

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Peter van Uhm: Why I chose a gun | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_van_uhm_why_i_chose_a_gun

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym : group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer

The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

groundbreaking

adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

synonym : innovative, revolutionary

(1) **groundbreaking** concept, (2) **groundbreaking** settlement

He has produced **groundbreaking** research on the subject.

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.

uneasy

adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort

synonym : anxious, troubled, nervous

(1) have **uneasy** eyes, (2) **uneasy** relationship

He was **uneasy** about the situation and didn't know what to do.

cherish

v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

synonym: treasure, value, hold dear

(1) **cherish** a stuffed animal, (2) **cherish** relationships

She **cherished** the memories of her childhood.

oppress

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

synonym: antagonize, distress, burden

(1) **oppress** the minority, (2) **oppress** the people with force

Historically, many countries have often **oppressed** certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

intimidate

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

synonym: frighten, threaten, terrify

(1) **intimidate** an opponent, (2) effectively **intimidate** a thief

The boss tried to **intimidate** his subordinate with threats.

warlord

n. a military leader who has gained control over a region or territory, typically through force or intimidation; a commander of an army or group of soldiers who operates outside the control of a legitimate government

synonym: chieftain, commander, leader

(1) tribal **warlord**, (2) regional **warlord**

The **warlord's** army was well-equipped and well-trained, making them a formidable force to reckon with.

hardworking

adj. tending to work with a lot of effort and care

synonym: diligent, dedicated, conscientious

(1) **hardworking** student, (2) retire from **hardworking** life

They sought candidates with **hardworking** and good-natured.

bakery

n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold

synonym : bakeshop, bakehouse

(1) run a **bakery**, (2) **bakery** industry

He worked at the **bakery** as a baker.

conscript

v. to enlist or draft someone into military service or to compel someone to serve in a certain capacity; to recruit or oblige someone to do something against their will or preference

synonym : draft, enlist, conscribe

(1) **conscript** all non-disabled citizens, (2) **conscript** young men into military service

The army **conscripted** more than 50,000 soldiers during the conflict.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym : intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

repress

v. to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories

synonym : suppress, control, curb

(1) cannot **repress** laughter, (2) **repress** gene expression

He **repressed** the memories of his traumatic childhood.

diplomacy

n. the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way

synonym : tact, negotiation, delicacy

(1) the language of **diplomacy**, (2) the art of **diplomacy**

Effective **diplomacy** is necessary to resolve conflicts and maintain relationships between countries.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

brute

n. a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power

synonym : beast, savage, animal

(1) **brute** beasts, (2) **brute** force

The **brute** behavior of the football players caused the game to be canceled.

marksman

n. a skilled and accurate shooter, especially one who excels in shooting targets or hunting

synonym : sharpshooter, sniper, shooter

(1) **marksman** sniper, (2) skilled **marksman**

The sniper proved an exceptional **marksman**, taking down his targets from a distance.

fir

n. a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches

synonym : pine, spruce, cedar

(1) **fir** branch, (2) **fir** forest

The smell of fresh **fir** trees filled the air at the Christmas tree farm.

riverbank

n. the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes

synonym : riverside, embankment

(1) **riverbank** erosion, (2) walk along the **riverbank**

We enjoyed a picnic on the **riverbank** and watched the boats go by.

liberate

v. to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression

synonym : emancipate, release, set free

(1) **liberate** people from oppression, (2) **liberate** potential
The prisoners were **liberated** after the war ended.

macho

adj. characterized by a strong sense of masculinity or male dominance, often in a way that is perceived as arrogant or aggressive

synonym : masculine, aggressive, virile

(1) **macho** culture, (2) maintain a **macho** image

His **macho** posturing was just a cover for his insecurities and lack of confidence.

brag

v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

synonym : boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge

Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from **bragging** about his success.

