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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja: History's deadliest king |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

twig

n. a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

synonym : branchlet, sprig, osier

(1) **twig** branch, (2) **twig** basket

The bird perched on a **twig** and sang a beautiful melody.

horrific

adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

synonym : terrifying, alarming, shocking

(1) **horrific** experience, (2) **horrific** condition

The accident scene was **horrific**, with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.

atrocious

n. brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act

synonym : evil, horror, iniquity

(1) commit **atrocious**, (2) cold-blooded **atrocious**

The **atrocious** of the war left many children orphaned.

scramble

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

synonym : jumble, disarrange

(1) **scramble** my mind, (2) **scramble** for support

Local business owners **scrambled** to find skilled workers.

enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym: enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services

Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

majesty

n. regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness

synonym: grandeur, royalty, eminence

(1) morning **majesty**, (2) **majesty** of nature

The king's **majesty** was apparent in his elegant attire and powerful presence.

deceive

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression

synonym: mislead, dupe, hoodwink

(1) **deceive** to lie, (2) **deceive** skillfully

The magician's illusions were designed to **deceive** the audience into believing they saw something impossible.

pneumatic

adj. relating to or using air or gas under pressure, particularly in machinery or devices; operated by compressed air or gas

synonym: air-powered, gas-pressure, compressed-air

(1) **pneumatic** tire, (2) **pneumatic** cylinder

The mechanic used a **pneumatic** drill to repair the engine.

seize

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

synonym: grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

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.

vine

n. a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems

(1) a green **vine**, (2) **vine** of ore

A **vine** remains productive throughout the year.

viol

n. a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba

synonym: viola, viola da gamba, string instrument

(1) **viol** instrument, (2) **viol** music

The **viol** player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.

deprive

v. to take away something from someone

synonym: deny, take away, divest

(1) **deprive** others of profit, (2) **deprive** him of his status

He was **deprived** of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

unflinching

adj. not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast and resolute

synonym: resolute, steadfast, unwavering

(1) **unflinching** commitment, (2) **unflinching** gaze

His **unflinching** courage in the face of danger was impressive.

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship

He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

upend

v. to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order

synonym: overturn, upset, invert

(1) **upend** a table, (2) **upend** a tradition

The sudden news **upended** their plans for the weekend.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

synonym: hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

deceit

n. the act of deceiving or misleading someone, often for personal or selfish gain; a practice or behavior intended to mislead or misrepresent the truth

synonym: deception, dishonesty, trickery

(1) person of **deceit**, (2) web of **deceit**

The politician's **deceit** was exposed when leaked emails revealed he had accepted lobbyists' bribes.

arson

n. the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings

synonym: fire-setting, incendiarism, pyromania

(1) **arson** attack, (2) deliberate **arson**

The police are investigating the **arson** that destroyed the abandoned building.

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.

corroborate

v. to confirm or support something that has already been suggested, particularly by providing evidence or witness testimony

synonym: confirm, substantiate, authenticate

(1) **corroborate** evidence, (2) **corroborate** story

The eyewitness testimony **corroborated** the suspect's alibi.

accusation

n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone

synonym: charge, indictment, imputation

(1) criminal **accusation**, (2) false **accusation**

The **accusation** of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.

relinquish

v. to give up power, control, or possession

synonym: surrender, give up, abandon

(1) **relinquish** control, (2) **relinquish** all hope

She decided to **relinquish** her role as the leader of the group.

franc

n. the currency used in some countries, including Switzerland, France, and formerly Belgium

synonym: currency, money

(1) **franc** area, (2) Swiss **franc**

During the colonial period, several African nations used the **franc** as their currency due to the influence of France.

procession

n. a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose

synonym: parade, cavalcade, march

(1) **procession** of cars, (2) religious **procession**

The funeral **procession** slowly made its way to the cemetery.

unseat

v. to remove or depose from a position of authority or power; to dislodge or throw from a seat or saddle

synonym : uproot, displace, remove

(1) **unseat** the market leader, (2) **unseat** him from the presidency

The opposition party tries to **unseat** the ruling government in the upcoming elections.

assassin

n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

synonym : killer, manslayer

(1) fall victim to an **assassin**, (2) would-be **assassin**

She hired an **assassin** to kill her opponent.

dictator

n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

synonym : autocrat, tyrant, despot

(1) military **dictator**, (2) a **dictator** with enormous powers

A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the **dictator**.

loot

v. steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

synonym : plunder, pillage, rob

(1) **loot** the ship, (2) war **loot**

The bandits **looted** the small town, leaving it in ruins.

