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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lucia Carminati: How the Suez Canal changed the world | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

obstruct

v. to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone

synonym: block, impede, hinder

(1) **obstruct** an airway, (2) **obstruct** a bill

The road was blocked by a fallen tree, **obstructing** the path for all vehicles.

traverse

v. to cross or move through a land or water area

synonym: cross, pass through, travel over

(1) **traverse** the region, (2) **traverse** a vast extent of sea

Approximately 1000 automobiles **traverse** the bridge every day.

isthmus

n. a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water

synonym: neck, choke point, narrow

(1) **isthmus** region, (2) Panama **isthmus**

The ancient city was situated on an **isthmus** between two seas.

caravan

n. a group of travelers journeying together, often in a convoy of motor vehicles; a covered wagon used for

traveling and camping

synonym : convoy, train, procession

(1) **caravan** park, (2) solar **caravan**

We traveled across the country in a **caravan** of RVs and campers.

unforgiving

adj. not willing to forgive or show mercy; not able to be repaired or restored

synonym : relentless, uncompromising, merciless

(1) **unforgiving** blow, (2) **unforgiving** terrain

The **unforgiving** sun scorched the desert, making it uninhabitable.

strife

n. conflict or disagreement, especially between people or groups

synonym : conflict, disagreement, dissension

(1) at **strife** over the land, (2) civil **strife**

The country has been wracked by political **strife** for many years.

rekindle

v. to revive or renew something that was previously lost or forgotten, often a relationship or feeling

synonym : revitalize, reignite, revive

(1) **rekindle** love, (2) **rekindle** hope

The couple tried to **rekindle** their relationship by spending more time together.

enterprising

adj. marked by a willingness to take on new opportunities or risks in business or other ventures; characterized by resourcefulness, initiative, and innovation

synonym : ambitious, daring, resourceful

(1) **enterprising** spirit, (2) **enterprising** idea

The **enterprising** photographer captured rare shots of wildlife in their natural habitats.

manipulative

adj. characterized by the use of shrewd, cunning, or deceptive tactics to control or influence others, often in a self-serving or unethical manner

synonym : maneuvering, calculating, shrewd

(1) **manipulative** behavior, (2) **manipulative** language

He was accused of being **manipulative** when he lied to his friends to get what he wanted.

diplomat

n. a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations

synonym : envoy, ambassador, representative

(1) allied **diplomat**, (2) expel a **diplomat**

The senior **diplomat** worked tirelessly to negotiate a peace treaty between the two countries.

concession

n. something that is granted or given up, often in a negotiation or argument; a place or stand where goods or services are sold or provided, often in a public setting such as a stadium or amusement park

synonym : agreement, compromise, deal

(1) an oil **concession**, (2) make a **concession**

The movie theater offered a special **concession** for seniors on Tuesdays.

laborer

n. a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks

synonym : worker, employee, operative

(1) **laborer** job, (2) skilled **laborer**

The construction site hired many **laborers** to help with the heavy lifting.

forcibly

adv. done by physical power or violence; against someone's will

synonym : violently, roughly, aggressively

(1) **forcibly** remove, (2) **forcibly** taken into a car

The police officer **forcibly** removed the protesters from the public park.

cholera

n. a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes

synonym: infectious disease, epidemic, plague

(1) **cholera** toxin, (2) **cholera** epidemic

The outbreak of **cholera** was a major health crisis in the 19th century.

rampant

adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

synonym: prevalent, dense, uncontrolled

(1) **rampant** growth of weeds, (2) **rampant** corruption

In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be **rampant**.

toil

v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

synonym: struggle, labor, work hard

(1) **toil** to make a living, (2) **toil** up the mountain

The farmers **toiled** in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.

coerce

v. to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands

synonym: force, compel, pressure

(1) **coerce** him to follow an order, (2) **coerce** obedience

The boss tried to **coerce** the employees into working overtime by threatening to fire them.

dredge

v. to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process

synonym: dig, scoop, unearth

(1) **dredge** up memories, (2) **dredge** a river

The environmental group demanded that the government stop the plans to **dredge** the wetlands for oil drilling.

excavate

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

synonym: dig, unearth, extract

(1) **excavate** a deep hole, (2) **excavate** soil

The archaeologists **excavated** the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

flourish

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

synonym: boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide

The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

brothel

n. a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution

synonym: bagnio, bordello, whorehouse

(1) illegal **brothel**, (2) underground **brothel**

The police raided the **brothel** in the red-light district and arrested all the prostitutes and customers.

smuggle

v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally

(1) **smuggle** drugs, (2) **smuggle** herself out of a country

He was able to **smuggle** a gun inside the prison.

bustle

v. to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion

synonym: hurry, rush, flurry

(1) **bustle** around a kitchen, (2) hustle- **bustle** lifestyle

The city **bustled** with activity as people rushed to work.

inaugurate

v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony

synonym: initiate, launch, commence

(1) **inaugurate** an enterprise, (2) **inaugurate** a new policy

The president will **inaugurate** the new embassy building next week.

revert

v. to return to a previous state or condition; to reply

synonym: return, go back, restore

(1) **revert** to a heavy smoker, (2) **revert** to the original subject

After trying the new software, I **reverted** to the old version.

standoff

n. a situation in which two or more people, groups, or countries refuse to move from a position or make a compromise, leading to a stalemate or impasse; a short distance maintained between two opposing forces or objects, such as in a military context or electrical wiring

synonym: impasse, deadlock, stalemate

(1) diplomatic **standoff**, (2) military **standoff**

The **standoff** between the opposing political parties lasted for several days.

redeem

v. to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation

synonym: rescue, save, recover

(1) **redeem** a coupon, (2) **redeem** a government bond

He tried to **redeem** himself by volunteering at the local charity after his mistakes.

