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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

William T. Taylor: How horses changed history | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

captivate

v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of

synonym: enchant, charm, fascinate

(1) **captivate** public sentiment, (2) **captivate** the mind

The magician **captivated** the audience with his illusions.

hitch

v. to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle

synonym: fasten, jerk, tether

(1) **hitch** a ride, (2) **hitch** up my trousers

The mechanics **hitched** the trailer to the broken-down car.

equid

n. any member of the horse family, including horses, donkeys, and zebras

synonym: horse, equine, mare

(1) the hooves of **equids**, (2) **equid** evolution

The **equid** family includes horses, zebras, and donkeys.

trot

v. to run or jog at a moderate pace; to walk with long, quick strides

synonym: jog, run, race

(1) **trot** across the street, (2) **trot** off happily

She **trotted** to keep up with him.

diversify

v. to make something include more different types or things; to spread out activities or investments

synonym: branch out, expand, broaden

(1) **diversify** my portfolio, (2) **diversify** energy sources

This inclusive environment has allowed the plant species to **diversify**.

lineage

n. the ancestry of a person, group, or species

synonym: ancestry, descent, heritage

(1) maternal **lineage**, (2) **lineage** tree

Scientists traced the **lineage** of the species back millions of years by studying fossils.

donkey

n. a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person

synonym: horse, burro, mule

(1) male **donkey**, (2) **donkey** ride

The little boy rode the **donkey** at the county fair.

zebra

n. a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes

synonym: striped horse, wild horse

(1) **zebra** pattern, (2) **zebra** crossing

The **zebra's** distinctive black and white stripes help it blend into its surroundings in the wild.

bison

n. a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison

synonym: buffalo

(1) endangered **bison**, (2) American **bison's** meat

Large herds of **bison** used to live on the plains of this area.

archaeology

n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**

She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

domesticate

v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

synonym: tame, naturalize, cultivate

(1) easy to **domesticate**, (2) **domesticate** the plant

We **domesticate** cows to gain milk and meat.

bridle

n. a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions

synonym: restraint, halter, headgear

(1) put a **bridle** on my tongue, (2) **bridle** horses

The horse would not cooperate and constantly fought against the **bridle**.

chariot

n. a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing

(1) **chariot** builder, (2) **chariot** race

The ancient Romans enjoyed spectating **chariot** races.

horseback

n. the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse

synonym: equestrian, horse riding, mounted

(1) **horseback** trek, (2) **horseback** adventure

We went on a scenic trail ride on **horseback** through the mountains.

stirrup

n. a device hanging from a horse's saddle and used to support the rider's foot, especially while mounting or riding; figuratively, something that provides support, especially in difficult situations

synonym: stirrup iron, footrest, foothold

(1) **stirrup** leather, (2) **stirrup** iron

The rider adjusted his **stirrup** before mounting the horse.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

cavalry

n. a highly mobile army unit

(1) troop of **cavalry**, (2) superbly trained **cavalry**

The **cavalry** regrouped and launched another attack.

proWess

n. exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage

synonym: expertise, skill, ability

(1) economic **proWess**, (2) intellectual **proWess**

The athlete's **proWess** in her sport earned her many accolades.

ceremonial

adj. of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one

synonym: ritual, formal, solemn

(1) wear a **ceremonial** dress, (2) **ceremonial** speech

The wedding was a grand **ceremonial** occasion with many traditional elements.

advantageous

adj. providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial

synonym: beneficial, favorable, profitable

(1) **advantageous** conditions, (2) **advantageous** interest rate

The new job opportunity offered by the company is highly **advantageous**.

covet

v. to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for

synonym: desire, yearn, crave

(1) **covet** wealth, (2) **covet** fame

She couldn't help but **covet** her friend's designer handbag.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym: ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

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**.