contradictory

adj. containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements

synonym : conflicting, opposing, inconsistent

(1) apparently **contradictory**, (2) **contradictory** evidence

His statements were **contradictory**, leaving the audience confused.

commonplace

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

synonym : ordinary, routine, mundane

(1) become a **commonplace** sight, (2) **commonplace** event

Forgetting someone's name is a **commonplace** occurrence.

reassurance

n. the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence

synonym : encouragement, comfort, support

(1) give **reassurance**, (2) **reassurance** of my commitment

He needed **reassurance** that everything would be alright.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym : in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over the schedule.

outweigh

v. to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something

synonym : dominate, outrank, overpower

(1) **outweigh** the benefit, (2) **outweigh** our wishes

The advantages would undoubtedly **outweigh** the disadvantages.

abstain

v. to choose not to do something, especially something that one wants to do

synonym : refrain, desist, forbear

(1) **abstain** on a vote, (2) **abstain** from food

She chose to **abstain** from alcohol at the party.

nonviolence

n. the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change

synonym : pacifism, nonresistance, peacekeeping

(1) **nonviolence** movement, (2) **nonviolence** protest

Martin Luther King Jr. was a champion of **nonviolence** in the fight for civil rights.

flywheel

n. a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine

(1) **flywheel** energy, (2) the **flywheel** on the car's engine

The exercise bike has a large **flywheel** that provides resistance and simulates outdoor cycling.

flourish

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
synonym: boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide
The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

interdependent

adj. depending on each other; mutually reliant or interconnected

synonym: interconnected, interrelated, mutual

(1) **interdependent** systems, (2) develop **interdependent** skills

In nature, all living things are **interdependent** and rely on each other for survival.

peacekeeping

n. the act of maintaining peace, especially in conflict-prone regions or between hostile groups, usually through the deployment of a neutral military force or diplomatic initiatives

synonym: peacebuilding, peacemaking, reconciliation

(1) **peacekeeping** efforts, (2) **peacekeeping** force

The **peacekeeping** mission in the war-torn country was challenging but necessary.

uphold

v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

synonym: defend, maintain, sustain

(1) **uphold** the law, (2) **uphold** tradition

The judge may **uphold** the decision of the lower court.

diplomat

n. a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations

synonym: envoy, ambassador, representative

(1) allied **diplomat**, (2) expel a **diplomat**

The senior **diplomat** worked tirelessly to negotiate a peace treaty between the two countries.

disband

v. to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
synonym: dissolve, break up, disperse

(1) **disband** the assembly, (2) **disband** an organization

The band decided to **disband** the group after several members left.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. retire from har_____ng life | <i>adj.</i> tending to work with a lot of effort and care |
| 2. non_____ce protest | <i>n.</i> the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change |
| 3. allied di_____at | <i>n.</i> a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations |
| 4. de_____te a chapter to the subject | <i>v.</i> to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use |
| 5. skilled ma_____an | <i>n.</i> a skilled and accurate shooter, especially one who excels in shooting targets or hunting |
| 6. b__g to each other | <i>v.</i> to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior |
| 7. non_____ce movement | <i>n.</i> the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change |

ANSWERS: 1. hardworking, 2. nonviolence, 3. diplomat, 4. dedicate, 5. marksman, 6. brag, 7. nonviolence

8. pea_____ing force *n.* the act of maintaining peace, especially in conflict-prone regions or between hostile groups, usually through the deployment of a neutral military force or diplomatic initiatives
9. give rea_____ce *n.* the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence
10. tribal wa_____d *n.* a military leader who has gained control over a region or territory, typically through force or intimidation; a commander of an army or group of soldiers who operates outside the control of a legitimate government
11. li_____te potential *v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
12. int_____ent systems *adj.* depending on each other; mutually reliant or interconnected
13. in_____e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
14. the art of di_____cy *n.* the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way
15. effectively int_____te a thief *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
16. ou_____gh our wishes *v.* to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something

