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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Gina Gutierrez: The relationship between sex and imagination | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

murmur

v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath

synonym: burble, gurgle, mutter

(1) **murmur** at low wages, (2) **murmur** a greeting
He always **murmurs** at the ill-treatment.

flirt

v. to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men

synonym: tease

(1) **flirt** with him, (2) **flirt** like a schoolgirl
My husband never **flirts** with other women.

pleasurable

adj. giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable

synonym: comforting, enjoyable, gratifying

(1) a **pleasurable** experience, (2) have a very **pleasurable** time

Our marital life was full of happiness and **pleasurable** excitement.

arouse

v. to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response

synonym: excite, stimulate, stir

(1) **arouse** desire, (2) **arouse** suspicion

The rousing speech by the politician **aroused** the audience to action.

cognition

n. the psychological process of perception and learning and reasoning; the mental action or process by which knowledge and understanding are developed in the mind

synonym : awareness, understanding, comprehension

(1) social **cognition**, (2) **cognition** disorder

The professor focused on the research of infant **cognition**.

penetrate

v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

synonym : pierce, stab, go through

(1) **penetrate** a cell, (2) **penetrate** quickly into the skin

Western ideology slowly **penetrates** through the eastern countries.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym : authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

unsatisfying

adj. not fulfilling someone's desires, expectations, or needs; incomplete or inadequate.

synonym : disappointing, dissatisfying, subpar

(1) **unsatisfying** labor, (2) **unsatisfying** reality

The meal was **unsatisfying** and left her feeling hungry an hour later.

hookup

n. a device providing a connection between a power source and a user; a sexual encounter, usually between two people who are not in a committed relationship or do not know each other well

synonym: connection, rendezvous, one-night stand

(1) electric **hookup**, (2) casual **hookup**

We must buy cables for the audio **hookup** between the TV and the soundbar.

hunch

v. to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof

synonym: crouch, guess, speculate

(1) **hunch** against the rain, (2) **hunch** up the shoulders
I **hunch** over my computer all day, and my back aches after a while.

fascination

n. the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

synonym: allure, attraction, charm

(1) rapt in **fascination**, (2) the **fascination** with classical music

I looked at the painting in **fascination**.

immerse

v. to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

synonym: dip, inundate, submerge

(1) **immerse** the cloth in the dye, (2) completely **immerse** the ingredient

He **immersed** himself in his research.

evocative

adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind

synonym: suggestive, stimulating, provocative

(1) **evocative** memories, (2) **evocative** language

The music was **evocative** of a bygone era.

chirp

n. a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers

synonym: tweet, chirrup, peep

(1) the **chirp** of a bird, (2) the **chirp** of a cricket
The sound of the **chirp** woke me up early in the morning.

fleck

n. a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance

synonym: spot, speck, dot

(1) **fleck** of paint, (2) **fleck** of dust

A small **fleck** of red wine ruined the white shirt.

sparkle

v. to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy

synonym: shine, glimmer, twinkle

(1) **sparkle** like a gem, (2) **sparkle** from receiving light

The diamond **sparkled** in the sunlight.

blueprint

n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym: draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**

A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

insecure

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

synonym: uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment

Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

inexplicable

adj. unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling

synonym: incomprehensible, mysterious, unaccountable

(1) **inexplicable** event, (2) **inexplicable** decision

The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was **inexplicable**.

blossom

n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

synonym: flower, bloom, bud

(1) apple **blossom**, (2) **blossom** garden

The cherry **blossom** trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.

fiery

adj. very intense; like or suggestive of fire

synonym: igneous, passionate, fervent

(1) a **fiery** speech, (2) a **fiery** sunset

He is a man of **fiery** temperament.

secluded

adj. hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

synonym: isolated, remote, hidden

(1) **secluded** retreat, (2) **secluded** cabin

The **secluded** beach was the perfect place to unwind and escape from the busy city.

adventurous

adj. willing to take risks and try new or difficult things

synonym: daring, risk-taking, bold

(1) lead an **adventurous** life, (2) **adventurous** pioneers

He has an **adventurous** spirit and is unafraid of risks.

