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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sarah Stroud: Ethical dilemma: Would you lie? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

acquaintance

n. a person one knows but who is not a close friend
synonym: friend, associate, contact

(1) **acquaintance** with a language, (2) business **acquaintance**

I met him at a party, and we quickly became **acquaintances**.

unsettle

v. to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
synonym: aggravate, annoy, disturb

(1) **unsettle** the nervous system, (2) **unsettle** his conviction
This nationwide strike may **unsettle** the country's economy.

punctual

adj. arriving or happening at the appointed time; being on time; prompt
synonym: prompt, on-time, immediate

(1) **punctual** arrival, (2) **punctual** response

My boss is always **punctual** and expects the same from everyone else.

oppressive

adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
synonym: stifling, overwhelming, depressing

(1) the atmosphere was **oppressive**, (2) **oppressive**

governments

The political situation has become increasingly **oppressive**.

relic

n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

synonym : whiff, vestige, antique

(1) historical **relic**, (2) holy **relics**

This bronze sword is a **relic** of ancient times.

pave

v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

synonym : surface, coat, cover

(1) **pave** a new path, (2) **pave** a smoother road

They **paved** the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.

absolutism

n. a political system in which the ruler has complete and unlimited power, often without any checks or balances from other institutions

synonym : dictatorship, tyranny, authoritarianism

(1) religious **absolutism**, (2) advocate for **absolutism**

The king's **absolutism** meant he had complete and total control over the government and the people.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

immoral

adj. not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality

synonym : unethical, wicked, corrupt

(1) **immoral** behavior, (2) politically **immoral**

It is **immoral** to cheat on a test.

forbid

v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising

synonym: prohibit, ban, outlaw

(1) **forbid** smoking in public areas, (2) **forbid** the use of chemical weapons

God **forbid** you should regret your marriage.

overstate

v. to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is

synonym: exaggerate, embellish, magnify

(1) **overstate** the issue, (2) **overstate** the importance

He tends to **overstate** his accomplishments to impress others.

whereabouts

n. the location of a person or thing; the place or region where someone or something is currently located

synonym: location, position, residence

(1) unknown **whereabouts**, (2) revealing **whereabouts**

The police are still investigating the **whereabouts** of the missing person.

utilitarian

adj. designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious

synonym: functional, practical, pragmatic

(1) **utilitarian** design, (2) **utilitarian** economics

The kitchen is designed with a **utilitarian** approach, focusing on practicality rather than aesthetics.

lax

adj. not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient

synonym: loose, slack, relaxed

(1) **lax** border controls, (2) **lax** attitude

The **lax** security measures allowed the thief to enter the building easily.

understate

v. to represent something as less important or significant than it is; to downplay or make something seem less dramatic or intense

synonym : downplay, underemphasize, minimize

(1) **understate** the cost, (2) deliberately **understate**

He tends to **understate** his abilities and needs to give himself more credit.

paternalism

n. the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy

synonym : guardianship, fatherliness

(1) **paternalism** in healthcare, (2) critique of **paternalism**

The CEO's leadership style was characterized by **paternalism** towards his employees.

disrespect

n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something

synonym : impoliteness, rudeness, insult

(1) mean no **disrespect**, (2) **disrespect** for a customer

His **disrespectful** behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. a g__m-free environment | <i>n.</i> a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one |
| 2. acq_____nce with a language | <i>n.</i> a person one knows but who is not a close friend |
| 3. revealing whe_____ts | <i>n.</i> the location of a person or thing; the place or region where someone or something is currently located |
| 4. dis_____ct for a customer | <i>n.</i> an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something |
| 5. the atmosphere was opp_____ve | <i>adj.</i> treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way |
| 6. politically im_____l | <i>adj.</i> not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality |
| 7. deliberately und_____te | <i>v.</i> to represent something as less important or significant than it is; to downplay or make something seem less dramatic or intense |
| 8. pat_____sm in healthcare | <i>n.</i> the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy |
| 9. ov_____te the importance | <i>v.</i> to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is |

