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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Meg Jacobs: What few people know about the program that "saved" America | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

individualism

n. the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant

synonym: self-reliance, autonomy, self-sufficiency

(1) rampant **individualism**, (2) nation of **individualism**

An ethic of **individualism** encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

subsidize

v. to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially

synonym: finance, endow, sponsor

(1) **subsidize** the project, (2) **subsidize** the cost

Governments **subsidize** renewable energy generation in various ways.

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**.

hydroelectric

adj. relating to the generation of electricity from water power, usually by using turbines or generators powered by falling or flowing water; utilizing the energy of water to generate electricity

synonym: water-powered, turbine, dam-generated

(1) **hydroelectric** stations, (2) **hydroelectric** dam

The town decided to convert its power source to **hydroelectric** energy.

abolish

v. to do away with completely; to put an end to

synonym: cancel, repeal, annul

(1) **abolish** slavery, (2) **abolish** censorship

The government voted to **abolish** the outdated law.

downturn

n. a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment

synonym: decline, fall, drop

(1) the **downturn** in auto sales, (2) **downturn** in health

The global economy experienced a sharp **downturn** in the wake of the pandemic.

influx

n. the arrival or entry of a large number of people, objects, or ideas into a place or system

synonym: inflow, arrival, impression

(1) **influx** of capital, (2) **influx** of tourists

The **influx** of immigrants into urban areas can create significant social, economic, and political challenges for local communities.

segregate

v. to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic

synonym : isolate, separate, divide

(1) **segregate** by race, (2) **segregate** boys and girls

The school board decided to **segregate** students by the ability to meet their needs better.

supremacy

n. the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

synonym : dominance, superiority, preeminence

(1) a race for **supremacy**, (2) **supremacy** of a country

The empire's military power ensured its **supremacy** over the neighboring states.

lynch

v. to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance

synonym : hang, execute, mob

(1) **lynch** law, (2) **lynch** him to death

The mob wanted to **lynch** the suspect before he could be tried in court.

inequity

n. a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice

synonym : injustice, unfairness, bias

(1) **inequity** in education, (2) market **inequity**

There's an **inequity** in the criminal justice system that needs to be addressed.

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.

mobilize

v. to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

synonym: activate, rally, marshal

(1) **mobilize** cooperation, (2) **mobilize** a stiff joint

The military **mobilized** troops to the border.

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.

reshape

v. to change the form or structure of something

synonym: alter, adjust, modify

(1) **reshape** education policy, (2) **reshape** my thoughts

The advent of the Internet completely **reshaped** the manufacturing industry.

groundwork

n. the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something

synonym: foundation, base, cornerstone

(1) **groundwork** foundation, (2) **groundwork** study

They laid the **groundwork** for the new project by conducting thorough research.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|----|---|
| 1. se_____te by race | v. | to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic |
| 2. su_____ze the cost | v. | to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially |
| 3. pri_____ze tasks | v. | to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things |
| 4. pri_____ze people over cars | v. | to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things |
| 5. re_____e my thoughts | v. | to change the form or structure of something |
| 6. mo_____ze a stiff joint | v. | to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose |
| 7. in___x of tourists | n. | the arrival or entry of a large number of people, objects, or ideas into a place or system |
| 8. ab_____h slavery | v. | to do away with completely; to put an end to |
| 9. ab_____h censorship | v. | to do away with completely; to put an end to |
| 10. in_____ty in education | n. | a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice |
| 11. gro_____rk foundation | n. | the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something |

ANSWERS: 1. segregate, 2. subsidize, 3. prioritize, 4. prioritize, 5. reshape, 6. mobilize, 7. influx, 8. abolish, 9. abolish, 10. inequity, 11. groundwork

- | | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| 12. do_____rn in health | <i>n.</i> | a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment |
| 13. em_____r my life | <i>v.</i> | to give someone the power or authority to do something |
| 14. su_____ze the project | <i>v.</i> | to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially |
| 15. gro_____rk study | <i>n.</i> | the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something |
| 16. a race for su_____cy | <i>n.</i> | the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status |
| 17. st_____ze blood sugar levels | <i>v.</i> | to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way |
| 18. em_____r the secretary to do the same | <i>v.</i> | to give someone the power or authority to do something |
| 19. in___x of capital | <i>n.</i> | the arrival or entry of a large number of people, objects, or ideas into a place or system |
| 20. ly__h law | <i>v.</i> | to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance |

ANSWERS: 12. downturn, 13. empower, 14. subsidize, 15. groundwork, 16. supremacy, 17. stabilize, 18. empower, 19. influx, 20. lynch

21. market in_____ty *n.* a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice
22. ly__h him to death *v.* to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance
23. se_____te boys and girls *v.* to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic
24. mo_____ze cooperation *v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
25. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
26. nation of ind_____ism *n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
27. rampant ind_____ism *n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
28. hyd_____ric stations *adj.* relating to the generation of electricity from water power, usually by using turbines or generators powered by falling or flowing water; utilizing the energy of water to generate electricity
29. su_____cy of a country *n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

ANSWERS: 21. inequity, 22. lynch, 23. segregate, 24. mobilize, 25. improvisation, 26. individualism, 27. individualism, 28. hydroelectric, 29. supremacy

30. re____e education policy
31. the do____rn in auto sales
32. jazz imp_____ion
33. st____ze prices
34. hyd_____ric dam
- v.* to change the form or structure of something
- n.* a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment
- n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
- v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
- adj.* relating to the generation of electricity from water power, usually by using turbines or generators powered by falling or flowing water; utilizing the energy of water to generate electricity

ANSWERS: 30. reshape, 31. downturn, 32. improvisation, 33. stabilize, 34. hydroelectric

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. They laid the _____ for the new project by conducting thorough research.
n. the basic or preparatory work or steps that provide a foundation for something
2. The government voted to _____ the outdated law.
v. to do away with completely; to put an end to
3. The _____ of immigrants into urban areas can create significant social, economic, and political challenges for local communities.
n. the arrival or entry of a large number of people, objects, or ideas into a place or system
4. The town decided to convert its power source to _____ energy.
adj. relating to the generation of electricity from water power, usually by using turbines or generators powered by falling or flowing water; utilizing the energy of water to generate electricity
5. Governments _____ renewable energy generation in various ways.
v. to pay part of the cost of something to support an organization, activity, etc. financially
6. An ethic of _____ encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.
n. the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
7. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.
v. to change the form or structure of something

ANSWERS: 1. groundwork, 2. abolish, 3. influx, 4. hydroelectric, 5. subsidize, 6. individualism, 7. reshaped

8. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.
- v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
9. 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
10. 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
11. The mob wanted to _____ the suspect before he could be tried in court.
- v. to put to death or punish (usually by hanging) without legal authorization or due process, often as an act of mob justice or vigilante action; (noun) a violent punishment, often extrajudicial, in which a mob or group of people seize and kill someone, usually by hanging, as a form of punishment or vengeance
12. The global economy experienced a sharp _____ in the wake of the pandemic.
- n. a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment
13. 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
14. There's an _____ in the criminal justice system that needs to be addressed.
- n. a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice
15. The school board decided to _____ students by the ability to meet their needs better.
- v. to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic

ANSWERS: 8. stabilizes, 9. empowered, 10. improvisation, 11. lynch, 12. downturn, 13. prioritized, 14. inequity, 15. segregate

16. The empire's military power ensured its _____ over the neighboring states.

- n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

17. The military _____ troops to the border.

- v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 16. supremacy, 17. mobilized