



Appendix

Vocabulary Size Test Version A

The following is a version of the Vocabulary Size Test. This version is also available online at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/publications/paul-nation/VST-version-A.pdf>.

1. **see** They *saw it*.
 - a closed it tightly
 - b waited for it
 - c looked at it
 - d started it up
2. **time** They have a lot of *time*.
 - a money
 - b food
 - c hours
 - d friends
3. **period** It was a difficult *period*.
 - a question
 - b time
 - c thing to do
 - d book
4. **figure** Is this the right *figure*?
 - a answer
 - b place
 - c time
 - d number
5. **poor** We *are poor*.
 - a have no money
 - b feel happy
 - c are very interested
 - d do not like to work hard
6. **microphone** Please use the *microphone*.
 - a machine for making food hot
 - b machine that makes sounds louder
 - c machine that makes things look bigger
 - d small telephone that can be carried around

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7. **nil** His mark for that question was *nil*.
 a very bad
 b nothing
 c very good
 d in the middle
8. **pub** They went to the *pub*.
 a place where people drink and talk
 b place that looks after money
 c large building with many shops
 d building for swimming
9. **circle** Make a *circle*.
 a rough picture
 b space with nothing in it
 c round shape
 d large hole
10. **dig** Our dog often *digs*.
 a solves problems with things
 b creates a hole in the ground
 c wants to sleep
 d enters the water
11. **soldier** He is a *soldier*.
 a person in a business
 b person who studies
 c person who uses metal
 d person in the army
12. **restore** It has been *restored*.
 a said again
 b given to a different person
 c made like new again
 d given a lower price
13. **pro** He's a *pro*.
 a someone who is employed to find out important secrets
 b a stupid person
 c someone who writes for a newspaper
 d someone who is paid for playing sport
14. **compound** They made a new *compound*.
 a agreement
 b thing made of two or more parts
 c group of people forming a business
 d guess based on past experience
15. **deficit** The company *had a large deficit*.
 a spent a lot more money than it earned
 b went down a lot in value
 c had a plan for its spending that used a lot of money
 d had a lot of money stored in the bank
16. **strap** He broke the *strap*.
 a promise
 b top cover
 c shallow dish for food
 d strip of strong material
17. **weep** He *wept*.
 a finished his course
 b cried
 c died
 d worried
18. **haunt** The house is *haunted*.
 a full of decorations
 b rented
 c empty
 d full of ghosts
19. **cube** I need one more *cube*.
 a sharp thing used for joining things
 b solid square block
 c tall cup with no saucer
 d piece of stiff paper folded in half
20. **butler** They have a *butler*.
 a man servant
 b machine for cutting up trees
 c private teacher
 d cool dark room under the house

21. **nun** We saw a *nun*.
a long thin creature that lives in the earth
b terrible accident
c woman following a strict religious life
d unexplained bright light in the sky
22. **olive** We bought *olives*.
a oily fruit
b scented flowers
c men's swimming clothes
d tools for digging
23. **shudder** The boy *shuddered*.
a spoke with a low voice
b almost fell
c shook
d called out loudly
24. **threshold** They raised the *threshold*.
a flag
b point or line where something changes
c roof inside a building
d cost of borrowing money
25. **demography** This book is about *demography*.
a the study of patterns of land use
b the study of the use of pictures to show facts about numbers
c the study of the movement of water
d the study of population
26. **malign** His *malign* influence is still felt.
a good
b evil
c very important
d secret
27. **strangle** He *strangled* her.
a killed her by pressing her throat
b gave her all the things she wanted
c took her away by force
d admired her greatly
28. **dinosaur** The children were pretending to be *dinosaurs*.
a robbers who work at sea
b very small creatures with human form but with wings
c large creatures with wings that breathe fire
d animals that lived an extremely long time ago
29. **jug** He was holding a *jug*.
a a container for pouring liquids
b an informal discussion
c a soft cap
d a weapon that blows up
30. **crab** Do you like *crabs*?
a very thin small cakes
b tight, hard collars
c sea creatures that always walk to one side
d large black insects that sing at night
31. **quilt** They made a *quilt*.
a statement about who should get their property when they die
b firm agreement
c thick warm cover for a bed
d feather pen
32. **tummy** Look at my *tummy*.
a fabric to cover the head
b stomach
c small soft animal
d finger used for gripping
33. **eclipse** *There was an eclipse*.
a A strong wind blew all day
b I heard something hit the water
c A large number of people were killed
d The sun was hidden by the moon
34. **excrete** This was *excreted* recently.
a pushed or sent out
b made clear
c discovered by a science experiment
d put on a list of illegal things