ANSWERS: 1. germ, 2. acquaintance, 3. whereabouts, 4. disrespect, 5. oppressive, 6. immoral, 7. understate, 8. paternalism, 9. overstate

10. pu____al response *adj.* arriving or happening at the appointed time; being on time; prompt
11. im____l behavior *adj.* not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality
12. uti____an economics *adj.* designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious
13. holy re__cs *n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
14. p__e a new path *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
15. mean no dis____ct *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
16. un____le the nervous system *v.* to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
17. und____te the cost *v.* to represent something as less important or significant than it is; to downplay or make something seem less dramatic or intense
18. l_x border controls *adj.* not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient
19. un____le his conviction *v.* to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
20. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 10. punctual, 11. immoral, 12. utilitarian, 13. relic, 14. pave, 15. disrespect, 16. unsettle, 17. understate, 18. lax, 19. unsettle, 20. germ

21. religious abs_____sm *n.* a political system in which the ruler has complete and unlimited power, often without any checks or balances from other institutions
22. historical re__c *n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
23. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
24. ov_____te the issue *v.* to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is
25. advocate for abs_____sm *n.* a political system in which the ruler has complete and unlimited power, often without any checks or balances from other institutions
26. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
27. pu_____al arrival *adj.* arriving or happening at the appointed time; being on time; prompt
28. fo___d the use of chemical weapons *v.* to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
29. uti_____an design *adj.* designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious
30. business acq_____nce *n.* a person one knows but who is not a close friend
31. critique of pat_____sm *n.* the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy

ANSWERS: 21. absolutism, 22. relic, 23. opportune, 24. overstate, 25. absolutism, 26. opportune, 27. punctual, 28. forbid, 29. utilitarian, 30. acquaintance, 31. paternalism

32. p__e a smoother road *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
33. fo___d smoking in public areas *v.* to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
34. unknown whe_____ts *n.* the location of a person or thing; the place or region where someone or something is currently located
35. opp_____ve governments *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
36. l_x attitude *adj.* not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient

ANSWERS: 32. pave, 33. forbid, 34. whereabouts, 35. oppressive, 36. lax

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I met him at a party, and we quickly became _____.
n. a person one knows but who is not a close friend
2. The political situation has become increasingly _____.
adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
3. The king's _____ meant he had complete and total control over the government and the people.
n. a political system in which the ruler has complete and unlimited power, often without any checks or balances from other institutions
4. God _____ you should regret your marriage.
v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
5. They _____ the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.
v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
6. He tends to _____ his abilities and needs to give himself more credit.
v. to represent something as less important or significant than it is; to downplay or make something seem less dramatic or intense
7. It is _____ to cheat on a test.
adj. not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality
8. The police are still investigating the _____ of the missing person.
n. the location of a person or thing; the place or region where someone or something is currently located

ANSWERS: 1. acquaintances, 2. oppressive, 3. absolutism, 4. forbid, 5. paved, 6. understate, 7. immoral, 8. whereabouts

9. This nationwide strike may _____ the country's economy.
v. to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
10. His _____ behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.
n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
11. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
12. This bronze sword is a _____ of ancient times.
n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
13. The CEO's leadership style was characterized by _____ towards his employees.
n. the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy
14. My boss is always _____ and expects the same from everyone else.
adj. arriving or happening at the appointed time; being on time; prompt
15. The ___ security measures allowed the thief to enter the building easily.
adj. not strict or severe; relaxed or lenient
16. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 9. unsettle, 10. disrespectful, 11. opportune, 12. relic, 13. paternalism, 14. punctual, 15. lax, 16. germ

17. The kitchen is designed with a _____ approach, focusing on practicality rather than aesthetics.

adj. designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious

18. He tends to _____ his accomplishments to impress others.

v. to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is

ANSWERS: 17. utilitarian, 18. overstate