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 dessert is the territory of **nomadic** tribes.

coalesce

v. to come together or merge into a single group, mass, or whole; to blend or combine elements or ideas into a unified whole

synonym: merge, combine, unite

(1) **coalesce** ideas, (2) **coalesce** with the other

The various departments of the company will **coalesce** into one cohesive unit.

unstoppable

adj. impossible to stop or prevent

synonym: unshakable, unyielding, relentless

(1) **unstoppable** force, (2) **unstoppable** momentum

The team's winning streak was **unstoppable**.

topple

v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing

synonym: overturn, capsize, upset

(1) **topple** communist rule, (2) **topple** off a ledge
The statue was old and unstable, so it easily **toppled** over.

unthinkable

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

synonym: impossible, inconceivable, outlandish

(1) an **unthinkable** coincidence, (2) in **unthinkable** trouble
That accident was something **unthinkable** with my long experience.

well-being

n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

synonym: health, welfare, happiness

(1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being**
We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

graze

v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

synonym: nibble, feed, scrape

(1) turn cattle out to **graze**, (2) **graze** the left shoulder
The sheep **graze** on the green grass in the meadow.

pastureland

n. an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock

synonym: grazing land, meadow, range

(1) **pastureland** management, (2) **pastureland** ecology
The cow grazed in the lush **pastureland**.

steed

n. a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

synonym: horse, mount, charger

(1) a matchless **steed**, (2) black **steed**
The knight rode his trusty **steed** into battle.

spur

n. a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something

synonym:

encouragement, motivation, stimulus

(1) **spur** of the moment, (2) **spur** a momentum of economic growth

The threat of losing his job was the **spur** he needed to work harder.

equestrian

adj. relating to or involving horses or horse riding

synonym: horseback, horse-riding, horse-mounted

(1) **equestrian** sport, (2) an **equestrian** statue

The **equestrian** event was one of the highlights of the competition.

reintroduce

v. to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued

synonym: bring back, restore, reestablish

(1) **reintroduce** species, (2) **reintroduce** capital punishment

The government is planning to **reintroduce** wolves to the national park to restore the balance of the ecosystem.

expansive

adj. large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk

synonym: large, extensive, vast

(1) with an **expansive** spirit, (2) **expansive** ocean views

The company has an **expansive** network of offices and locations around the world.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym: settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

multifaceted

adj. having many different aspects, features, or sides; complex and varied

synonym : complex, diverse, versatile

(1) a **multifaceted** undertaking, (2) **multifaceted** problem

The job requires excellent communication skills and a **multifaceted** approach to problem-solving.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. an unt_____le coincidence | <i>adj.</i> too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept |
| 2. co__t wealth | <i>v.</i> to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for |
| 3. dom_____te the plant | <i>v.</i> to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company |
| 4. co_____ze planets | <i>v.</i> to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers |
| 5. di_____fy my portfolio | <i>v.</i> to make something include more different types or things; to spread out activities or investments |
| 6. hi__h a ride | <i>v.</i> to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle |
| 7. prehistoric arc_____gy | <i>n.</i> the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures |
| 8. ch_____t builder | <i>n.</i> a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing |
| 9. t__t off happily | <i>v.</i> to run or jog at a moderate pace; to walk with long, quick strides |
| 10. with an ex_____ve spirit | <i>adj.</i> large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk |

ANSWERS: 1. unthinkable, 2. covet, 3. domesticate, 4. colonize, 5. diversify, 6. hitch, 7. archaeology, 8. chariot, 9. trot, 10. expansive

11. co__t fame *v.* to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for
12. ca_____te the mind *v.* to attract and hold the attention or interest of
13. ze__a crossing *n.* a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes
14. a sense of wel_____ng *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
15. superbly trained ca_____y *n.* a highly mobile army unit
16. maternal li_____e *n.* the ancestry of a person, group, or species
17. the institute of arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
18. hostage si__e *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
19. in unt_____le trouble *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
20. st_____p leather *n.* a device hanging from a horse's saddle and used to support the rider's foot, especially while mounting or riding; figuratively, something that provides support, especially in difficult situations
21. gr__e the left shoulder *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

ANSWERS: 11. covet, 12. captivate, 13. zebra, 14. well-being, 15. cavalry, 16. lineage, 17. archaeology, 18. siege, 19. unthinkable, 20. stirrup, 21. graze