35. **ubiquitous** Many unwanted plants *are ubiquitous*.
 a are difficult to get rid of
 b have long, strong roots
 c are found everywhere
 d die away in the winter
36. **marrow** This is *the marrow*.
 a symbol that brings good luck to a team
 b soft center of a bone
 c control for guiding a plane
 d increase in salary
37. **cabaret** We saw the *cabaret*.
 a painting covering a whole wall
 b song and dance performance
 c small crawling creature
 d person who is half fish, half woman
38. **cavalier** He treated her *in a cavalier manner*.
 a without care
 b with good manners
 c awkwardly
 d as a brother would
39. **veer** The car *veered*.
 a moved shakily
 b changed course
 c made a very loud noise
 d slid without the wheels turning
40. **yogurt** This *yogurt* is disgusting.
 a dark gray mud found at the bottom of rivers
 b unhealthy, open sore
 c thick, soured milk, often with sugar and flavoring
 d large purple fruit with soft flesh
41. **octopus** They saw *an octopus*.
 a a large bird that hunts at night
 b a ship that can go under water
 c a machine that flies by means of turning blades
 d a sea creature with eight legs
42. **monologue** Now he has a *monologue*.
 a single piece of glass to hold over his eye to help him to see
 b long turn at talking without being interrupted
 c position with all the power
 d picture made by joining letters together in interesting ways
43. **candid** Please *be candid*.
 a be careful
 b show sympathy
 c show fairness to both sides
 d say what you really think
44. **nozzle** Aim the *nozzle* toward it.
 a space that light passes through in a camera
 b dry patch of skin
 c pipe attachment that forces water
 d sharp part of a fork
45. **psychosis** He has *a psychosis*.
 a an inability to move
 b an oddly colored patch of skin
 c a body organ that processes sugar
 d a mental illness
46. **ruckus** He got hurt in the *ruckus*.
 a region between the stomach and the top of the leg
 b noisy street fight
 c group of players gathered round the ball in some ball games
 d race across a field of snow
47. **ruble** He had a lot of *rubles*.
 a very valuable red stones
 b distant members of his family
 c Russian money
 d moral or other difficulties in the mind

48. **canonical** These are *canonical examples*.
- examples that break the usual rules
 - examples taken from a religious book
 - regular and widely accepted examples
 - examples discovered very recently
49. **puree** This *puree* is bright green.
- fruit or vegetables in liquid form
 - dress worn by women in India
 - skin of a fruit
 - very thin material for evening dresses
50. **vial** Put it in a *vial*.
- device that stores electricity
 - country residence
 - dramatic scene
 - small glass bottle
51. **counterclaim** They made a *counterclaim*.
- a demand response made by one side in a law case
 - a request for a shop to take back things with faults
 - an agreement between two companies to exchange work
 - a decorative cover for a bed, which is always on top
52. **refectory** We met in the *refectory*.
- room for eating
 - office where legal papers can be signed
 - room for several people to sleep in
 - room with glass walls for growing plants
53. **trill** He practiced the *trill*.
- repeated high musical sound
 - type of stringed instrument
 - way of throwing the ball
 - dance step of turning round very fast on the toes
54. **talon** Just look at those *talons*!
- high points of mountains
 - sharp hooks on the feet of a hunting bird
 - heavy metal coats to protect against weapons
 - people who make fools of themselves without realizing it
55. **plankton** We saw a lot of *plankton* here.
- poisonous plants that spread very quickly
 - very small plants or animals found in water
 - trees producing hard wood
 - gray soil that often causes land to slip
56. **soliloquy** That was an excellent *soliloquy*!
- song for six people
 - short clever saying with a deep meaning
 - entertainment using lights and music
 - speech in the theatre by a character who is alone
57. **puma** They saw a *puma*.
- small house made of mud bricks
 - tree from hot, dry countries
 - large wild cat
 - very strong wind that lifts anything in its path
58. **augur** It *augured well*.
- promised good things for the future
 - agreed with what was expected
 - had a color that looked good with something else
 - rang with a clear, beautiful sound