ANSWERS: 8. peacekeeping, 9. reassurance, 10. warlord, 11. liberate, 12. interdependent, 13. invade, 14. diplomacy, 15. intimidate, 16. outweigh

17. become a com_____ce sight *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
18. f_r branch *n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
19. con_____ory evidence *adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
20. ou_____gh the benefit *v.* to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something
21. op_____s the people with force *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
22. fl_____sh economically *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
23. run a ba_____y *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
24. fl_____sh worldwide *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
25. li_____te people from oppression *v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
26. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
27. pea_____ing efforts *n.* the act of maintaining peace, especially in conflict-prone regions or between hostile groups, usually through the deployment of a neutral military force or diplomatic initiatives

ANSWERS: 17. commonplace, 18. fir, 19. contradictory, 20. outweigh, 21. oppress, 22. flourish, 23. bakery, 24. flourish, 25. liberate, 26. germ, 27. peacekeeping

28. ch____h relationships *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
29. expel a di____at *n.* a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations
30. regional wa____d *n.* a military leader who has gained control over a region or territory, typically through force or intimidation; a commander of an army or group of soldiers who operates outside the control of a legitimate government
31. se____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
32. a tr__p of deer *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
33. com____ce event *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
34. har____ng student *adj.* tending to work with a lot of effort and care
35. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
36. apparently con____ory *adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
37. ri____nk erosion *n.* the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 28. cherish, 29. diplomat, 30. warlord, 31. secondly, 32. troop, 33. commonplace, 34. hardworking, 35. humming, 36. contradictory, 37. riverbank

48. ma__o culture *adj.* characterized by a strong sense of masculinity or male dominance, often in a way that is perceived as arrogant or aggressive
49. cannot re____s laughter *v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
50. un___y relationship *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
51. ab____n from food *v.* to choose not to do something, especially something that one wants to do
52. f_r forest *n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
53. the fl____el on the car's engine *n.* a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine
54. se____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
55. maintain a ma__o image *adj.* characterized by a strong sense of masculinity or male dominance, often in a way that is perceived as arrogant or aggressive
56. in___e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
57. gro_____ing concept *adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

ANSWERS: 48. macho, 49. repress, 50. uneasy, 51. abstain, 52. fir, 53. flywheel, 54. secondly, 55. macho, 56. invade, 57. groundbreaking

58. have un___y eyes	<i>adj.</i> causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
59. ab____n on a vote	<i>v.</i> to choose not to do something, especially something that one wants to do
60. di____d the assembly	<i>v.</i> to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
61. ma____an sniper	<i>n.</i> a skilled and accurate shooter, especially one who excels in shooting targets or hunting
62. ba___y industry	<i>n.</i> a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
63. the language of di____cy	<i>n.</i> the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way
64. re____s gene expression	<i>v.</i> to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
65. issue a w__t	<i>n.</i> a written legal order or command
66. rea____ce of my commitment	<i>n.</i> the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence
67. di____d an organization	<i>v.</i> to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
68. a w__t of summons	<i>n.</i> a written legal order or command
69. gro_____ing settlement	<i>adj.</i> producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

ANSWERS: 58. uneasy, 59. abstain, 60. disband, 61. marksman, 62. bakery, 63. diplomacy, 64. repress, 65. writ, 66. reassurance, 67. disband, 68. writ, 69. groundbreaking

70. fl____el energy *n.* a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine
71. br__e force *n.* a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power
72. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
73. op____s the minority *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
74. de____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
75. br__e beasts *n.* a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power
76. co____pt all non-disabled citizens *v.* to enlist or draft someone into military service or to compel someone to serve in a certain capacity; to recruit or oblige someone to do something against their will or preference

ANSWERS: 70. flywheel, 71. brute, 72. humming, 73. oppress, 74. dedicate, 75. brute, 76. conscript

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Martin Luther King Jr. was a champion of _____ in the fight for civil rights.
 - n.* the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change