kilt

n. a type of traditional Scottish garment that is worn by men and consists of a pleated skirt that reaches the knee or just below, usually made of tartan or plaid fabric

synonym: skirt, plaid, tartan

(1) Scottish **kilt**, (2) plaid **kilt**

My grandfather wore a traditional **kilt** to honor his Scottish heritage at family gatherings.

betray

v. to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

synonym: fail, denounce, display

(1) **betray** a friend, (2) **betray** confidence

He felt **betrayed** when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.

protagonist

n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories

synonym: hero, central figure, leading character

(1) **protagonist** of drama, (2) play a **protagonist**

The **protagonist's** triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.

prioritize

v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

synonym: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate

This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pe_____te a cell
v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
2. a fi__y sunset
adj. very intense; like or suggestive of fire
3. hu__h up the shoulders
v. to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof
4. have a very ple_____le time
adj. giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable
5. fl__t like a schoolgirl
v. to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men
6. electric ho___p
n. a device providing a connection between a power source and a user; a sexual encounter, usually between two people who are not in a committed relationship or do not know each other well
7. apple bl_____m
n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

ANSWERS: 1. penetrate, 2. fiery, 3. hunch, 4. pleasurable, 5. flirt, 6. hookup, 7. blossom

8. the ch__p of a bird *n.* a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
9. sp_____e like a gem *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
10. im_____e the cloth in the dye *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
11. completely im_____e the ingredient *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
12. fl__k of paint *n.* a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance
13. architect's bl_____nt *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
14. bl_____m garden *n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
15. se_____ed retreat *adj.* hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others
16. ine_____ble event *adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling

ANSWERS: 8. chirp, 9. sparkle, 10. immerse, 11. immerse, 12. fleck, 13. blueprint, 14. blossom, 15. secluded, 16. inexplicable

17. fl__k of dust *n.* a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance
18. hu__h against the rain *v.* to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof
19. ca__e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
20. an in____re future *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
21. mu____r at low wages *v.* to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
22. ar____e desire *v.* to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response
23. a s__m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
24. in____re attachment *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
25. be____y a friend *v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally
26. pri____ze people over cars *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

ANSWERS: 17. fleck, 18. hunch, 19. carve, 20. insecure, 21. murmur, 22. arouse, 23. sham, 24. insecure, 25. betray, 26. prioritize

27. be___y confidence *v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally
28. ev_____ve language *adj.* tending to evoke or bring something to mind
29. play a pro_____st *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
30. uns_____ing labor *adj.* not fulfilling someone's desires, expectations, or needs; incomplete or inadequate.
31. Scottish k__t *n.* a type of traditional Scottish garment that is worn by men and consists of a pleated skirt that reaches the knee or just below, usually made of tartan or plaid fabric
32. ev_____ve memories *adj.* tending to evoke or bring something to mind
33. ca__e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
34. a fi__y speech *adj.* very intense; like or suggestive of fire
35. casual ho___p *n.* a device providing a connection between a power source and a user; a sexual encounter, usually between two people who are not in a committed relationship or do not know each other well
36. rapt in fas_____on *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

ANSWERS: 27. betray, 28. evocative, 29. protagonist, 30. unsatisfying, 31. kilt, 32. evocative, 33. carve, 34. fiery, 35. hookup, 36. fascination

37. ine_____ble decision *adj.* unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
38. a ple_____le experience *adj.* giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable
39. ar___e suspicion *v.* to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response
40. plaid k__t *n.* a type of traditional Scottish garment that is worn by men and consists of a pleated skirt that reaches the knee or just below, usually made of tartan or plaid fabric
41. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
42. social co_____on *n.* the psychological process of perception and learning and reasoning; the mental action or process by which knowledge and understanding are developed in the mind
43. uns_____ing reality *adj.* not fulfilling someone's desires, expectations, or needs; incomplete or inadequate.
44. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
45. the fas_____on with classical music *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
46. pe_____te quickly into the skin *v.* to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