59. **emir** We saw the *emir*.
 a bird with two long curved tail feathers
 b woman who cares for other people's children in eastern countries
 c Middle Eastern chief with power in his own land
 d house made from blocks of ice
60. **didactic** The story *is very didactic*.
 a tries hard to teach something
 b is very difficult to believe
 c deals with exciting actions
 d is written with unclear meaning
61. **cranny** Look what we found in the *cranny*!
 a sale of unwanted objects
 b narrow opening
 c space for storing things under the roof of a house
 d large wooden box
62. **lectern** He stood at the *lectern*.
 a desk made to hold a book at a good height for reading
 b table or block used for church ceremonies
 c place where you buy drinks
 d very edge
63. **azalea** This *azalea* is very pretty.
 a small tree with many flowers growing in groups
 b light natural fabric
 c long piece of material worn in India
 d seashell shaped like a fan
64. **marsupial** It is a *marsupial*.
 a an animal with hard feet
 b a plant that takes several years to grow
 c a plant with flowers that turn to face the sun
 d an animal with a pocket for babies
65. **bawdy** It was very *bawdy*.
 a unpredictable
 b innocent
 c rushed
 d indecent
66. **crowbar** He used a *crowbar*.
 a heavy iron pole with a curved end
 b false name
 c sharp tool for making holes in leather
 d light metal walking stick
67. **spangled** Her dress was *spangled*.
 a torn into thin strips
 b covered with small bright decorations
 c made with lots of folds of fabric
 d ruined by touching something very hot
68. **aver** She *averred* that it was the truth.
 a refused to agree
 b declared
 c believed
 d warned
69. **retro** It had a *retro look*.
 a a very fashionable look
 b the look of a piece of modern art
 c the look of something that has been used a lot before
 d the look of something from an earlier time
70. **rascal** She is such a *rascal* sometimes.
 a an unbeliever
 b a dedicated student
 c a hard worker
 d a bad girl
71. **tweezers** They used *tweezers*.
 a small pieces of metal for holding papers together
 b small pieces of string for closing wounds
 c a tool with two blades for picking up or holding small objects
 d strong tool for cutting plants

72. **bidet** They have a *bidet*.
- low basin for washing the body after using the toilet
 - large fierce brown dog
 - small private swimming pool
 - man to help in the house
73. **sloop** Whose *sloop* is that?
- warm hat
 - light sailing boat
 - left over food
 - untidy work
74. **swingeing** They got *swingeing fines*.
- very large fines
 - very small fines
 - fines paid in small amounts at a time
 - fines that vary depending on income
75. **cenotaph** We met at the *cenotaph*.
- large and important church
 - public square in the center of a town
 - memorial for people buried somewhere else
 - underground train station
76. **denouement** I was disappointed with the *denouement*.
- ending of a story that solves the mystery
 - amount of money paid for a piece of work
 - small place to live that is part of a bigger building
 - official report of the results of a political meeting
77. **bittern** She saw a *bittern*.
- large bottle for storing liquid
 - small green grass snake
 - false picture caused by hot air
 - water bird with long legs and a very loud call
78. **reconnoiter** They have gone to *reconnoiter*.
- think again
 - make an examination of a new place
 - have a good time to mark a happy event
 - complain formally
79. **magnanimity** We will never forget her *magnanimity*.
- very offensive and unfriendly manners
 - courage in times of trouble
 - generosity
 - completely sincere words
80. **effete** He has become *effete*.
- weak and soft
 - too fond of strong drink
 - unable to leave his bed
 - extremely easy to annoy
81. **rollick** They were *rollicking*.
- driving very fast
 - staying away from school without being permitted to
 - having fun in a noisy and spirited way
 - sliding on snow using round boards
82. **gobbet** The cat left a *gobbet* behind.
- strip of torn material
 - footprint
 - piece of solid waste from the body
 - lump of food returned from the stomach
83. **rigmarole** I hate the *rigmarole*.
- very fast and difficult dance for eight people
 - funny character in the theatre
 - form that must be completed each year for tax purposes
 - long, pointless, and complicated set of actions

