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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Petra Sijpesteijn and Birte Kristiansen: The rise and fall of the medieval Islamic Empire | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/petra_sijpesteijn_and_birte_kristiansen_the_rise_and_fall_of_the_medieval_islamic_empire

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

peninsula

n. a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land

synonym: cape, foreland

(1) the tip of the **peninsula**, (2) the Arab **peninsula**

That **peninsula** was an essential base for the country's defense.

nomadic

adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

synonym: mobile, migratory, wandering

(1) **nomadic** life, (2) **nomadic** herdsmen

This desert is the territory of **nomadic** tribes.

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax

His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

mecca

n. a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam

synonym: cynosure, center

(1) tourist **mecca**, (2) **mecca** for surfers

The building has become a **mecca** for fans of the movie.

reckon

v. to think or believe something

synonym : regard, imagine, suppose

(1) hard to **reckon**, (2) **reckon** the company as a rival

He **reckons** that corruption was rampant in the regime.

contentious

adj. likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue

synonym : antagonistic, combative, confrontational

(1) **contentious** subject, (2) **contentious** debate

There are many **contentious** issues in claiming a patent.

victorious

adj. being the winner in a game, competition, election, war, etc.

synonym : triumphant, winning

(1) the **victorious** entry, (2) the **victorious** army

The **victorious** troops marched back to their homeland.

caliphate

n. an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of caliph

(1) the medieval **Caliphate**, (2) **Caliphate** lasted for four years

During the **Caliphate** of Umar, many new cities were founded.

conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

synonym : defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

dissent

n. possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted

synonym : discord, conflict, disagreement

(1) **dissent** opinion, (2) with no **dissent**

The dictatorship crushes all **dissent** severely.

erupt

v. (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

synonym: eject, emit, burst

(1) **erupt** in anger, (2) **erupt** into tears

Battles between whites and blacks **erupted** immediately.

assassin

n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

synonym: killer, manslayer

(1) fall victim to an **assassin**, (2) would-be **assassin**

She hired an **assassin** to kill her opponent.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

unify

v. to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit

synonym: bring together, consolidate, merge

(1) **unify** the system, (2) **unify** the party

The people believe that they can **unify** the country.

dissatisfy

v. to fail to satisfy someone

synonym: disappoint, disgruntle, dishearten

(1) **dissatisfy** the users with bugs, (2) **dissatisfy** people with service

The company's results **dissatisfy** everyone.

dynasty

n. a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country

(1) **dynasty** of China, (2) during the Ming **dynasty**

During the Habsburg **dynasty**, colonization began.

legitimacy

n. the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a

reasonable or acceptable reason

synonym : legality, lawfulness, authenticity

(1) democratic **legitimacy**, (2) challenge the **legitimacy**

I'm going to deny the **legitimacy** of his claim.

capitalize

v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

synonym : bankroll, finance, endow

(1) **capitalize** on an interest, (2) **capitalize** the 1st letter of a word

You must **capitalize** on your full of opportunities to become a professor.

sentimental

adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

synonym : bathetic, drippy, maudlin

(1) in a **sentimental** mood, (2) **sentimental** damage

Stop being **sentimental** and always speak the truth.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym : child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation

descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

tenuous

adj. very weak or slight that it hardly exists

synonym : slight, fragile, slender

(1) **tenuous** relationship, (2) **tenuous** link

Evidence submitted by attorneys is **tenuous** due to a lack of objectivity.

overthrow

v. to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force

synonym : defeat, destroy, conquer

(1) **overthrow** the government, (2) **overthrow** the theory

The group aims to **overthrow** the military regime.

relocate

v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there

synonym: emigrate, resettle, migrate

(1) **relocate** a company, (2) **relocate** with a new job

The university **relocated** to campuses several miles away.

intermingle

v. to mix something such as people, ideas, colors, etc.; to become mixed

synonym: blend, mix, amalgamate

(1) **intermingle** with other tribes, (2) two companies

became **intermingled**

Salt and sugar **intermingle** with each other.

dictate

v. to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

synonym: read out, prescribe, order

(1) **dictate** a letter to secretary, (2) **dictate** to the associate

The allies **dictated** the terms of surrender to the country.

nephew

n. a son of your brother or sister

(1) three-year-old **nephew**, (2) nieces and **nephews**

My **nephew** is eight months old and still being breastfed.

concubine

n. a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife

synonym: paramour, doxy

(1) **concubine** system, (2) his favorite **concubine**

The Sultan's wives and **concubines** lived in the harem together.

treasury

n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual

synonym: coffer, exchequer, bank

(1) **treasury** bonds, (2) **treasury** money

The protracted war nearly depleted the country's **treasury**.