devastation

n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

synonym : destruction, ruin, havoc

(1) financial **devastation**, (2) **devastation** to life

The economic recession caused **devastation** in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.

reparation

n. the act of repairing or making amends for damage, harm, or injury caused to someone or something

synonym: compensation, restitution, amends

(1) **reparation** for damages, (2) war **reparations**

The company offered financial **reparations** to those affected by their faulty product.

unanswered

adj. not responded to or explained

synonym: ignored, unrequited, undecided

(1) **unanswered** love, (2) **unanswered** e-mail

Pardon me for leaving some of your questions **unanswered**.

inconceivable

adj. hard to imagine or believe

synonym: unimaginable, impossible, unthinkable

(1) **inconceivable** pain, (2) **inconceivable** ideas

It would be **inconceivable** for him to alter his behavior.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. ma_____y of nature | <i>n.</i> regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness |
| 2. rel_____sh all hope | <i>v.</i> to give up power, control, or possession |
| 3. en____h public services | <i>v.</i> to make better or improve in quality by adding something else |
| 4. cold-blooded at_____ty | <i>n.</i> brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act |
| 5. un____t him from the presidency | <i>v.</i> to remove or depose from a position of authority or power; to dislodge or throw from a seat or saddle |
| 6. would-be as_____in | <i>n.</i> a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money |
| 7. se__r a rope | <i>v.</i> to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly |
| 8. se__r a positive relationship | <i>v.</i> to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly |
| 9. pn_____ic cylinder | <i>adj.</i> relating to or using air or gas under pressure, particularly in machinery or devices; operated by compressed air or gas |
| 10. a di_____or with enormous powers | <i>n.</i> a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force |
| 11. de_____e to lie | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression |

ANSWERS: 1. majesty, 2. relinquish, 3. enrich, 4. atrocity, 5. unseat, 6. assassin, 7. sever, 8. sever, 9. pneumatic, 10. dictator, 11. deceive

12. sc_____le my mind *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
13. a green v__e *n.* a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems
14. inc_____ble ideas *adj.* hard to imagine or believe
15. person of de___t *n.* the act of deceiving or misleading someone, often for personal or selfish gain; a practice or behavior intended to mislead or misrepresent the truth
16. 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
17. un___t the market leader *v.* to remove or depose from a position of authority or power; to dislodge or throw from a seat or saddle
18. de_____e others of profit *v.* to take away something from someone
19. deliberate ar__n *n.* the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings
20. fr__c area *n.* the currency used in some countries, including Switzerland, France, and formerly Belgium
21. financial dev_____on *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
22. military di_____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

ANSWERS: 12. scramble, 13. vine, 14. inconceivable, 15. deceit, 16. diplomat, 17. unseat, 18. deprive, 19. arson, 20. franc, 21. devastation, 22. dictator

23. t__g branch *n.* a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual
24. false acc_____on *n.* a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
25. de_____e skillfully *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
26. war l__t *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
27. cor_____te evidence *v.* to confirm or support something that has already been suggested, particularly by providing evidence or witness testimony
28. war rep_____ons *n.* the act of repairing or making amends for damage, harm, or injury caused to someone or something
29. up__d a tradition *v.* to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order
30. una_____ed love *adj.* not responded to or explained
31. cor_____te story *v.* to confirm or support something that has already been suggested, particularly by providing evidence or witness testimony

ANSWERS: 23. twig, 24. accusation, 25. deceive, 26. loot, 27. corroborate, 28. reparation, 29. upend, 30. unanswered, 31. corroborate

32. de_____e him of his status *v.* to take away something from someone
33. rel_____sh control *v.* to give up power, control, or possession
34. ho_____ic experience *adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
35. pro_____on of cars *n.* a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose
36. se__e the day *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
37. l__t the ship *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
38. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
39. sta_____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
40. morning ma_____y *n.* regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness
41. una_____ed e-mail *adj.* not responded to or explained
42. religious pro_____on *n.* a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose
43. v__l music *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba

ANSWERS: 32. deprive, 33. relinquish, 34. horrific, 35. procession, 36. seize, 37. loot, 38. opportune, 39. starvation, 40. majesty, 41. unanswered, 42. procession, 43. viol

44. dev_____on to life *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
45. sc_____le for support *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
46. fall victim to an as_____in *n.* a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money
47. v__e of ore *n.* a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems
48. commit at_____ty *n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
49. pn_____ic tire *adj.* relating to or using air or gas under pressure, particularly in machinery or devices; operated by compressed air or gas
50. en____h a gas with a balloon *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
51. web of de____t *n.* the act of deceiving or misleading someone, often for personal or selfish gain; a practice or behavior intended to mislead or misrepresent the truth
52. inc_____ble pain *adj.* hard to imagine or believe
53. up__d a table *v.* to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order
54. die of sta_____on *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