2. The _____ army was well-equipped and well-trained, making them a formidable force to reckon with.
 - n.* a military leader who has gained control over a region or territory, typically through force or intimidation; a commander of an army or group of soldiers who operates outside the control of a legitimate government

3. We enjoyed a picnic on the _____ and watched the boats go by.
 - n.* the land along the edge of a river, often used for recreation or agricultural purposes

4. The smell of fresh ____ trees filled the air at the Christmas tree farm.
 - n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches

5. In nature, all living things are _____ and rely on each other for survival.
 - adj.* depending on each other; mutually reliant or interconnected

6. Effective _____ is necessary to resolve conflicts and maintain relationships between countries.
 - n.* the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations, organizations, or people; the fine art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way

ANSWERS: 1. nonviolence, 2. warlord's, 3. riverbank, 4. fir, 5. interdependent, 6. diplomacy

7. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

8. She _____ the memories of her childhood.

v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

9. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

10. His statements were _____ leaving the audience confused.

adj. containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements

11. He worked at the _____ as a baker.

n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold

12. The _____ behavior of the football players caused the game to be canceled.

n. a violent, wild, or feral animal; a person who is cruel, uncivilized, or lacking in intelligence or sensitivity; a physical force or power

13. The army _____ more than 50,000 soldiers during the conflict.

v. to enlist or draft someone into military service or to compel someone to serve in a certain capacity; to recruit or oblige someone to do something against their will or preference

14. The senior _____ worked tirelessly to negotiate a peace treaty between the two countries.

n. a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations

ANSWERS: 7. secondly, 8. cherished, 9. humming, 10. contradictory, 11. bakery, 12. brute, 13. conscripted, 14. diplomat

15. The band decided to _____ the group after several members left.
v. to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
16. The judge may _____ the decision of the lower court.
v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
17. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
18. He needed _____ that everything would be alright.
n. the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence
19. The sniper proved an exceptional _____ taking down his targets from a distance.
n. a skilled and accurate shooter, especially one who excels in shooting targets or hunting
20. He was _____ about the situation and didn't know what to do.
adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
21. She chose to _____ from alcohol at the party.
v. to choose not to do something, especially something that one wants to do
22. Historically, many countries have often _____ certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.
v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

ANSWERS: 15. disband, 16. uphold, 17. germ, 18. reassurance, 19. marksman, 20. uneasy, 21. abstain, 22. oppressed

23. He _____ his life to helping others.

- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

24. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.

- v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

25. The advantages would undoubtedly _____ the disadvantages.

- v.* to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something

26. His _____ posturing was just a cover for his insecurities and lack of confidence.

- adj.* characterized by a strong sense of masculinity or male dominance, often in a way that is perceived as arrogant or aggressive

27. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

- n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

28. The exercise bike has a large _____ that provides resistance and simulates outdoor cycling.

- n.* a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine

29. The boss tried to _____ his subordinate with threats.

- v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

30. They sought candidates with _____ and good-natured.

- adj.* tending to work with a lot of effort and care

ANSWERS: 23. dedicated, 24. invade, 25. outweigh, 26. macho, 27. troop, 28. flywheel, 29. intimidate, 30. hardworking

31. He _____ the memories of his traumatic childhood.

v. to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories

32. The _____ mission in the war-torn country was challenging but necessary.

n. the act of maintaining peace, especially in conflict-prone regions or between hostile groups, usually through the deployment of a neutral military force or diplomatic initiatives

33. Forgetting someone's name is a _____ occurrence.

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

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

n. a written legal order or command

35. The prisoners were _____ after the war ended.

v. to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression

36. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

37. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from _____ about his success.

v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

38. He has produced _____ research on the subject.

adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

ANSWERS: 31. repressed, 32. peacekeeping, 33. commonplace, 34. writ, 35. liberated, 36. flourished, 37. bragging, 38. groundbreaking

ANSWERS: