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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Rebecca Saxe: How we read each other's minds |

TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca\\_saxe\\_how\\_we\\_read\\_each\\_other\\_s\\_minds](https://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca_saxe_how_we_read_each_other_s_minds)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### envision

*v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

*synonym*: anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success

We cannot **envision** her as President.

### crux

*n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue

*synonym*: heart, core, essence

(1) main **crux**, (2) the **crux** of the argument

The **crux** of the matter was that the company was not financially stable.

### slug

*n.* a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink

(1) lazy **slug**, (2) reduce **slug** damage

I spotted a giant **slug** in the rain garden.

### neuroscience

*n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

## parietal

*adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure

*synonym*: cerebral, skull, cranial

(1) **parietal** cortex, (2) **parietal** bone

The **parietal** lobe of the brain is responsible for processing sensory information.

## ante

*n.* a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor

*synonym*: bet, wager, stake

(1) up the **ante**, (2) penny- **ante** trade

We need to raise the **ante** to win this poker game.

## permissive

*adj.* allowing or characterized by a tolerance for behavior that is unorthodox or unacceptable

*synonym*: indulgent, lenient, liberal

(1) assume a **permissive** attitude, (2) **permissive** society

The school has a **permissive** dress code and allows students to wear whatever they want.

## unsurprising

*adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted

*synonym*: predictable, expected, foreseeable

(1) **unsurprising** success, (2) **unsurprising** result

The **unsurprising** outcome of the election was a victory for the incumbent candidate.

## disorganize

*v.* to disrupt or destroy the systematic order or function of something

*synonym*: disrupt, demobilize, derange

(1) **disorganized** the party, (2) **disorganize** the whole

country

His betrayal **disorganized** the company completely.

**neuron**

*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

*synonym* : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

**involuntary**

*adj.* acting or done without or against one's will

*synonym* : coerced, forced, automatic

(1) **involuntary** manslaughter, (2) **involuntary** muscles

The drug's side effects can include **involuntary** loss of urine.

**contraction**

*n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount

*synonym* : shrinking, compression, reduction

(1) **contraction** of a disease, (2) **contraction** in the industry

The **contraction** of the economy has led to job losses.

**reconsider**

*v.* to think about a decision or opinion again to

*synonym* : rethink, review, revisit

(1) **reconsider** the determination, (2) **reconsider** my transfer

He humbly **reconsidered** his conduct.

**alarming**

*adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

*synonym* : forbidding, concerning, disturbing

(1) **alarming** news, (2) **alarming** statistics

The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite **alarming**.

**pentagon**

*n.* a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the

U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military

*synonym* : five-sided shape, quinquangle

(1) equilateral **pentagon**, (2) **pentagon** building

The shape of the building is a distinctive five-sided **pentagon**.

## surreptitious

*adj.* kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate

*synonym* : clandestine, covert, sneaky

(1) **surreptitious** glance, (2) **surreptitious** meeting

The thief made a **surreptitious** escape from the scene of the crime.

## idealist

*n.* a person who is guided by ideals or principles rather than practical considerations or reality; a person who seeks to achieve a particular vision or goal for the betterment of society or humanity

*synonym* : dreamer, idealizer, visionary

(1) **idealist** at heart, (2) an **idealist** perspective

As a dedicated **idealist**, she always fought for what was right, no matter the cost.

## chant

*n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

*synonym* : hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. the branch of neu_____nce    | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system                          |
| 2. inv_____ry muscles           | <i>adj.</i> acting or done without or against one's will   |
| 3. ch__t in the chapel          | <i>n.</i> a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation |
| 4. inv_____ry manslaughter      | <i>adj.</i> acting or done without or against one's will   |
| 5. sur_____ous glance           | <i>adj.</i> kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate               |
| 6. assume a per_____ve attitude | <i>adj.</i> allowing or characterized by a tolerance for behavior that is unorthodox or unacceptable                                 |
| 7. dis_____ze the whole country | <i>v.</i> to disrupt or destroy the systematic order or function of something  |
| 8. rec_____er the determination | <i>v.</i> to think about a decision or opinion again to  |
| 9. en_____on the future         | <i>v.</i> to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future   |
| 10. rec_____er my transfer      | <i>v.</i> to think about a decision or opinion again to  |
| 11. al_____ng news              | <i>adj.</i> causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing               |

