

Vocabulary Beamer 2020

Year 2020, 2021

ramble

/ˈræmbəl/ v(i)+prep

= to walk for pleasure, esp in the countryside

eg: I love to ramble through the fields and lanes
in this part of the country.

eg: Let's go rambling tomorrow.

wander

/'wɒndə/ v(i,t)

eg: We spent the morning wandering around
the old part of the city.

eg: She was found several hours later,
wandering the street, lost.

pander to someone/ something

= to please other people by doing or saying something
what you think they want to do or say

eg: It's not good the way she panders to
his every whim (wim).

eg: She accused the other candidate of pandering
to radical environmental groups.

dwell on something

/dwel/

= to keep thinking or talking about something,
esp something bad or unpleasant

eg: In his speech, he dwelt on the plight of the sick
and the hungry.

delve into something

/delv/ v[i]

synonym: investigate

= to examine something carefully in order to discover more information about someone/something

eg: It's not always a good idea to delve too deeply into someone's past.

mediocre

/,mi:di'əʊkə/ adj

synonym: average, ordinary

= not very good

eg: The film's plot is predictable and the acting
is mediocre.

sceptical

/s'geptɪkəl/ (=skeptical)

eg: Many experts remain skeptical about (/of)
his claims.

clutch

/klʌtʃ/ (group)

= a small group of people or things

eg: a fresh clutch of students

attribute **something** to somebody/ something

/ə'tribju:t/

= to say/ think that **something** is the result
or work of something or someone else

eg: The doctors have attributed the cause
of the illness to an unknown virus.

driving force

(+for/behind/in something)

eg: The explosion in stock market wealth has been an important driving force behind consumer spending.

eg: Trade is the driving force for sustained economic prosperity.

eg: Women are definitely a driving force in the industry, she said.

few chances vs little chance

(little chance): the probability of something occurring is low

(few chances): the number of opportunities of doing something are rare. For example, if the project can only work during a solar eclipse, it would have few chances of success in any given year.

few chances vs little chance

eg: The project has little chance of success.

(It will probably not work.)

eg: I have little chance of swimming one hundred meters in 105 seconds.

eg: I have few chances to go to comedies because my wife does not like them.

(but when the opportunity does arise, I will very likely succeed in seeing the movie)

Not only do we ... but also ...

eg: Not only was it raining all day at the wedding
but also the band was late.

eg: Not only did she forget my birthday,
but she also didn't even apologise
for forgetting it.

eg: The car not only is economical but also feels
good to drive.

eg: The war caused not only destruction and death

monotonous

/mə'notənəs adj

= not changing and therefore boring

eg: a monotonous job

eg: The music becomes monotonous after a while.

wake up on the wrong side of bed

= (idiomatic) to feel grumpy(/'grʌmpɪ/) and irritable;
to be easily annoyed

eg: He can't stop shouting at me: he must have
woken up on the wrong side of bed this morning.

In principle

- eg: In principle I agree that mothers should spend as much time as possible with their young children, but it isn't easy.
- eg: I agree with it in principle but I doubt if it will happen in practice.

keep something at bay

= to control something and prevent it from causing you problems

eg: She fought to keep her unhappiness at bay.

eg: The doctors have been able to keep her illness at bay for several months.

on sale vs for sale

(for sale): If you're selling something, it is for sale.

Offered to be sold, made available to purchasers

(on sale): If you lower the price, it goes on sale. Able to be bought at reduced prices.

eg: Student A: "I need to buy a widget."

Student B: "Go to Jumbo. They have them for sale."

eg: Student A: "I bought my new skis for 900 Swiss Francs."

on demand

see: on request

= at any time that someone wants
or needs something

eg: They believe that abortion should be available
on demand.

warrant

/'wɔːrənt/ v(t)

= to make a particular action necessary or correct,
or to be a reason to do something

eg: Obviously what she did was wrong,
but I don't think it warranted such a severe
punishment.

warrant

= to promise that something is true,
or say that it is certain that something
will happen

eg: Our products are warranted against defects
in materials and workmanship.

warrant

/ˈwɔːrənt/ n(c)

eg: a search warrant

eg: an arrest warrant

vessel

/ˈvesəl/ n(c)

= a large boat or a ship

eg: a cargo vessel

eg: a freight (/freɪt/) vessel

eg: a fishing vessel

stereo

/ˈsderiəʊ/ n(c,u)

= 立體聲

eg: n(u) The concert will be broadcasted in stereo.