22. ze__a pattern *n.* a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes
23. male do___y *n.* a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person
24. cer_____al speech *adj.* of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one
25. em_____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
26. an equ_____an statue *adj.* relating to or involving horses or horse riding
27. co_____ce ideas *v.* to come together or merge into a single group, mass, or whole; to blend or combine elements or ideas into a unified whole
28. t__t across the street *v.* to run or jog at a moderate pace; to walk with long, quick strides
29. a mul_____ted undertaking *adj.* having many different aspects, features, or sides; complex and varied
30. easy to dom_____te *v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
31. adv_____ous interest rate *adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
32. br___e horses *n.* a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions

ANSWERS: 22. zebra, 23. donkey, 24. ceremonial, 25. emperor, 26. equestrian, 27. coalesce, 28. trot, 29. multifaceted, 30. domesticate, 31. advantageous, 32. bridle

33. ho_____ck adventure *n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
34. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
35. co_____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
36. intellectual pr_____s *n.* exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage
37. uns_____le force *adj.* impossible to stop or prevent
38. co_____ce with the other *v.* to come together or merge into a single group, mass, or whole; to blend or combine elements or ideas into a unified whole
39. endangered bi__n *n.* a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison
40. rei_____ce species *v.* to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued
41. to___e communist rule *v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
42. black st__d *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle
43. troop of ca_____y *n.* a highly mobile army unit

ANSWERS: 33. horseback, 34. improvisation, 35. colonize, 36. prowess, 37. unstoppable, 38. coalesce, 39. bison, 40. reintroduce, 41. topple, 42. steed, 43. cavalry

44. no_____c life *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
45. mul_____ted problem *adj.* having many different aspects, features, or sides; complex and varied
46. turn cattle out to gr__e *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
47. hi__h up my trousers *v.* to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle
48. American bi__n's meat *n.* a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison
49. wear a cer_____al dress *adj.* of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one
50. the wel_____ng of a nation *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
51. to___e off a ledge *v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
52. rei_____ce capital punishment *v.* to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued
53. lay si__e to his house *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

ANSWERS: 44. nomadic, 45. multifaceted, 46. graze, 47. hitch, 48. bison, 49. ceremonial, 50. well-being, 51. topple, 52. reintroduce, 53. siege

54. former em____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
55. ho_____ck trek *n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
56. the hooves of eq__ds *n.* any member of the horse family, including horses, donkeys, and zebras
57. ca_____te public sentiment *v.* to attract and hold the attention or interest of
58. s__r of the moment *n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
59. no_____c herdsmen *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
60. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
61. adv_____ous conditions *adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
62. eq__d evolution *n.* any member of the horse family, including horses, donkeys, and zebras
63. put a br___e on my tongue *n.* a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions
64. di_____fy energy sources *v.* to make something include more different types or things; to spread out activities or investments

ANSWERS: 54. emperor, 55. horseback, 56. equid, 57. captivate, 58. spur, 59. nomadic, 60. improvisation, 61. advantageous, 62. equid, 63. bridle, 64. diversify

65. li_____e tree *n.* the ancestry of a person, group, or species
66. do___y ride *n.* a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person
67. equ_____an sport *adj.* relating to or involving horses or horse riding
68. st_____p iron *n.* a device hanging from a horse's saddle and used to support the rider's foot, especially while mounting or riding; figuratively, something that provides support, especially in difficult situations
69. s__r a momentum of economic growth *n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
70. economic pr_____s *n.* exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage
71. pas_____nd management *n.* an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock
72. ch_____t race *n.* a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
73. a matchless st__d *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle
74. pas_____nd ecology *n.* an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock

ANSWERS: 65. lineage, 66. donkey, 67. equestrian, 68. stirrup, 69. spur, 70. prowess, 71. pastureland, 72. chariot, 73. steed, 74. pastureland