entourage

n. a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person

synonym: retinue

(1) presidential **entourage**, (2) member of his **entourage**

The politician and his **entourage** arrived half an hour late.

favoritism

n. the act of giving one person or group unfair support by someone in authority

synonym: bias, partiality, discrimination

(1) national **favoritism**, (2) act of **favoritism**

Their company survives due to political **favoritism**.

decadent

adj. characterized by or showing a state of moral or cultural decline

synonym: effete, depraved, corrupt

(1) **decadent** country, (2) have a **decadent** time

He had been living a **decadent** life after being fired from his job.

trample

v. to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury

synonym: tread, stomp, crush

(1) **trample** down his feelings, (2) **trample** on the rights

The plants in this garden are precious, so you must not **trample** them.

siege

n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

synonym: blockade, encirclement, barricade

(1) hostage **siege**, (2) lay **siege** to his house

People began storing up food and supplies for the **siege**.

longstanding

adj. having existed for a long time

synonym: deep-rooted, continuing

(1) **longstanding** relationship, (2) **longstanding** tradition
The **longstanding** trading built mutual reliance.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. dis_____fy people with service | <i>v.</i> to fail to satisfy someone |
| 2. three-year-old ne____w | <i>n.</i> a son of your brother or sister |
| 3. act of fav_____sm | <i>n.</i> the act of giving one person or group unfair support by someone in authority |
| 4. co_____r the world | <i>v.</i> to bring under control by force or authority |
| 5. di_____t opinion | <i>n.</i> possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted |
| 6. co_____r fatal disease | <i>v.</i> to bring under control by force or authority |
| 7. Ca_____te lasted for four years | <i>n.</i> an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of caliph |
| 8. the tip of the pe_____la | <i>n.</i> a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land |
| 9. tr_____ry money | <i>n.</i> the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual |
| 10. hostage si__e | <i>n.</i> the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it |
| 11. the vic_____us army | <i>adj.</i> being the winner in a game, competition, election, war, etc. |

ANSWERS: 1. dissatisfy, 2. nephew, 3. favoritism, 4. conquer, 5. dissent, 6. conquer, 7. caliphate, 8. peninsula, 9. treasury, 10. siege, 11. victorious

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12. have a de_____nt time | <i>adj.</i> characterized by or showing a state of moral or cultural decline |
| 13. st_____ze blood sugar levels | <i>v.</i> to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way |
| 14. dis_____fy the users with bugs | <i>v.</i> to fail to satisfy someone |
| 15. nieces and ne____ws | <i>n.</i> a son of your brother or sister |
| 16. tr_____ry bonds | <i>n.</i> the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual |
| 17. te_____s link | <i>adj.</i> very weak or slight that it hardly exists |
| 18. un__y the party | <i>v.</i> to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit |
| 19. cap_____ze the 1st letter of a word | <i>v.</i> to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something |
| 20. lay si__e to his house | <i>n.</i> the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it |
| 21. tr_____e down his feelings | <i>v.</i> to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury |
| 22. re_____te with a new job | <i>v.</i> to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there |
| 23. would-be as_____in | <i>n.</i> a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money |

ANSWERS: 12. decadent, 13. stabilize, 14. dissatisfy, 15. nephew, 16. treasury, 17. tenuous, 18. unify, 19. capitalize, 20. siege, 21. trample, 22. relocate, 23. assassin

24. cap_____ze on an interest *v.* to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something
25. inh_____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
26. the medieval Ca_____te *n.* an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of caliph
27. un__y the system *v.* to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit
28. the vic_____us entry *adj.* being the winner in a game, competition, election, war, etc.
29. er__t into tears *v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently
30. hard to re___n *v.* to think or believe something
31. presidential en_____ge *n.* a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person
32. during the Ming dy_____y *n.* a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
33. no_____c herdsmen *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
34. member of his en_____ge *n.* a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person

ANSWERS: 24. capitalize, 25. inhabitant, 26. caliphate, 27. unify, 28. victorious, 29. erupt, 30. reckon, 31. entourage, 32. dynasty, 33. nomadic, 34. entourage

35. con_____us subject *adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue
36. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
37. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
38. ov_____ow the government *v.* to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force
39. re_____te a company *v.* to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there
40. lon_____ing relationship *adj.* having existed for a long time
41. di_____e a letter to secretary *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
42. des_____nt of a pioneer *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
43. er__t in anger *v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently
44. con_____us debate *adj.* likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue
45. democratic leg_____cy *n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

ANSWERS: 35. contentious, 36. stabilize, 37. intellect, 38. overthrow, 39. relocate, 40. longstanding, 41. dictate, 42. descendant, 43. erupt, 44. contentious, 45. legitimacy