eg: n(c) Loud music was coming from the car stereo.

eg: adj a home stereo system

cassette

/kə'set/ n(c)

eg: an audio cassette

eg: a video cassette

eg: a cassette recorder

eg: a cassette player

eg: He listens to cassettes, CDs,
even vinyl (/ˈvaɪnəl/ 黑膠唱片) records.

be composed of

(compose) /kəm'pəʊz/

= consist of; be made of

eg: The course is comprised of ten lectures
and five seminars on the theory of
economics and banking.

account for (+ percentage)

eg: High-tech companies account for 32% of the total value of the payrolls in the area.

eg: People over 60 account for 50 percent of the total population.

comprise (+ percentage)

= consist of

eg: Italian students comprise 60% of the class.

eg: Manufacturing comprises 14% of the state's economy.

make up

eg: Car accident victims make up almost a quarter of the hospital's patients.

eg: Internet-based purchases, first offered about two years ago, now make up 10% of sales.

take up

eg: He left a job in the City to take up farming.

eg: He will take up his post as the head of
of the civil courts at the end of
next month.

eg: Increasingly, more farmers are taking up the
challenge of growing asparagus(/ə'sberægəs/).

eg: I know how busy you must be and naturally
I wouldn't want to take up too much of your time.

different from one another

(one another = each other)

eg: And these novels are all pretty different from one another in style, tone and content.

eg: They are both very good and rather different from one another.

vary from one to another

see also: differ from one to another

eg: Cities are unique and vary from one to another, and thus, one freight system may not be suitable to all urban areas.

eg: The opinions about these subjects vary from person to person.

parcel

/'pa:rsəl/ n(c)

= 包裹, 郵包

eg: a food parcel

eg: There were several parcels waiting for her in the post room.

up-to-the-minute

= containing the very last information
or being the newest

eg: up-to-the-minute news reports

eg: up-to-the-minute design/ style/ fashion

eg: The website provides up-to-the-minute information
on the best financial deals.

adverse effect

(adverse) /'ædvɜːs/ adj

= having a negative or harmful effect on something

eg: The match has been cancelled because of adverse weather conditions.

eg: So far the drug is thought not to have any adverse effects.

eg: Recent bad publicity has had an adverse effect on sales.

adverse outcome

eg: The aim of the study was to evaluate pre- and postoperative (p.o.) risk factors associated with adverse outcome.

on the surface

(surface) /'sʊfɪs/

= superficially

eg: On the surface, he seems like a very successful businessman, with his life all put together.

But if you pull back the curtain a bit, you realize that his life is a mess.

eg: Everything looked fine on the surface, but after we began to dig deeper, we realized that the plan was fundamentally flawed.

geographic

/,dʒiə'græfɪk/ adj

(same as) geographical /,dʒiə'græfɪkəl/

eg: The company's fastest growing geographical area was Asia, which increased by 22%.

eg: geographic features/ conditions

eg: geographic conditions of India
(plural form *conditions*)

eg: effects of geographic conditions upon
social realities

prickly

/ˈprɪkəlɪ/ or /ˈprɪkli/ adj

see also: pointy, prickle

(1) = unfriendly and easily offended or annoyed

eg: She was asked a couple of questions
 about her private life and got a little prickly.

(2) = complicated and difficult to deal with

eg: a prickly issue/situation

prickly

(3) = having sharp points that stick out,
or causing a stinging feeling.

eg: a prickly cactus

pointy

= shaped into a point; having a pointed tip or end

eg: She was wearing a pointy hat.

beyond vs behind

(1) distance: behind is the more general word. Beyond has the feeling of long distance

eg: behind your back

eg: behind the house

eg: The town is beyond the mountain.

beyond vs behind

(2) behind

eg: They'd been forced to leave behind
their businesses and possessions.

eg: The bus was behind schedule.

eg: Now that the divorce is behind us, we can move on.
(= the divorce is finished)

eg: ...the man behind the modernisation
of the organisation.

eg: The country was behind the president.

beyond vs behind

(3) beyond

eg: Few children remain in school beyond the age of 16.

eg: The situation has changed beyond recognition.

eg: How he managed to find us is beyond me.

(= I cannot understand it)

eg: Her commitment to her profession is beyond doubt.

(= no one can doubt it)

eg: The mechanic announced that the engine was beyond repair.

beyond vs behind

(4) VOA English

eg: Mail deliveries usually fall behind around the winter holidays, but they improve beyond the new year.

eg: People need to know math through their school years and beyond.

eg: During the pandemic, many people got behind on their rent.

