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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christopher Warner: What is verbal irony? | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher_warner_what_is_verbal_irony

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

awesome

adj. inspiring fear, admiration, or respect; very good, nice, fun, etc.

synonym : miraculous, marvelous, astounding

(1) **awesome** mental faculty, (2) have an **awesome** birthday

There is a lot of **awesome** nature and food in Hawaii.

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.

athlete

n. a person who competes in one or more sports that involve physical strength, speed, or endurance

synonym : player, contestant, jock

(1) become a professional **athlete**, (2) high school **athletes**

His dream is to become an Olympic **athlete**.

compliment

n. an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good

synonym : praise, acclamation, tribute

(1) a backhanded **compliment**, (2) accept a **compliment**

Her **compliment** made my day; I felt so competent and

appreciated.

attitude

n. the way you think and feel about someone or something
synonym : mindset, perspective, philosophy

(1) **attitude** toward mistakes, (2) **attitude** control

She had the **attitude** that work was fun.

slight

adj. very small in degree or amount

synonym : feeble, nuanced, subtle

(1) feel a **slight** concern, (2) **slight** increase

We made **slight** modifications to reflect the views of both sides.

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**.

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.

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.

shining

adj. giving off or reflecting light; bright, glistening, or gleaming; characterized by impressive accomplishments

or excellence

synonym : sparkling, gleaming, radiant

(1) **shining** star, (2) **shining** example

The **shining** sun reflected off the calm ocean water.

singe

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

synonym : sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

calm

adj. not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves

synonym : quiet, peaceful, tranquility

(1) **calm** sea, (2) **calm** manner

It was the first time in a long time that I felt truly **calm** and at peace.

horrible

adj. extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust

synonym : dreadful, terrible, awful

(1) **horrible** accident, (2) **horrible** smell

The experience was **horrible** and left a lasting impression.

loom

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

synonym : appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

rage

n. a strong feeling of anger or violence

synonym : fury, anger, outrage

(1) uncontrollable **rage**, (2) fall into a **rage**

She was filled with a burning **rage** at the injustice she had witnessed.

tempest

n. a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings

synonym : storm, hurricane, cyclone

(1) violent **tempest**, (2) **tempest** in a teapot

The sailor skillfully navigated his ship through the **tempest**.

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.

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.

sarcasm

n. the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt

synonym : mockery, irony, satire

(1) **sarcasm-laden** remark, (2) heavy **sarcasm**

His constant use of **sarcasm** created a hostile and uncomfortable environment.

sarcastic

adj. using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone

synonym : mocking, ironic, sardonic

(1) use **sarcastic** language, (2) **sarcastic** sense of humor

Her **sarcastic** remarks made it clear that she wasn't happy with the situation.

accomplish

v. to finish or achieve something successfully

synonym : achieve, complete, execute

(1) **accomplish** a goal, (2) **accomplish** military operations

Humankind took centuries to **accomplish** true democracy.

championship

n. a contest to decide who is the best player or team in a particular sport; the act of providing approval and support

synonym : crown, title, contest

(1) a world **championship**, (2) **championship** flag

His team won the **championship** for three years running.

rear

adj. at, toward, or near the back part of something; (verb) to look after a child until it is an adult

synonym : back, end, behind

(1) the **rear** gate, (2) **rear** children

The player quickly went to the **rear** side of the defender.

hint

n. an indirect suggestion; a slight but appreciable amount of something

synonym : clue, indication, suggestion

(1) **hint** of trouble, (2) helpful **hints**

There was no **hint** of a problem.

poke

v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

synonym : prod, jab, push

(1) **poke** around the desk, (2) **poke** a fire

They **poked** fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

talented

adj. having a natural ability or aptitude for something; showing exceptional skill or ability in a particular area

synonym : gifted, able, skilled

(1) a very **talented** actor, (2) **talented** athlete

She is a **talented** musician, able to play several instruments.

authentic

adj. known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy

synonym : genuine, bona fide, original

(1) an **authentic** signature, (2) the sets were meticulously **authentic**

The stages of the play were meticulously **authentic**

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.

spill

v. to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident

synonym : slop, drop, scatter

(1) **spill** a bit of wine, (2) **spill** my heart

He was determined to **spill** everything.

harsh

adj. severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit

synonym : brutal, severe, backbreaking

(1) **harsh** climate, (2) use of **harsh** chemicals

The prime minister faced **harsh** criticism.