- imp** *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
synonym: demon, sprite, mischievous child
(1) a little **imp**, (2) behave like an **imp**
The mischievous **imp** caused trouble wherever it went.
- stark** *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
synonym: crude, blunt, desolate
(1) **stark** landscape, (2) **stark** truth
The scenery of the battlefield was **stark** and grey.
- human-made** *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
synonym: artificial, unnatural, manufactured
(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst **human-made** disaster
The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

Session 2: Spelling

1. military st_____ff *n.* a situation in which two or more people, groups, or countries refuse to move from a position or make a compromise, leading to a stalemate or impasse; a short distance maintained between two opposing forces or objects, such as in a military context or electrical wiring

2. ob_____ct a bill *v.* to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone

3. t__l to make a living *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

4. ex_____te soil *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

5. Panama is_____s *n.* a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water

6. ina_____te a new policy *v.* to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony

7. hum_____de climate change *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial

8. unf_____ng blow *adj.* not willing to forgive or show mercy; not able to be repaired or restored

ANSWERS: 1. standoff, 2. obstruct, 3. toil, 4. excavate, 5. isthmus, 6. inaugurate, 7. human-made, 8. unforgiving

9. make a con_____on *n.* something that is granted or given up, often in a negotiation or argument; a place or stand where goods or services are sold or provided, often in a public setting such as a stadium or amusement park
10. fo_____ly remove *adv.* done by physical power or violence; against someone's will
11. re_____le love *v.* to revive or renew something that was previously lost or forgotten, often a relationship or feeling
12. sm_____e drugs *v.* to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
13. hustle-bu___e lifestyle *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
14. fl_____sh worldwide *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
15. man_____ive language *adj.* characterized by the use of shrewd, cunning, or deceptive tactics to control or influence others, often in a self-serving or unethical manner
16. illegal br_____l *n.* a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution
17. dr___e up memories *v.* to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process

ANSWERS: 9. concession, 10. forcibly, 11. rekindle, 12. smuggle, 13. bustle, 14. flourish, 15. manipulative, 16. brothel, 17. dredge

18. at st___e over the land *n.* conflict or disagreement, especially between people or groups
19. re___m a government bond *v.* to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation
20. fl_____sh economically *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
21. st__k landscape *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
22. is_____s region *n.* a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water
23. st__k truth *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
24. tr_____se the region *v.* to cross or move through a land or water area
25. man_____ive behavior *adj.* characterized by the use of shrewd, cunning, or deceptive tactics to control or influence others, often in a self-serving or unethical manner
26. diplomatic st_____ff *n.* a situation in which two or more people, groups, or countries refuse to move from a position or make a compromise, leading to a stalemate or impasse; a short distance maintained between two opposing forces or objects, such as in a military context or electrical wiring

ANSWERS: 18. strife, 19. redeem, 20. flourish, 21. stark, 22. isthmus, 23. stark, 24. traverse, 25. manipulative, 26. standoff

27. ina_____te an enterprise *v.* to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony
28. ch_____a epidemic *n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
29. civil st_____e *n.* conflict or disagreement, especially between people or groups
30. ent_____ing spirit *adj.* marked by a willingness to take on new opportunities or risks in business or other ventures; characterized by resourcefulness, initiative, and innovation
31. fo_____ly taken into a car *adv.* done by physical power or violence; against someone's will
32. a little i_p *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
33. unf_____ng terrain *adj.* not willing to forgive or show mercy; not able to be repaired or restored
34. ex_____te a deep hole *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
35. bu_____e around a kitchen *v.* to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
36. co_____e him to follow an order *v.* to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands

ANSWERS: 27. inaugurate, 28. cholera, 29. strife, 30. enterprising, 31. forcibly, 32. imp, 33. unforgiving, 34. excavate, 35. bustle, 36. coerce

37. ca_____n park *n.* a group of travelers journeying together, often in a convoy of motor vehicles; a covered wagon used for traveling and camping
38. dr___e a river *v.* to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process
39. expel a di_____at *n.* a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations
40. the worst hum_____de disaster *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
41. ent_____ing idea *adj.* marked by a willingness to take on new opportunities or risks in business or other ventures; characterized by resourcefulness, initiative, and innovation
42. tr_____se a vast extent of sea *v.* to cross or move through a land or water area
43. skilled la_____r *n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
44. ra_____t growth of weeds *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