75. uns_____le momentum

adj. impossible to stop or prevent

76. ex_____ve ocean views

adj. large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk

ANSWERS: 75. unstoppable, 76. expansive

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The statue was old and unstable, so it easily _____ over.
v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
2. The magician _____ the audience with his illusions.
v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of
3. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
4. The sheep _____ on the green grass in the meadow.
v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
5. She _____ to keep up with him.
v. to run or jog at a moderate pace; to walk with long, quick strides
6. The _____ regrouped and launched another attack.
n. a highly mobile army unit
7. The threat of losing his job was the _____ he needed to work harder.
n. a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
8. This dessert is the territory of _____ tribes.
adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

ANSWERS: 1. toppled, 2. captivated, 3. colonized, 4. graze, 5. trotted, 6. cavalry, 7. spur, 8. nomadic

9. The _____ family includes horses, zebras, and donkeys.
n. any member of the horse family, including horses, donkeys, and zebras
10. The government is planning to _____ wolves to the national park to restore the balance of the ecosystem.
v. to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued
11. Scientists traced the _____ of the species back millions of years by studying fossils.
n. the ancestry of a person, group, or species
12. The horse would not cooperate and constantly fought against the _____.
n. a headgear used to control a horse, consisting of a set of straps that fit around the head, often including a bit and reins; figuratively, a means of restraint or control over something, typically one's words or actions
13. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
14. The _____ event was one of the highlights of the competition.
adj. relating to or involving horses or horse riding
15. The ancient Romans enjoyed spectating _____ races.
n. a two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome for warfare and racing
16. The rider adjusted his _____ before mounting the horse.
n. a device hanging from a horse's saddle and used to support the rider's foot, especially while mounting or riding; figuratively, something that provides support, especially in difficult situations

ANSWERS: 9. equid, 10. reintroduce, 11. lineage, 12. bridle, 13. improvisation, 14. equestrian, 15. chariot, 16. stirrup

17. 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
18. This inclusive environment has allowed the plant species to _____.
- v.* to make something include more different types or things; to spread out activities or investments
19. We are responsible for the care and _____ of all our employees.
- n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
20. The new job opportunity offered by the company is highly _____.
- adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
21. The cow grazed in the lush _____.
- n.* an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock
22. The job requires excellent communication skills and a _____ approach to problem-solving.
- adj.* having many different aspects, features, or sides; complex and varied
23. We went on a scenic trail ride on _____ through the mountains.
- n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
24. The wedding was a grand _____ occasion with many traditional elements.
- adj.* of or relating to a ceremony (= a formal event performed on a special occasion) or ritual, especially a formal or elaborate one
25. The various departments of the company will _____ into one cohesive unit.
- v.* to come together or merge into a single group, mass, or whole; to blend or combine elements or ideas into a unified whole

ANSWERS: 17. siege, 18. diversify, 19. well-being, 20. advantageous, 21. pastureland, 22. multifaceted, 23. horseback, 24. ceremonial, 25. coalesce

26. She teaches _____ at the local university.
n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
27. The _____ distinctive black and white stripes help it blend into its surroundings in the wild.
n. a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes
28. The team's winning streak was _____.
adj. impossible to stop or prevent
29. That accident was something _____ with my long experience.
adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
30. The mechanics _____ the trailer to the broken-down car.
v. to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle
31. The company has an _____ network of offices and locations around the world.
adj. large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
32. Large herds of _____ used to live on the plains of this area.
n. a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison
33. The athlete's _____ in her sport earned her many accolades.
n. exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage

ANSWERS: 26. archaeology, 27. zebra's, 28. unstoppable, 29. unthinkable, 30. hitched, 31. expansive, 32. bison, 33. prowess

34. She couldn't help but _____ her friend's designer handbag.

- v.* to strongly desire or crave something, particularly something that belongs to someone else; to have an excessive or envious desire for

35. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.

- n.* the male ruler of an empire

36. The little boy rode the _____ at the county fair.

- n.* a domesticated mammal related to the horse, similar in appearance but with longer ears and a shorter mane; a foolish or stupid person

37. We _____ cows to gain milk and meat.

- v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

38. The knight rode his trusty _____ into battle.

- n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

ANSWERS: 34. covet, 35. Emperor, 36. donkey, 37. domesticate, 38. steed