistakes; a warning

avoid danger or mistakes; a warning

ANSWERS: 51. brick, 52. tier, 53. olympiad, 54. denture, 55. coincident, 56. newfangled, 57. savvy, 58. caution, 59. caution

58. extreme ca\_\_\_n

59. act with ca\_\_\_\_n

n.

ANSWERS: 60. single-handed, 61. ensue, 62. unfortunately, 63. misunderstand, 64. irony, 65. opposition, 66. balance, 67. sidekick, 68. misinterpretation, 69. medal

other material that is often given as an

award or commemoration for an achievement, victory, or honor

70. cute grids	n. the grandchildren of a particular person
71. preus job	<ul> <li>adj. not securely held or in position;</li> <li>dangerously unstable or uncertain;</li> <li>dependent on chance or uncertain</li> <li>conditions</li> </ul>
72. a ridus suggestion	<ul><li>adj. very silly or unreasonable and deserving to be laughed at</li></ul>
73. predict what will ene	v. to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something
74. even more unfely	adv. by bad luck; unluckily

ANSWERS: 70. grandkid, 71. precarious, 72. ridiculous, 73. ensue, 74. unfortunately

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

1.	She had a hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.
adj	not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
2.	He has a demeanor and always presents himself in a polished manner.
adj	having or showing the skill appropriate to a particular job; competent or skillful
3.	He made a frightful in his room.
n.	a state of confusion, dirtiness, or untidiness; (verb) to fail to do something or to make something dirty or untidy
4.	His business was evident in the success of his company.
n.	the condition of being aware of and able to deal with a situation effectively; (adjective) having knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or activity
5.	Everyone regarded the theory he advocated as but was later proven correct.
adj	i. very silly or unreasonable and deserving to be laughed at
6.	with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.
adj	i. happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
7.	I love to watch when I need a good laugh.
n.	a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
	SWERS: 1. precarious, 2. professional, 3. mess, 4. savvy, 5. ridiculous, 6. incident, 7. sitcoms

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Christopher Warner: Situational irony: The opposite of what you think | TED Talk" (37 words)

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