(= the rent payments were arriving late)

pass

see also: overtake, go past, surpass

eg: He took a step backwards to allow her to pass.

eg: After a strong start, she was passed by several runners on the final lap and finished ninth.

eg: I passed him on the stairs this morning.

eg: I was just passing by her house, so I thought I'd call in and see her.

eg: Did you tell me about that? Sorry, it completely passed me by. (= I didn't notice it)

overtake

/əʊvə'teɪk/ v

= v(t) to go past something by being
a greater amount or degree

eg: Our US sales have now overtaken our sales
in Europe.

= v(i,t) to come from behind another vehicle or
a person and move in front of them (= pass)

eg: Always check your rear view mirror before
you overtake (another car).

surpass

/sə'pæs/ v(t)

= to do or be better than

eg: His time for the 100 metres surpassed the previous world record by one hundredth of a second.

eg: Our team's achievements surpass those of teams in earlier years.

surpass

remark: Surpass is to go beyond, especially in a metaphoric or technical manner; to exceed. Pass is to move or be moved from one place to another.

rift

/rɪft/ n(c)

see also: gorge /ɡɔːrɪdʒ/, valley

= a large crack in the ground or in rock

eg: The stream had cut a deep rift in the rock.

confront

/kən'frʌnt/ v(t)

= to face, meet or deal with a difficult situation or person.

eg: It's an issue we'll have to confront at some point, no matter how unpleasant it is.

eg: I thought I would remain calm, but when I was confronted with/by the TV camera, I became very nervous.

siren

/'saɪrən/ n(c)

= 警鐘

eg: fire siren

eg: police siren

fire engine/ fire truck

/ˈfaɪər.ɛnʤən/ n(c)

= 消防車

engine/ engineer/ engineering

engine: /'endʒən/

engineer: /,endʒɪ'nɪər/

engineering: /,endʒɪ'nɪərɪŋ/

outlet

/'aʊtlet/ n(c)

= 特賣場

wig

/wig/ n(c)

= 假髮

began, mix, fix

began: /bɪ'gæn/

mix: /mɪks/

fix: /fɪks/

sober up

/'səʊbər/

= to become less drunk, or to make someone
become less drunk

truck, comedy, comedian

truck: /trʌk/

comedy: /'kɒmədi/

comedian: /kə'miːdiən/

hit (somebody) over the head

= to strike on the head

= (+ with something) to emphasize repeatedly or strongly

eg: You don't have to hit me over the head with it - I understand.

surprise, rise, praise

surprise: /sər'praɪz/

rise: /raɪz/

praise: /preɪz/

~ward

forward, outward, inward, onward,
afterward, backward

American accent: /wərd/ (/wɜrd/)

British accent: /wəd/ (/wʊd/)

concourse

(UK) /'kɒŋkɔːs/ n(c)

(US) /'kɒnkɔːrs/

= 大堂

eg: There's a ticket machine in the main concourse.

concierge

(UK) /,kɒnsi'eəʒ/ n(c)

(US) /kən'sjerʒ/

- (1) = a person who takes care of a building containing flats and checks people entering and leaving the building.
- (2) = a person in a hotel whose job is to help guests by giving them information, arranging theatre tickets, etc.

telegraph

/'teləgræf/ n(u)

= 電報

eg: The news came by telegraph.

eg: [v(t)] The story was immediately telegraphed
to New York.

telegram

/'teləgræm/ n(c)

= a piece of paper with a message sent by telegraph.

rock bottom

/,rɒk 'bɒtəm/ n(u)

= the lowest possible level

eg: They were selling the goods at rock-bottom prices.

eg: Confidence in the government is at rock-bottom.

eg: Prices have reached rock bottom.

intact

/ɪn'tækt/ adj

(1) = complete and in the original state

eg: The church was destroyed in the bombing
 but the altar survived intact.