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.

addition

n. the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers

synonym: accumulation, expansion, addendum

(1) chemical **addition**, (2) **addition** of vectors

In **addition**, private corporations provide healthcare services.

intention

n. something you want to do and are going to do

synonym: purpose, connotation, will

(1) **intention** behind his decision, (2) clear **intention**

Our CEO's **intentions** are always transparent and straightforward.

mock

v. to make fun of someone, usually by imitating them in a witty but harsh way

synonym: gibe (or jibe), make fun of, laugh at

(1) **mock** his accent, (2) **mock** at his misfortune

It is impolite to **mock** fun of an international student's English mistakes.

beware

v. to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger

synonym: heed, caution, alert

(1) **beware** of scams, (2) **beware** of strangers

Please **beware** of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.

definition

n. a concise explanation of the meaning of a word, phrase, or symbol

synonym: description, connotation, meaning

(1) a precise **definition**, (2) the **definition** of a word

Parallel lines are, by **definition**, lines on the same plane that never cross.

punch

v. to strike someone or something with one's fist; to make a hole in something

synonym: hit, strike, slap

(1) **punch** out numbers, (2) **punch** a ticket

He **punched** the wall in anger.

layer

n. a sheet, quantity, or thickness of the material, typically one of several, covering a surface or body; a level or part within a system or set of ideas

synonym : stratum, sheet, coating

(1) **layer** cake, (2) **layer** of paint

The **layer** of frost on the ground was so thick it was difficult to walk on.

sincere

adj. (of a person, feelings, or behavior) open and genuine; not deceitful

synonym : earnest, fervent, candid

(1) a **sincere** man, (2) express **sincere** regret

Please accept my **sincere** condolences on your friend's death.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sl___t increase *adj.* very small in degree or amount
2. sa_____m-laden remark *n.* the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt
3. the def_____on of a word *n.* a concise explanation of the meaning of a word, phrase, or symbol
4. ho_____le accident *adj.* extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust
5. cha_____hip flag *n.* a contest to decide who is the best player or team in a particular sport; the act of providing approval and support
6. ve___l abuse *adj.* expressed in spoken rather than written words
7. r__r children *adj.* at, toward, or near the back part of something; (verb) to look after a child until it is an adult
8. si__e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
9. 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
10. in_____on behind his decision *n.* something you want to do and are going to do

ANSWERS: 1. slight, 2. sarcasm, 3. definition, 4. horrible, 5. championship, 6. verbal, 7. rear, 8. singe, 9. rev, 10. intention

11. heavy sa_____m *n.* the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt
12. h__t of trouble *n.* an indirect suggestion; a slight but appreciable amount of something
13. a world cha_____hip *n.* a contest to decide who is the best player or team in a particular sport; the act of providing approval and support
14. be___e of scams *v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
15. uncontrollable r__e *n.* a strong feeling of anger or violence
16. sa_____ic sense of humor *adj.* using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone
17. at_____de toward mistakes *n.* the way you think and feel about someone or something
18. 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
19. pr_____le cause of a fire *adj.* likely to happen or likely to be true
20. la__r cake *n.* a sheet, quantity, or thickness of the material, typically one of several, covering a surface or body; a level or part within a system or set of ideas

ANSWERS: 11. sarcasm, 12. hint, 13. championship, 14. beware, 15. rage, 16. sarcastic, 17. attitude, 18. rev, 19. probable, 20. layer

21. m__k his accent *v.* to make fun of someone, usually by imitating them in a witty but harsh way
22. clear in_____on *n.* something you want to do and are going to do
23. feel a sl___t concern *adj.* very small in degree or amount
24. use of ha__h chemicals *adj.* severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit
25. high school at_____es *n.* a person who competes in one or more sports that involve physical strength, speed, or endurance
26. fall into a r__e *n.* a strong feeling of anger or violence
27. ho_____le smell *adj.* extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust
28. helpful h__ts *n.* an indirect suggestion; a slight but appreciable amount of something
29. an au_____ic signature *adj.* known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy
30. opp_____on campaign *n.* the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement
31. become a professional at_____e *n.* a person who competes in one or more sports that involve physical strength, speed, or endurance
32. 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
33. chemical ad_____on *n.* the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers

ANSWERS: 21. mock, 22. intention, 23. slight, 24. harsh, 25. athlete, 26. rage, 27. horrible, 28. hint, 29. authentic, 30. opposition, 31. athlete, 32. ironic, 33. addition

34. ve___l communication *adj.* expressed in spoken rather than written words
35. a precise def_____on *n.* a concise explanation of the meaning of a word, phrase, or symbol
36. ta_____ed athlete *adj.* having a natural ability or aptitude for something; showing exceptional skill or ability in a particular area
37. be___e of strangers *v.* to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger
38. si___e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
39. tr_____ng hazards *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
40. sp___l my heart *v.* to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident
41. violent te_____t *n.* a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings
42. at_____de control *n.* the way you think and feel about someone or something
43. c___m sea *adj.* not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves

ANSWERS: 34. verbal, 35. definition, 36. talented, 37. beware, 38. singe, 39. tripping, 40. spill, 41. tempest, 42. attitude, 43. calm

44. m__k at his misfortune
v. to make fun of someone, usually by imitating them in a witty but harsh way
45. a very ta____ed actor
adj. having a natural ability or aptitude for something; showing exceptional skill or ability in a particular area
46. tr____ng on acid
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
47. p__e a fire
v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
48. use sa____ic language
adj. using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone
49. bitter ir__y
n. the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect
50. ha__h climate
adj. severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit
51. te____t in a teapot
n. a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings
52. la__r of paint
n. a sheet, quantity, or thickness of the material, typically one of several, covering a surface or body; a level or part within a system or set of ideas

ANSWERS: 44. mock, 45. talented, 46. tripping, 47. poke, 48. sarcastic, 49. irony, 50. harsh, 51. tempest, 52. layer

53. sh____g star *adj.* giving off or reflecting light; bright, glistening, or gleaming; characterized by impressive accomplishments or excellence
54. c__m manner *adj.* not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves
55. acc_____sh military operations *v.* to finish or achieve something successfully
56. l__m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
57. a backhanded com_____nt *n.* an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good
58. the sets were meticulously au_____ic *adj.* known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy
59. meet with opp_____on *n.* the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement
60. pu__h a ticket *v.* to strike someone or something with one's fist; to make a hole in something
61. aw_____e mental faculty *adj.* inspiring fear, admiration, or respect; very good, nice, fun, etc.
62. acc_____sh a goal *v.* to finish or achieve something successfully
63. express si_____e regret *adj.* (of a person, feelings, or behavior) open and genuine; not deceitful
64. p__e around the desk *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
65. ad_____on of vectors *n.* the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers

ANSWERS: 53. shining, 54. calm, 55. accomplish, 56. loom, 57. compliment, 58. authentic, 59. opposition, 60. punch, 61. awesome, 62. accomplish, 63. sincere, 64. poke, 65. addition

66. the r__r gate *adj.* at, toward, or near the back part of something; (verb) to look after a child until it is an adult
67. ir__y humor *n.* the expression of one's meaning by using language that usually signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or rhetorical effect
68. sp__l a bit of wine *v.* to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident
69. l__m over the global economy *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
70. sh____g example *adj.* giving off or reflecting light; bright, glistening, or gleaming; characterized by impressive accomplishments or excellence
71. tre_____us amount *adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
72. have an aw_____e birthday *adj.* inspiring fear, admiration, or respect; very good, nice, fun, etc.
73. tre_____us popularity *adj.* very great in degree or extent or amount or impact; extremely good
74. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
75. pr_____le outcome *adj.* likely to happen or likely to be true
76. accept a com_____nt *n.* an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good

ANSWERS: 66. rear, 67. irony, 68. spill, 69. loom, 70. shining, 71. tremendous, 72. awesome, 73. tremendous, 74. ironic, 75. probable, 76. compliment