ANSWERS: 1. neuroscience, 2. involuntary, 3. chant, 4. involuntary, 5. surreptitious, 6. permissive, 7. disorganize, 8. reconsider, 9. envision, 10. reconsider, 11. alarming

12. pa\_\_\_\_al bone *adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure
13. ch\_\_t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
14. the c\_\_x of the argument *n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue
15. uns\_\_\_\_\_ing success *adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
16. an id\_\_\_\_st perspective *n.* a person who is guided by ideals or principles rather than practical considerations or reality; a person who seeks to achieve a particular vision or goal for the betterment of society or humanity
17. uns\_\_\_\_\_ing result *adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
18. al\_\_\_\_ng statistics *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
19. sur\_\_\_\_\_ous meeting *adj.* kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate
20. up the a\_\_e *n.* a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor

ANSWERS: 12. parietal, 13. chant, 14. crux, 15. unsurprising, 16. idealist, 17. unsurprising, 18. alarming, 19. surreptitious, 20. ante

21. en\_\_\_\_on the project's success      *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
22. reduce s\_\_g damage      *n.* a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink
23. con\_\_\_\_\_on of a disease      *n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount
24. per\_\_\_\_\_ve society      *adj.* allowing or characterized by a tolerance for behavior that is unorthodox or unacceptable
25. dis\_\_\_\_\_zed the party      *v.* to disrupt or destroy the systematic order or function of something
26. excite the ne\_\_\_\_ns      *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
27. ne\_\_\_\_n cell body      *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
28. a theoretical concept in  
neu\_\_\_\_\_nce      *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
29. lazy s\_\_g      *n.* a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink
30. pa\_\_\_\_\_al cortex      *adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure

ANSWERS: 21. envision, 22. slug, 23. contraction, 24. permissive, 25. disorganize, 26. neuron, 27. neuron, 28. neuroscience, 29. slug, 30. parietal

31. con\_\_\_\_\_on in the industry      *n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount
32. pe\_\_\_\_\_on building      *n.* a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military
33. main c\_\_x      *n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue
34. id\_\_\_\_\_st at heart      *n.* a person who is guided by ideals or principles rather than practical considerations or reality; a person who seeks to achieve a particular vision or goal for the betterment of society or humanity
35. equilateral pe\_\_\_\_\_on      *n.* a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military
36. penny-a\_\_e trade      *n.* a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor

ANSWERS: 31. contraction, 32. pentagon, 33. crux, 34. idealist, 35. pentagon, 36. ante



## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I spotted a giant \_\_\_\_\_ in the rain garden.  
*n.* a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ lobe of the brain is responsible for processing sensory information.  
*adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure
  
3. As a dedicated \_\_\_\_\_ she always fought for what was right, no matter the cost.  
*n.* a person who is guided by ideals or principles rather than practical considerations or reality; a person who seeks to achieve a particular vision or goal for the betterment of society or humanity
  
4. The school has a \_\_\_\_\_ dress code and allows students to wear whatever they want.  
*adj.* allowing or characterized by a tolerance for behavior that is unorthodox or unacceptable
  
5. Our body transfers information along each \_\_\_\_\_ using an electrical impulse.  
*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
  
6. The soccer game crowd broke into a \_\_\_\_\_ of "Go, team, go!"  
*n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

ANSWERS: 1. slug, 2. parietal, 3. idealist, 4. permissive, 5. neuron, 6. chant

7. His betrayal \_\_\_\_\_ the company completely.  
*v.* to disrupt or destroy the systematic order or function of something
8. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ her as President.  
*v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
9. We need to raise the \_\_\_\_\_ to win this poker game.  
*n.* a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the matter was that the company was not financially stable.  
*n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue
11. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the economy has led to job losses.  
*n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount
13. The thief made a \_\_\_\_\_ escape from the scene of the crime.  
*adj.* kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ outcome of the election was a victory for the incumbent candidate.  
*adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted

ANSWERS: 7. disorganized, 8. envision, 9. ante, 10. crux, 11. neuroscience, 12. contraction, 13. surreptitious, 14. unsurprising

15. The drug's side effects can include \_\_\_\_\_ loss of urine.

*adj.* acting or done without or against one's will

16. He humbly \_\_\_\_\_ his conduct.

*v.* to think about a decision or opinion again to

17. The shape of the building is a distinctive five-sided \_\_\_\_\_.

*n.* a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military

18. The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite \_\_\_\_\_.

*adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

ANSWERS: 15. involuntary, 16. reconsidered, 17. pentagon, 18. alarming