

Vocabulary Beamer 2020

2020 年 9 月 8 日

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(/'grʌmpi/) 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, 邮包

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.