77. pu__h out numbers

v. to strike someone or something with one's fist; to make a hole in something

78. a si____e man

adj. (of a person, feelings, or behavior) open and genuine; not deceitful

ANSWERS: 77. punch, 78. sincere

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. In _____ private corporations provide healthcare services.
n. the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers
2. It is impolite to _____ fun of an international student's English mistakes.
v. to make fun of someone, usually by imitating them in a witty but harsh way
3. The candidate must have excellent _____ skills.
adj. expressed in spoken rather than written words
4. The _____ sun reflected off the calm ocean water.
adj. giving off or reflecting light; bright, glistening, or gleaming; characterized by impressive accomplishments or excellence
5. The _____ of frost on the ground was so thick it was difficult to walk on.
n. a sheet, quantity, or thickness of the material, typically one of several, covering a surface or body; a level or part within a system or set of ideas
6. 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
7. The _____ party strongly disagreed with the government's proposed legislation.
n. the act of disagreeing or resisting; the state of strong disagreement
8. The player quickly went to the _____ side of the defender.
adj. at, toward, or near the back part of something; (verb) to look after a child until it is an adult

ANSWERS: 1. addition, 2. mock, 3. verbal, 4. shining, 5. layer, 6. irony, 7. opposition, 8. rear

9. He was determined to _____ everything.

v. to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident

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

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

11. Parallel lines are, by _____ lines on the same plane that never cross.

n. a concise explanation of the meaning of a word, phrase, or symbol

12. There was no _____ of a problem.

n. an indirect suggestion; a slight but appreciable amount of something

13. Her _____ remarks made it clear that she wasn't happy with the situation.

adj. using irony and cutting language to mock, ridicule, or convey contempt; saying the opposite of what is meant in a mocking tone

14. We had a _____ time yesterday.

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

15. She was filled with a burning _____ at the injustice she had witnessed.

n. a strong feeling of anger or violence

16. Please accept my _____ condolences on your friend's death.

adj. (of a person, feelings, or behavior) open and genuine; not deceitful

17. His constant use of _____ created a hostile and uncomfortable environment.

n. the use of irony, mocking, or caustic language to convey the opposite of what is stated, often with the intention of ridicule or contempt

ANSWERS: 9. spill, 10. ironic, 11. definition, 12. hint, 13. sarcastic, 14. tremendous, 15. rage, 16. sincere, 17. sarcasm

18. The prime minister faced _____ criticism.

adj. severe and unkind; extremely tough and unpleasant to inhabit

19. Her _____ laughter echoed through the room, spreading contagious joy to everyone present.

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

20. His dream is to become an Olympic _____.

n. a person who competes in one or more sports that involve physical strength, speed, or endurance

21. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and _____ my dress.

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

22. Humankind took centuries to _____ true democracy.

v. to finish or achieve something successfully

23. Her _____ made my day; I felt so competent and appreciated.

n. an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good

24. Please _____ of the slippery floor after it rains, or you could fall.

v. to be cautious or careful about something or someone that may cause harm or danger

25. She is a _____ musician, able to play several instruments.

adj. having a natural ability or aptitude for something; showing exceptional skill or ability in a particular area

ANSWERS: 18. harsh, 19. tripping, 20. athlete, 21. singed, 22. accomplish, 23. compliment, 24. beware, 25. talented

26. The sailor skillfully navigated his ship through the _____.
- n.* a severe or violent storm, especially one with strong winds and rain; a tumultuous outburst of emotions or feelings
27. We made _____ modifications to reflect the views of both sides.
- adj.* very small in degree or amount
28. Our CEO's _____ are always transparent and straightforward.
- n.* something you want to do and are going to do
29. It was the first time in a long time that I felt truly _____ and at peace.
- adj.* not excited, angry, or nervous; free from wind, large waves
30. He _____ the wall in anger.
- v.* to strike someone or something with one's fist; to make a hole in something
31. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
- v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
32. 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
33. There is a lot of _____ nature and food in Hawaii.
- adj.* inspiring fear, admiration, or respect; very good, nice, fun, etc.
34. They _____ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.
- v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

ANSWERS: 26. tempest, 27. slight, 28. intentions, 29. calm, 30. punched, 31. loomed, 32. rev, 33. awesome, 34. poked

35. She had the _____ that work was fun.

n. the way you think and feel about someone or something

36. The experience was _____ and left a lasting impression.

adj. extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust

37. It seems _____ that he has forgotten our scheduled meeting.

adj. likely to happen or likely to be true

38. His team won the _____ for three years running.

n. a contest to decide who is the best player or team in a particular sport; the act of providing approval and support

39. The stages of the play were meticulously _____

adj. known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy

ANSWERS: 35. attitude, 36. horrible, 37. probable, 38. championship, 39. authentic