(2) = not damaged

eg: It's difficult to emerge from such a scandal with
 your reputation still intact.

festive

/ˈfestɪv/ adj

= having or producing happy and enjoyable feelings
suitable for a festival or other special occasion

eg: a festive mood; a festive occasion

eg: The hall looked very festive with its Christmas tree.

eg: a festive vibe

vibe

/vaɪb/ n(c)

= the mood or character of a place, situation or piece of music

eg: The music has a soothing vibe.

eg: I didn't like the place- it had bad vibes.

forward, outward, inward, onward, afterward, backward

forward : (UK) /'fɔ:wəd/ (US) /'fɔrwəd/

outward : (UK) /'aʊtwəd/ (US) /'aʊtwərd/

inward : (UK) /'ɪnwəd/ (US) /'ɪnwərd/

onward : (UK) /'ɒnwəd/ (US) /'ɒnwərd/

afterward : (UK) /'a:ftəwəd/ (US) /'æftərwərd/

backward : (UK) /'bækwəd/ (US) /'bækwərd/

pavement

/ˈpeɪvmənt/ n(c)

= the hard surface of a road, a sidewalk

eg: The umbrella fell to the pavement with
a clatter (/ˈklætər/).

eg: Keep to the pavement, Rosie, there's a good girl.

freelance

/ˈfriːlæns/ adj, adv, n(c)

= (adj) self-employed

= n(c) freelancer

eg: Most of the journalists I know work freelance.

eg: a freelance artist.

lyrics

/'lɪrɪks/ plural noun

bowling

/'bəʊlɪŋ/ n(u)

gang

/gæŋ/ n(c)

eg: Fights among rival gangs account for most murders in the city.

eg: a gang of armed robbers

eg: I went out with the usual gang from college on Friday night.

business

/'biznəs/ n(c, u)

eg: He's in the frozen food business.

eg: Our firm does a lot of business with overseas customers.

eg: Currently, there are fewer firms in business in the area than before.

eg: Arranging a trip abroad is a time-consuming business.

crime, ciminal

crime: /kraɪm/

criminal: /'krɪmɪnəl/

strong, stronger, strongest

strong: /strɔːŋ/

stronger: /'strɔːŋgər/

strongest: /'strɔːŋgɪst/

loaf

/ləʊf/ n(c,u)

eg: a loaf of bread

atlas

/'ætləs/ n(c)

gentle

/ˈdʒentl/ adj

logistics

/lədʒɪstɪks/ n(plural)

eg: We need to look at the logistics of the whole aid operation.

eg: The logistics of getting five kids off to school in the morning are pretty complex.

appreciate

/ə'pri:ʃiət/ v(i,t)

eg: I appreciate that it's a difficult decision
for you to make.

eg: I don't think you appreciate how much time
I spent preparing this meal.

eg: I appreciate your making the effort to come.

eg: I would appreciate it if you could let me
know in advance whether or not you will be coming.

novice

/ˈnɒvɪs/ n(c)

synonyms: newbie, rookie

= 門外漢

eg: I've never driven a car before - I'm a complete novice.

eg: This plant can be difficult for novice gardeners to grow.

in place

= to exist and be capable of being used

eg: We didn't have the systems in place to deal with so many orders.

eg: We need to put safeguards in place to prevent this type of accident occurring again.

plug up

(1) = to become obstructed or filled up such that nothing can get through

eg: Honey, where's the plunger ('plʌŋdʒər)?
The toilet plugged up again.

(2) = to cause something to become obstructed or filled such that nothing can get through

eg: Ugh, there's a huge wad of gunk and hair that's been plugging the sink up.

deplorable

/di'plɔ:rəbəl/ adj

= very bad

I thought his behaviour was absolutely deplorable.

They are forced to live in deplorable conditions.

off the hook

= if you are off the hook, you have escaped from a difficult situation.

eg: John's agreed to go to the meeting in my place so that gets me off the hook.

interim

/ˈɪntərɪm/ adj

= temporary; intended for a short period only

eg: an interim solution

eg: An interim government was set up for the period
before the country's first free election.

dump

/dʌmp/ v(t)

eg: He came in with four shopping bags and dumped them on the table.

eg: Several old cars has been dumped near the beach.

wannabe

/'wɒnəbi/ n(c), adj

= a person who is trying to become famous,
usually unsuccessfully.

eg: She's a pop singer wannabe.

eg: The bar is frequented by wannabe actresses
and film directors.

cloddish

/ˈklɒdɪʃ/ adj

= heavy and dull and stupid

eg: They stood there looking stiff and cloddish.

eg: He was a cloddish man, like he'd just fallen
off the turnip wagon and hadn't quite woken
up yet from his long trip from the country.

cashew

/'kæʃuː/ n(c)

= 腰果

swerve

/swɜrv/ v(i)

eg: The bus driver swerved to avoid hitting a cyclist.