ANSWERS: 37. caravan, 38. dredge, 39. diplomat, 40. human-made, 41. enterprising, 42. traverse, 43. laborer, 44. rampant

45. co___e obedience *v.* to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands
46. re___t to the original subject *v.* to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
47. allied di____at *n.* a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations
48. la____r job *n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
49. solar ca____n *n.* a group of travelers journeying together, often in a convoy of motor vehicles; a covered wagon used for traveling and camping
50. an oil con_____on *n.* something that is granted or given up, often in a negotiation or argument; a place or stand where goods or services are sold or provided, often in a public setting such as a stadium or amusement park
51. ra____t corruption *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

ANSWERS: 45. coerce, 46. revert, 47. diplomat, 48. laborer, 49. caravan, 50. concession, 51. rampant

52. t__l up the mountain *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
53. re___m a coupon *v.* to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation
54. sm_____e herself out of a country *v.* to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
55. re___t to a heavy smoker *v.* to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
56. re_____le hope *v.* to revive or renew something that was previously lost or forgotten, often a relationship or feeling
57. behave like an i_p *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
58. ob_____ct an airway *v.* to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone
59. ch_____a toxin *n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes

ANSWERS: 52. toil, 53. redeem, 54. smuggle, 55. revert, 56. rekindle, 57. imp, 58. obstruct, 59. cholera

60. underground br____l

n. a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution

ANSWERS: 60. brothel

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The outbreak of _____ was a major health crisis in the 19th century.
n. a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
2. The road was blocked by a fallen tree, _____ the path for all vehicles.
v. to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone
3. The country has been wracked by political _____ for many years.
n. conflict or disagreement, especially between people or groups
4. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.
adj. created or produced by humans; artificial
5. In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be _____.
adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
6. The president will _____ the new embassy building next week.
v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony
7. He was accused of being _____ when he lied to his friends to get what he wanted.
adj. characterized by the use of shrewd, cunning, or deceptive tactics to control or influence others, often in a self-serving or unethical manner

ANSWERS: 1. cholera, 2. obstructing, 3. strife, 4. human-made, 5. rampant, 6. inaugurate, 7. manipulative

8. We traveled across the country in a _____ of RVs and campers.
n. a group of travelers journeying together, often in a convoy of motor vehicles; a covered wagon used for traveling and camping
9. After trying the new software, I _____ to the old version.
v. to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
10. The city _____ with activity as people rushed to work.
v. to move or act energetically and noisily; (noun) a rapid active commotion
11. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.
v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
12. The police raided the _____ in the red-light district and arrested all the prostitutes and customers.
n. a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution
13. The construction site hired many _____ to help with the heavy lifting.
n. a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
14. The _____ sun scorched the desert, making it uninhabitable.
adj. not willing to forgive or show mercy; not able to be repaired or restored
15. The _____ between the opposing political parties lasted for several days.
n. a situation in which two or more people, groups, or countries refuse to move from a position or make a compromise, leading to a stalemate or impasse; a short distance maintained between two opposing forces or objects, such as in a military context or electrical wiring

ANSWERS: 8. caravan, 9. reverted, 10. bustled, 11. flourished, 12. brothel, 13. laborers, 14. unforgiving, 15. standoff

16. He was able to _____ a gun inside the prison.
- v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
17. He tried to _____ himself by volunteering at the local charity after his mistakes.
- v. to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation
18. The scenery of the battlefield was _____ and grey.
- adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
19. The senior _____ worked tirelessly to negotiate a peace treaty between the two countries.
- n. a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations
20. The farmers _____ in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.
- v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
21. The ancient city was situated on an _____ between two seas.
- n. a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water
22. The movie theater offered a special _____ for seniors on Tuesdays.
- n. something that is granted or given up, often in a negotiation or argument; a place or stand where goods or services are sold or provided, often in a public setting such as a stadium or amusement park

ANSWERS: 16. smuggle, 17. redeem, 18. stark, 19. diplomat, 20. toiled, 21. isthmus, 22. concession

23. The mischievous ____ caused trouble wherever it went.
n. a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
24. The couple tried to _____ their relationship by spending more time together.
v. to revive or renew something that was previously lost or forgotten, often a relationship or feeling
25. The archaeologists _____ the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.
v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
26. The boss tried to _____ the employees into working overtime by threatening to fire them.
v. to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands
27. The police officer _____ removed the protesters from the public park.
adv. done by physical power or violence; against someone's will
28. The environmental group demanded that the government stop the plans to _____ the wetlands for oil drilling.
v. to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process
29. The _____ photographer captured rare shots of wildlife in their natural habitats.
adj. marked by a willingness to take on new opportunities or risks in business or other ventures; characterized by resourcefulness, initiative, and innovation

ANSWERS: 23. imp, 24. rekindle, 25. excavated, 26. coerce, 27. forcibly, 28. dredge, 29. enterprising

30. Approximately 1000 automobiles _____ the bridge every day.

v. to cross or move through a land or water area

ANSWERS: 30. traverse