ANSWERS: 37. inexplicable, 38. pleasurable, 39. arouse, 40. kilt, 41. empower, 42. cognition, 43. unsatisfying, 44. empower, 45. fascination, 46. penetrate

47. co_____on disorder *n.* the psychological process of perception and learning and reasoning; the mental action or process by which knowledge and understanding are developed in the mind
48. mu___r a greeting *v.* to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
49. pri_____ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
50. pro_____st of drama *n.* the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
51. lead an adv_____us life *adj.* willing to take risks and try new or difficult things
52. turn out to be all s__m *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
53. sp_____e from receiving light *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
54. bl_____nt for economic reform *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
55. the ch__p of a cricket *n.* a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
56. fl__t with him *v.* to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men

ANSWERS: 47. cognition, 48. murmur, 49. prioritize, 50. protagonist, 51. adventurous, 52. sham, 53. sparkle, 54. blueprint, 55. chirp, 56. flirt

57. adv_____us pioneers

adj. willing to take risks and try new or difficult things

58. se_____ed cabin

adj. hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

ANSWERS: 57. adventurous, 58. secluded

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The music was _____ of a bygone era.
adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind
2. He has an _____ spirit and is unafraid of risks.
adj. willing to take risks and try new or difficult things
3. Children in an unstructured environment often feel _____.
adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
4. He always _____ at the ill-treatment.
v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
5. The rousing speech by the politician _____ the audience to action.
v. to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response
6. We must buy cables for the audio _____ between the TV and the soundbar.
n. a device providing a connection between a power source and a user; a sexual encounter, usually between two people who are not in a committed relationship or do not know each other well
7. The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was _____.
adj. unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
8. The professor focused on the research of infant _____.
n. the psychological process of perception and learning and reasoning; the mental action or process by which knowledge and understanding are developed in the mind

ANSWERS: 1. evocative, 2. adventurous, 3. insecure, 4. murmurs, 5. aroused, 6. hookup, 7. inexplicable, 8. cognition

9. The diamond _____ in the sunlight.
- v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
10. The cherry _____ trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.
- n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
11. I looked at the painting in _____.
- n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
12. The data he prepared was completely _____.
- n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
13. The sound of the _____ woke me up early in the morning.
- n.* a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
14. My grandfather wore a traditional _____ to honor his Scottish heritage at family gatherings.
- n.* a type of traditional Scottish garment that is worn by men and consists of a pleated skirt that reaches the knee or just below, usually made of tartan or plaid fabric
15. The _____ beach was the perfect place to unwind and escape from the busy city.
- adj.* hidden or isolated from view; quiet and undisturbed; kept away from the company of others

ANSWERS: 9. sparkled, 10. blossom, 11. fascination, 12. sham, 13. chirp, 14. kilt, 15. secluded

16. The organization _____ the needs of the community in its decision-making.
v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
17. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
18. The _____ triumph over adversity was the theme of this play.
n. the main character in a literary work, film, or other stories
19. Western ideology slowly _____ through the eastern countries.
v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
20. A business plan is a _____ for your success.
n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
21. He is a man of _____ temperament.
adj. very intense; like or suggestive of fire
22. I _____ over my computer all day, and my back aches after a while.
v. to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof
23. The meal was _____ and left her feeling hungry an hour later.
adj. not fulfilling someone's desires, expectations, or needs; incomplete or inadequate.
24. Our marital life was full of happiness and _____ excitement.
adj. giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable

ANSWERS: 16. prioritized, 17. carved, 18. protagonist's, 19. penetrates, 20. blueprint, 21. fiery, 22. hunch, 23. unsatisfying, 24. pleasurable

25. My husband never _____ with other women.

- v. to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions;
- (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men

26. A small _____ of red wine ruined the white shirt.

- n. a small patch, spot, or discoloration, often caused by dirt, grime, or a foreign substance

27. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

- v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

28. He _____ himself in his research.

- v. to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

29. He felt _____ when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.

- v. to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

ANSWERS: 25. flirts, 26. fleck, 27. empowered, 28. immersed, 29. betrayed