ANSWERS: 44. devastation, 45. scramble, 46. assassin, 47. vine, 48. atrocity, 49. pneumatic, 50. enrich, 51. deceit, 52. inconceivable, 53. upend, 54. starvation

55. Swiss fr__c *n.* the currency used in some countries, including Switzerland, France, and formerly Belgium
56. rep_____on for damages *n.* the act of repairing or making amends for damage, harm, or injury caused to someone or something
57. unf_____ng commitment *adj.* not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast and resolute
58. ac___e each other *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
59. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
60. 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
61. v__l instrument *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
62. ar__n attack *n.* the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings
63. unf_____ng gaze *adj.* not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast and resolute
64. ho_____ic condition *adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

ANSWERS: 55. franc, 56. reparation, 57. unflinching, 58. accuse, 59. opportune, 60. diplomat, 61. viol, 62. arson, 63. unflinching, 64. horrific

65. ac___e his rudeness *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
66. criminal acc_____on *n.* a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
67. se__e a person's property *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
68. t__g basket *n.* a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

ANSWERS: 65. accuse, 66. accusation, 67. seize, 68. twig

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The police are investigating the _____ that destroyed the abandoned building.
n. the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings

2. He was _____ of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.
v. to take away something from someone

3. The bird perched on a _____ and sang a beautiful melody.
n. a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

4. The accident scene was _____ with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.
adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

5. The politician's _____ was exposed when leaked emails revealed he had accepted lobbyists' bribes.
n. the act of deceiving or misleading someone, often for personal or selfish gain; a practice or behavior intended to mislead or misrepresent the truth

6. The economic recession caused _____ in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.
n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

7. The funeral _____ slowly made its way to the cemetery.
n. a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose

ANSWERS: 1. arson, 2. deprived, 3. twig, 4. horrific, 5. deceit, 6. devastation, 7. procession

8. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.
- v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
9. The magician's illusions were designed to _____ the audience into believing they saw something impossible.
- v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
10. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.
- n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
11. During the colonial period, several African nations used the _____ as their currency due to the influence of France.
- n.* the currency used in some countries, including Switzerland, France, and formerly Belgium
12. The bandits _____ the small town, leaving it in ruins.
- v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
13. The mechanic used a _____ drill to repair the engine.
- adj.* relating to or using air or gas under pressure, particularly in machinery or devices; operated by compressed air or gas
14. A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the _____.
- n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
15. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 8. severed, 9. deceive, 10. starvation, 11. franc, 12. looted, 13. pneumatic, 14. dictator, 15. opportune

16. A _____ remains productive throughout the year.
- n.* a climbing plant that produces grapes; any plant with a growth habit of trailing or climbing stems
17. The _____ player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.
- n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
18. It would be _____ for him to alter his behavior.
- adj.* hard to imagine or believe
19. The witness _____ the defendant of committing the robbery.
- v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
20. Reading not only increases knowledge but also _____ life.
- v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
21. 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
22. The opposition party tries to _____ the ruling government in the upcoming elections.
- v.* to remove or depose from a position of authority or power; to dislodge or throw from a seat or saddle
23. The eyewitness testimony _____ the suspect's alibi.
- v.* to confirm or support something that has already been suggested, particularly by providing evidence or witness testimony

ANSWERS: 16. vine, 17. viol, 18. inconceivable, 19. accused, 20. enriches, 21. diplomat, 22. unseat, 23. corroborated

24. His _____ courage in the face of danger was impressive.

adj. not showing fear or hesitation in the face of danger or adversity; steadfast and resolute

25. He has the superpower to _____ a business opportunity.

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

26. She decided to _____ her role as the leader of the group.

v. to give up power, control, or possession

27. Local business owners _____ to find skilled workers.

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

28. Pardon me for leaving some of your questions _____.

adj. not responded to or explained

29. The king's _____ was apparent in his elegant attire and powerful presence.

n. regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness

30. The _____ of the war left many children orphaned.

n. brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act

31. She hired an _____ to kill her opponent.

n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

32. The sudden news _____ their plans for the weekend.

v. to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order

ANSWERS: 24. unflinching, 25. seize, 26. relinquish, 27. scrambled, 28. unanswered, 29. majesty, 30. atrocity, 31. assassin, 32. upended

33. The company offered financial _____ to those affected by their faulty product.
- n.* the act of repairing or making amends for damage, harm, or injury caused to someone or something
34. The _____ of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.
- n.* a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone

ANSWERS: 33. reparations, 34. accusation