46. co_____ne system *n.* a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife
47. tr_____e on the rights *v.* to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury
48. challenge the leg_____cy *n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason
49. no_____c life *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
50. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
51. fall victim to an as_____in *n.* a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money
52. di_____e to the associate *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
53. te_____s relationship *adj.* very weak or slight that it hardly exists
54. de_____nt country *adj.* characterized by or showing a state of moral or cultural decline
55. ov_____ow the theory *v.* to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force
56. the Arab pe_____la *n.* a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land

ANSWERS: 46. concubine, 47. trample, 48. legitimacy, 49. nomadic, 50. intellect, 51. assassin, 52. dictate, 53. tenuous, 54. decadent, 55. overthrow, 56. peninsula

57. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
58. tourist me__a *n.* a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam
59. his favorite co_____ne *n.* a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife
60. sen_____al damage *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism
61. int_____le with other tribes *v.* to mix something such as people, ideas, colors, etc.; to become mixed
62. national fav_____sm *n.* the act of giving one person or group unfair support by someone in authority
63. with no di_____t *n.* possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted
64. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
65. re___n the company as a rival *v.* to think or believe something
66. in a sen_____al mood *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism
67. lon_____ing tradition *adj.* having existed for a long time
68. two companies became
int_____led *v.* to mix something such as people, ideas, colors, etc.; to become mixed

ANSWERS: 57. inhabitant, 58. mecca, 59. concubine, 60. sentimental, 61. intermingle, 62. favoritism, 63. dissent, 64. descendant, 65. reckon, 66. sentimental, 67. longstanding, 68. intermingle

69. dy____y of China

n. a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country

70. me__a for surfers

n. a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam

ANSWERS: 69. dynasty, 70. mecca

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ troops marched back to their homeland.
adj. being the winner in a game, competition, election, war, etc.

2. People began storing up food and supplies for the _____.
n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

3. She hired an _____ to kill her opponent.
n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

4. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

5. You must _____ your anxiety about driving.
v. to bring under control by force or authority

6. He had been living a _____ life after being fired from his job.
adj. characterized by or showing a state of moral or cultural decline

7. The allies _____ the terms of surrender to the country.
v. to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

8. The _____ trading built mutual reliance.
adj. having existed for a long time

ANSWERS: 1. victorious, 2. siege, 3. assassin, 4. inhabitant, 5. conquer, 6. decadent, 7. dictated, 8. longstanding

9. The company's results _____ everyone.

v. to fail to satisfy someone

10. The plants in this garden are precious, so you must not _____ them.

v. to step heavily on something or someone, causing damage or injury

11. There are many _____ issues in claiming a patent.

adj. likely to cause people to disagree and argue; liking to argue

12. Their company survives due to political _____.

n. the act of giving one person or group unfair support by someone in authority

13. Salt and sugar _____ with each other.

v. to mix something such as people, ideas, colors, etc.; to become mixed

14. The people believe that they can _____ the country.

v. to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit

15. You must _____ on your full of opportunities to become a professor.

v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

16. The protracted war nearly depleted the country's _____.

n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual

17. Battles between whites and blacks _____ immediately.

v. (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

ANSWERS: 9. dissatisfy, 10. trample, 11. contentious, 12. favoritism, 13. intermingle, 14. unify, 15. capitalize, 16. treasury, 17. erupted

18. This desert is the territory of _____ tribes.

adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

19. During the Habsburg _____ colonization began.

n. a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country

20. Evidence submitted by attorneys is _____ due to a lack of objectivity.

adj. very weak or slight that it hardly exists

21. The building has become a _____ for fans of the movie.

n. a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam

22. The politician and his _____ arrived half an hour late.

n. a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person

23. The Sultan's wives and _____ lived in the harem together.

n. a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife

24. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

25. During the _____ of Umar, many new cities were founded.

n. an Islamic state under the leadership of an Islamic steward with the title of caliph

ANSWERS: 18. nomadic, 19. dynasty, 20. tenuous, 21. mecca, 22. entourage, 23. concubines, 24. descendants, 25. Caliphate

26. The university _____ to campuses several miles away.

- v.* to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there

27. That _____ was an essential base for the country's defense.

- n.* a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land

28. The group aims to _____ the military regime.

- v.* to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force

29. He _____ that corruption was rampant in the regime.

- v.* to think or believe something

30. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

31. I'm going to deny the _____ of his claim.

- n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

32. My _____ is eight months old and still being breastfed.

- n.* a son of your brother or sister

33. Stop being _____ and always speak the truth.

- adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

ANSWERS: 26. relocated, 27. peninsula, 28. overthrow, 29. reckons, 30. intellect, 31. legitimacy, 32. nephew, 33. sentimental

34. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

35. The dictatorship crushes all _____ severely.

n. possessing or expressing views that differ from those that are officially accepted

ANSWERS: 34. stabilizes, 35. dissent