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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Warren Valdmanis: What makes a job "good" -- and the case for investing in people | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

intimidate

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

synonym: frighten, threaten, terrify

(1) **intimidate** an opponent, (2) effectively **intimidate** a thief

The boss tried to **intimidate** his subordinate with threats.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

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.

squishy

adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed

synonym: soft, spongy, mushy

(1) **squishy** texture, (2) a **squishy** story

The **squishy** foam ball is perfect for squeezing to relieve stress.

pocketbook

n. a small bag or purse usually carried in a pocket or worn on the wrist or shoulder for carrying money and other small personal items; a book or guide that contains information or tips on a particular subject, such as travel or fashion

synonym: wallet, purse, billfold

(1) **pocketbook** issues, (2) leather **pocketbook**

She pulled her wallet out of her **pocketbook** to pay for the groceries.

correlate

v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

synonym: associate, liken, connect

(1) **correlate** closely with the quality, (2) **correlate** to the size

We may frequently **correlate** age with the frequency of disease.

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**.

riddle

n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer,

often asked as a game

synonym : mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym : intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**

When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

squander

v. to spend or use something wastefully; to waste by spending or using too freely

synonym : waste, fritter away, dissipate

(1) **squander** money, (2) **squander** a chance

He **squandered** his inheritance on frivolous purchases.

energize

v. to give energy or vitality to someone or something; to invigorate

synonym : invigorate, animate, electrify

(1) **energize** the body, (2) **energize** a team

The motivational speaker **energized** the crowd with their words.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym :

compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

distill

v. to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements

synonym: extract, condense, purify

(1) **distill** a liquid, (2) **distill** information

She decided to **distill** her thoughts into a more manageable list.

underserved

adj. inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services

(1) **underserved** market, (2) traditionally **underserved**

This area is medically **underserved**.

chestnut

n. a tree or its nut, with a smooth brown shell and a sweet edible kernel

synonym: tree, nut, seed

(1) **chestnut** hair, (2) **chestnut** shell

The **chestnut** tree is known for its edible nuts and beautiful fall foliage.

peril

n. serious and great danger or risk

synonym: hazard, danger, threat

(1) the **peril** of the sea, (2) environmental **peril**

Due to hunger, the lives of the refugees were in **peril**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. full of em____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
2. solve the ri___e *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
3. int_____te an opponent *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
4. und_____ed market *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
5. di_____l information *v.* to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements
6. co_____te to the size *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
7. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
8. en_____ze a team *v.* to give energy or vitality to someone or something; to invigorate
9. sq_____er money *v.* to spend or use something wastefully; to waste by spending or using too freely
10. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

ANSWERS: 1. empathy, 2. riddle, 3. intimidate, 4. underserved, 5. distill, 6. correlate, 7. opportune, 8. energize, 9. squander, 10. improvisation

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| 11. in_____ct for self-preservation | <i>n.</i> an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true |
| 12. di_____l a liquid | <i>v.</i> to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements |
| 13. imp_____ion on stage | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation |
| 14. st____e for a victory | <i>v.</i> to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance |
| 15. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 16. ch_____ut shell | <i>n.</i> a tree or its nut, with a smooth brown shell and a sweet edible kernel |
| 17. co_____te closely with the quality | <i>v.</i> to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another |
| 18. leather poc_____ok | <i>n.</i> a small bag or purse usually carried in a pocket or worn on the wrist or shoulder for carrying money and other small personal items; a book or guide that contains information or tips on a particular subject, such as travel or fashion |
| 19. ri____e me a riddle | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |

ANSWERS: 11. instinct, 12. distill, 13. improvisation, 14. starve, 15. opportune, 16. chestnut, 17. correlate, 18. pocketbook, 19. riddle

20. poc_____ok issues *n.* a small bag or purse usually carried in a pocket or worn on the wrist or shoulder for carrying money and other small personal items; a book or guide that contains information or tips on a particular subject, such as travel or fashion
21. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
22. sq_____y texture *adj.* soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed
23. effectively int_____te a thief *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
24. the pe__l of the sea *n.* serious and great danger or risk
25. en_____ze the body *v.* to give energy or vitality to someone or something; to invigorate
26. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
27. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
28. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

ANSWERS: 20. pocketbook, 21. starve, 22. squishy, 23. intimidate, 24. peril, 25. energize, 26. dedicate, 27. quitter, 28. empathy

29. sq_____er a chance *v.* to spend or use something wastefully; to waste by spending or using too freely
30. a sq_____y story *adj.* soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed
31. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
32. aggressive in_____ct *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
33. environmental pe___l *n.* serious and great danger or risk
34. traditionally und_____ed *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
35. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
36. ch_____ut hair *n.* a tree or its nut, with a smooth brown shell and a sweet edible kernel

ANSWERS: 29. squander, 30. squishy, 31. dedicate, 32. instinct, 33. peril, 34. underserved, 35. quitter, 36. chestnut

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

2. Due to hunger, the lives of the refugees were in _____.
n. serious and great danger or risk

3. He _____ his inheritance on frivolous purchases.
v. to spend or use something wastefully; to waste by spending or using too freely

4. The _____ tree is known for its edible nuts and beautiful fall foliage.
n. a tree or its nut, with a smooth brown shell and a sweet edible kernel

5. She decided to _____ her thoughts into a more manageable list.
v. to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements

6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

7. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

8. We may frequently _____ age with the frequency of disease.
v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

ANSWERS: 1. quitter, 2. peril, 3. squandered, 4. chestnut, 5. distill, 6. opportune, 7. Empathy, 8. correlate

9. The _____ foam ball is perfect for squeezing to relieve stress.

adj. soft and yielding to the touch; easily deformed

10. The boss tried to _____ his subordinate with threats.

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

11. She pulled her wallet out of her _____ to pay for the groceries.

n. a small bag or purse usually carried in a pocket or worn on the wrist or shoulder for carrying money and other small personal items; a book or guide that contains information or tips on a particular subject, such as travel or fashion

12. He _____ his life to helping others.

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

13. The _____ remains mysterious to us.

n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

14. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

15. The motivational speaker _____ the crowd with their words.

v. to give energy or vitality to someone or something; to invigorate

16. 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

ANSWERS: 9. squishy, 10. intimidate, 11. pocketbook, 12. dedicated, 13. riddle, 14. starve, 15. energized, 16. improvisation

17. This area is medically _____.

adj. inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services

18. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

ANSWERS: 17. underserved, 18. instinct