eg: She is one of those rare politicians whom
one can trust not to swerve from
policy and principle.

parity

/ˈperəti/ n(u)

= equality, especially of pay or position

eg: Firefighters are demanding pay parity with police.

strategy, strategic

strategy: /'strætədʒi/

strategic: /strə'ti:dʒɪk/

suitcase

/'su:tkeɪs/ n(c)

collide, collision

collide: /kə'laɪd/ v(i)

collision: /kə'liʒən/ n(c,u)

blink, link, wink

blink: /blɪŋk/

link: /lɪŋk/

wink (at something): /wɪŋk/

= to pretend that you don't notice something
that is wrong

eg: During the holiday, parking violations were
winked at.

hug, mud, luggage

hug: /hʌg/

mud: /mʌd/

luggage: /ˈlʌɡɪdʒ/ n(u)

wink (at something): /wɪŋk/

eg: a bear hug.

eg: Never leave your luggage unattended.

eg: We bought some new luggage for our trip.

tortoise

/ˈtɔːtəs/ n(c)

tortoise: more living on land.

turtle (ˈtɜːrtəl): more living in water.

** A tortoise is in fact a turtle.

rhythm

/ˈrɪðəm/ n(c,u)

= 節奏

eg: He beat out a jazz rhythm on the drums.

eg: I've got no sense of rhythm, so I'm a
a terrible dancer.

suppose

/sə'pəʊz/

wholehearted

/həʊl'ha:rtɪd/ adj

= completely enthusiastic (ɪnθu:zi'æstɪk)

eg: I'd like to thank all of you for your
wholehearted support of this event.

eg: I hear what you say and I wholeheartedly
agree.

heartwarming

/'ha:rt.wɔ:rmɪŋ/ adj

= causing feelings of pleasure and happiness

eg: People have been so kind and helpful
since Dan's been sick - it's really heartwarming
to see.

hearty

/'ha:rti/ adj

= enthusiastic, energetic and often loudly expressed

eg: a hearty welcome. a hearty laugh.

eg: She laughed heartily at the joke.

eg: We ate a hearty (=generous or large) breakfast
before we set off on our hike.

physics, physicist

physics: /'fɪzɪks/ n(u)

physicist: /'fɪzɪsɪst/ n(c)

repay

/rɪ'peɪ/ v(t)

= to pay back or to reward someone or something

eg: How can I ever repay you for all your kindness?

other, another

other: /ʌðər/

another: /əˈnʌðər/

naive

/naɪ'ɪv/ adj

naive

/naɪ'ɪv/ adj

nothing

/ˈnʌθɪŋ/

endow

/ɪn'daʊ/ v(t)

eg: In 1937, Mellon endowed the National Gallery of Art.

eg: This hospital was endowed by the citizens of Strasbourg in the 16th century.

eg: People think Jefferson was endowed with great wisdom.

coincide

/kəʊn'saɪd/ v(i)

eg: I timed my holiday to coincide with the children's.

eg: Our views coincide on a range of subjects.

eg: If our schedules coincide, we'll go to Spain together.

livelihood

/ˈlaɪvliːhʊd/ n(c,u)

= (the way someone earns) the money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

eg: Many ship workers could lose their livelihoods because of falling orders of new ships.

eg: They earn their livelihood from farming.

bread and butter

/,bred ən 'bʌtər/ n(u)

= a job or activity that provides you with the money
you need to live

eg: Gardening is my bread and butter right now.

punchline

/ˈpʌntʃlaɪn/ n(c)

= the last part of a story or a joke that explains the meaning of what has happened previously or makes it funny

eg: The punchline is that we must be cautious about naively assuming that our experiences resemble the w

catch

= n(s) a hidden problem or disadvantage

eg: Free food? It sounds too good to be true.

What's the catch?

catchline

/'kætflaɪn/ n(c)

= an advertising slogan

eg: There was an advert for tea that had the catchline:
 "Tea. Best Drink of the Day."

plunge

/plʌndʒ/ v(i,t)

= to (cause someone or something to) move or fall suddenly and often a long way forward, down, or into something.

eg: We ran down to the beach and plunged into the sea.

eg: The car went out of control and plunged over the cliff.

eg: The fall in demand caused share prices to plunge.

upmost

/ˈʌpməʊst/ adj

= in the highest position

eg: the upmost branches of the tree

backlash

/'bæklæʃ/ n(c)

= a strong, negative reaction to something, esp. to change

eg: the backlash against feminism