84. **alimony** The article was about *alimony*.
- feelings of bitterness and annoyance, expressed sharply
 - money for the care of children, paid regularly after a divorce
 - giving praise for excellent ideas
 - a metal that breaks easily and is bluish white
85. **roughshod** He *rode roughshod*.
- traveled without good preparation
 - made lots of mistakes
 - did not consider other people's feelings
 - did not care about his own comfort
86. **copra** They supply *copra*.
- a highly poisonous substance used to kill unwanted plants
 - the dried meat from a large nut used to make oil
 - an illegal substance that makes people feel good for a short time
 - strong rope used on sailing ships
87. **bier** She lay on the *bier*.
- folding garden chair
 - grass next to a river
 - place where boats can be tied up
 - board on which a dead body is carried
88. **torpid** He was *in a torpid state*.
- undecided
 - filled with very strong feelings
 - confused and anxious
 - slow and sleepy
89. **dachshund** She loves her *dachshund*.
- warm fur hat
 - thick floor rug with special patterns
 - small dog with short legs and a long back
 - old musical instrument with twelve strings
90. **cadenza** What did you think of the *cadenza*?
- cake topped with cream and fruit
 - large box hanging from a wire that carries people up a mountain
 - slow formal dance from Italy
 - passage in a piece of music that shows the player's great skill
91. **obtrude** These thoughts *obtruded themselves*.
- got themselves lost or forgotten
 - did not agree with each other
 - got mixed up with each other
 - pushed themselves forward in the mind
92. **panzer** They saw the *panzers* getting nearer.
- players in a marching band
 - fighter planes
 - large, slow windowless army cars
 - policewomen
93. **cyborg** She read about *a cyborg*.
- an integrated human-machine system
 - a musical instrument with forty strings
 - a small, newly invented object
 - a warm wind in winter
94. **zygote** It is *a zygote*.
- an early phase of sexual reproduction
 - a lot of bother over nothing
 - a small animal found in southern Africa
 - a gun used to launch rockets
95. **sylvan** The painting had a *sylvan* theme.
- lost love
 - wandering
 - forest
 - casual folk

96. **sagacious** She had many ideas that were *sagacious*.
- a instinctively clever
 - b ridiculous and wild
 - c about abusing people and being abused
 - d rebellious and dividing
97. **spatiotemporal** My theory is *spatiotemporal*.
- a focused on small details
 - b annoying to people
 - c objectionably modern
 - d oriented to time and space
98. **casuist** Don't *play the casuist* with me!
- a focus only on self-pleasure
 - b act like a tough guy
 - c make judgments about my conduct of duty
 - d be stupid
99. **cyberpunk** I like *cyberpunk*.
- a medicine that does not use drugs
 - b one variety of science fiction
 - c the art and science of eating
 - d a society ruled by technical experts
100. **pussyfoot** Let's not *pussyfoot* around.
- a criticize unreasonably
 - b take care to avoid confrontation
 - c attack indirectly
 - d suddenly start

VOCABULARY SIZE TEST ANSWERS

The following is the answer key of the version of the Vocabulary Size Test above. This answer key is also available online at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/publications/paul-nation/VST-version-A_answers.pdf.

1. see	c	35. ubiquitous	c	69. retro	d
2. time	c	36. marrow	b	70. rascal	d
3. period	b	37. cabaret	b	71. tweezers	c
4. figure	d	38. cavalier	a	72. bidet	a
5. poor	a	39. veer	b	73. sloop	b
6. microphone	b	40. yogurt	c	74. swingeing	a
7. nil	b	41. octopus	d	75. cenotaph	c
8. pub	a	42. monologue	b	76. denouement	a
9. circle	c	43. candid	d	77. bittern	d
10. dig	b	44. nozzle	c	78. reconnoiter	b
11. soldier	d	45. psychosis	d	79. magnanimity	c
12. restore	c	46. ruckus	c	80. effete	a
13. pro	d	47. ruble	c	81. rollick	c
14. compound	b	48. canonical	c	82. gobbet	d
15. deficit	a	49. puree	a	83. rigmarole	d
16. strap	d	50. vial	d	84. alimony	b
17. weep	b	51. counterclaim	a	85. roughshod	c
18. haunt	d	52. refectory	a	86. copra	b
19. cube	b	53. trill	a	87. bier	d
20. butler	a	54. talon	b	88. torpid	d
21. nun	c	55. plankton	b	89. dachshund	c
22. olive	a	56. soliloquy	d	90. cadenza	d
23. shudder	c	57. puma	c	91. obtrude	d
24. threshold	b	58. augur	a	92. panzer	c
25. demography	d	59. emir	c	93. cyborg	a
26. malign	b	60. didactic	a	94. zygote	a
27. strangle	a	61. cranny	b	95. sylvan	c
28. dinosaur	d	62. lectern	a	96. sagacious	a
29. jug	a	63. azalea	a	97. spatiotemporal	d
30. crab	c	64. marsupial	d	98. casuist	c
31. quilt	c	65. bawdy	d	99. cyberpunk	b
32. tummy	b	66. crowbar	a	100. pussyfoot	b
33. eclipse	d	67. spangled	b		
34. excrete	a	68. aver	b		