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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Elizabeth Cox: Can you outsmart the fallacy that divided a nation? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

abomination

n. something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive

synonym : disgust, outrage, abhorrence

(1) social **abomination**, (2) **abomination** in most cultures

The **abomination** of animal testing is a hotly debated ethical issue.

monstrous

adj. extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance

synonym : grotesque, huge, deformed

(1) a **monstrous** iceberg, (2) **monstrous** behavior

The giant wave was **monstrous** and destroyed the small boat.

scourge

n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

synonym : plague, disaster, curse

(1) **scourge** of AIDS, (2) bring a **scourge** under control

The plague was a **scourge** that killed millions of people.

senator

n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate

synonym: legislator, politician, representative

(1) junior **senator**, (2) **senator** term

The hawkish **senator** gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.

congressperson

n. a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)

synonym: lawmaker, politician, representative

(1) hawkish **congressperson**, (2) former **congressperson**

The term of a **congressperson** is two years.

fallacy

n. a mistaken belief, idea, or argument that is not supported by facts or evidence; a deceptive or misleading statement or belief

synonym: falsity, misconception, delusion

(1) **fallacy** of logic, (2) belief in a **fallacy**

Many people cling to the **fallacy** that they can get rich quickly, despite all evidence.

contort

v. to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape

synonym: deform, disfigure, distort

(1) **contort** my limbs, (2) **contort** the face

He **contorted** his smile with anger coming from his gut.

indefensible

adj. unable to be protected or justified from criticism

synonym: untenable, unjustifiable, unsupportable

(1) logically **indefensible**, (2) **indefensible** argument

The argument was **indefensible**, and the judge dismissed it.

enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

synonym: coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

delusion

n. a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary

synonym: hallucination, illusion, fantasy

(1) grand **delusion**, (2) labor under a **delusion**

He had a **delusion** that he was a millionaire.

perpetuate

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

synonym: eternalize, preserve, maintain

(1) **perpetuate** a myth, (2) **perpetuate** chronic pain

That work **perpetuates** his fame.

Session 2: Spelling

1. se____r term *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
2. logically ind_____ble *adj.* unable to be protected or justified from criticism
3. belief in a fa_____y *n.* a mistaken belief, idea, or argument that is not supported by facts or evidence; a deceptive or misleading statement or belief
4. mo_____us behavior *adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
5. abo_____on in most cultures *n.* something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive
6. per_____te chronic pain *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
7. fa_____y of logic *n.* a mistaken belief, idea, or argument that is not supported by facts or evidence; a deceptive or misleading statement or belief
8. former con_____son *n.* a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)
9. co_____t the face *v.* to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape

ANSWERS: 1. senator, 2. indefensible, 3. fallacy, 4. monstrous, 5. abomination, 6. perpetuate, 7. fallacy, 8. congressperson, 9. contort

10. grand de_____on *n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
11. ind_____ble argument *adj.* unable to be protected or justified from criticism
12. social abo_____on *n.* something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive
13. co_____t my limbs *v.* to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape
14. hawkish con_____son *n.* a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)
15. bring a sc_____e under control *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
16. en_____e poor peasants *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
17. labor under a de_____on *n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
18. per_____te a myth *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
19. junior se_____r *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
20. sc_____e of AIDS *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

ANSWERS: 10. delusion, 11. indefensible, 12. abomination, 13. contort, 14. congressperson, 15. scourge, 16. enslave, 17. delusion, 18. perpetuate, 19. senator, 20. scourge

21. en____e indigenous people

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

22. a mo_____us iceberg

adj. extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance

ANSWERS: 21. enslave, 22. monstrous

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He _____ his smile with anger coming from his gut.
v. to (cause something to) twist and press out of its natural or normal shape
2. Many people cling to the _____ that they can get rich quickly, despite all evidence.
n. a mistaken belief, idea, or argument that is not supported by facts or evidence; a deceptive or misleading statement or belief
3. The _____ of animal testing is a hotly debated ethical issue.
n. something that is regarded with extreme disgust or hatred; an object, act, or practice that is morally or religiously offensive
4. The plague was a _____ that killed millions of people.
n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
5. The argument was _____ and the judge dismissed it.
adj. unable to be protected or justified from criticism
6. He had a _____ that he was a millionaire.
n. a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
7. The term of a _____ is two years.
n. a person who belongs to a congress, especially a member of the US House of Representatives; congressman (congressperson is used to avoid gender discrimination)

ANSWERS: 1. contorted, 2. fallacy, 3. abomination, 4. scourge, 5. indefensible, 6. delusion, 7. congressperson

8. The hawkish _____ gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.
n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
9. The giant wave was _____ and destroyed the small boat.
adj. extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
10. Her beauty _____ me completely.
v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
11. That work _____ his fame.
v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

ANSWERS: 8. senator, 9. monstrous, 10. enslaved, 11. perpetuates