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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Yifat Susskind: In uncertain times, think like a mother
| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

uncharted

adj. not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action

synonym: unknown, unexplored, undiscovered

(1) **uncharted** wilderness, (2) **uncharted** waters

The explorer ventured into **uncharted** territory, not knowing what to expect.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

meltdown

n. a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically

synonym: collapse, disaster, failure

(1) **meltdown** disaster, (2) economic **meltdown**

The nuclear **meltdown** in the country was a disaster with far-reaching consequences.

blare

v. to make a loud, harsh noise; to sound loudly and harshly

synonym: blast, screech, trumpet

(1) **blare** music, (2) **blare** a horn

The music **blared** from the car's open windows.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

greedy

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

synonym: avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

cultivate

v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants

synonym: boost, foster, nurture

(1) **cultivate** a field, (2) **cultivate** relationships

University is a great place to **cultivate** our minds and expertise.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

assassination

n. the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives

synonym: murder, killing, execution

(1) failed **assassination** attempt, (2) **assassination** plot

The **assassination** of the president sent shockwaves through the nation.

apartheid

n. a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors

synonym : segregation, discrimination, oppression

(1) **apartheid** system, (2) **apartheid** policies

The South African government enforced **apartheid** laws that segregated people based on race.

affirmation

n. a statement declaring something to be true strongly

synonym : confirmation, validation, endorsement

(1) self- **affirmation**, (2) statement of **affirmation**

The **affirmation** from her boss gave her the confidence she needed to move forward with her project.

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**.

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym : hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

catastrophe

n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

synonym : disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym: open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

well-being

n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

synonym: health, welfare, happiness

(1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being**

We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

subsistence

n. the state or condition of being able to maintain or support oneself at a basic level, typically through food, shelter, and other vital necessities; the minimum resources required for survival

synonym: survival, livelihood, existence

(1) **subsistence** economy, (2) **subsistence** farming

The farmer's **subsistence** depended on his crops and livestock.

philanthropy

n. the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money

synonym: altruism, benevolence, generosity

(1) **philanthropy** organization, (2) private **philanthropy**

Tech billionaires often spend the majority of their time on

philanthropy.

endlessly

adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

synonym : ceaselessly, interminably, unceasingly

(1) repeat **endlessly**, (2) worry **endlessly** about our future
The procession of demonstrators was **endlessly** continuing.

superstar

n. a very famous and successful performer or athlete

synonym : celebrity, icon, megastar

(1) **superstar** athlete, (2) jazz **superstar**

She is a **superstar** in the music industry.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym : welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

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.

whim

n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

synonym : fancy, caprice, whimsy

(1) at the **whim** of circumstance, (2) **whim** of youth

He quit his job on a **whim** and moved to a new city.

seawall

n. a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline

synonym : embankment, breakwater

(1) strong **seawall**, (2) **seawall** construction

The beachfront property owners installed a **seawall** to protect their homes from the rising tides.

divert

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym : distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **divert** attention, (2) **divert** an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

prosecute

v. to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement

synonym : charge, sue, bring to trial

(1) **prosecute** criminal, (2) **prosecute** case

The attorney decided to **prosecute** the suspect for stealing from the store.

barb

n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

synonym : spine, barbed remark, sting

(1) **barb** wire, (2) aim a **barb**

The politician's words were full of **barbs** designed to hurt his opponent.

lifeboat

n. a small boat designed to be launched from a larger vessel in case of an emergency, typically used to rescue passengers or crew members in danger of drowning

synonym : rescue boat, safety boat, emergency vessel

(1) launch **lifeboat**, (2) coastal **lifeboat** station

The passengers were evacuated from the sinking ship and boarded the **lifeboat**.

xenophobia

n. extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries

synonym: fear, hatred, aversion

(1) suffer from **xenophobia**, (2) linguistic **xenophobia**

The **xenophobia** in society makes it hard for immigrants to assimilate and integrate.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
2. gr____y person *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
3. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
4. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
5. un____d the stroller *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
6. un____d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
7. bl__e music *v.* to make a loud, harsh noise; to sound loudly and harshly
8. sub_____ce farming *n.* the state or condition of being able to maintain or support oneself at a basic level, typically through food, shelter, and other vital necessities; the minimum resources required for survival

ANSWERS: 1. terrifying, 2. greedy, 3. electrify, 4. overwhelm, 5. unfold, 6. unfold, 7. blare, 8. subsistence

9. phi_____opy organization *n.* the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money
10. launch li_____at *n.* a small boat designed to be launched from a larger vessel in case of an emergency, typically used to rescue passengers or crew members in danger of drowning
11. failed ass_____ion attempt *n.* the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives
12. a di_____or with enormous powers *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
13. linguistic xen_____ia *n.* extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries
14. statement of aff_____on *n.* a statement declaring something to be true strongly
15. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
16. gr__t a customer *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
17. un_____ed wilderness *adj.* not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action
18. the wel_____ng of a nation *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
19. ap_____id policies *n.* a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors

ANSWERS: 9. philanthropy, 10. lifeboat, 11. assassination, 12. dictator, 13. xenophobia, 14. affirmation, 15. invade, 16. greet, 17. uncharted, 18. well-being, 19. apartheid

20. avoid climate cat_____he *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
21. pri_____ze people over cars *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
22. ter_____ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
23. b__b wire *n.* a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair
24. strong se_____l *n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
25. coastal li_____at station *n.* a small boat designed to be launched from a larger vessel in case of an emergency, typically used to rescue passengers or crew members in danger of drowning
26. cat_____he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
27. pri_____ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
28. fa____e relief *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
29. di____t an assault *v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

ANSWERS: 20. catastrophe, 21. prioritize, 22. terrifying, 23. barb, 24. seawall, 25. lifeboat, 26. catastrophe, 27. prioritize, 28. famine, 29. divert

30. economic me_____wn *n.* a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically
31. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
32. pr_____te case *v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
33. at the w__m of circumstance *n.* a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained
34. sub_____ce economy *n.* the state or condition of being able to maintain or support oneself at a basic level, typically through food, shelter, and other vital necessities; the minimum resources required for survival
35. jazz su_____ar *n.* a very famous and successful performer or athlete
36. su_____ar athlete *n.* a very famous and successful performer or athlete
37. military di_____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
38. repeat en_____ly *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
39. self-aff_____on *n.* a statement declaring something to be true strongly

ANSWERS: 30. meltdown, 31. overwhelm, 32. prosecute, 33. whim, 34. subsistence, 35. superstar, 36. superstar, 37. dictator, 38. endlessly, 39. affirmation

59. a sense of wel_____ng *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
60. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

ANSWERS: 59. well-being, 60. electrify

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The beachfront property owners installed a _____ to protect their homes from the rising tides.
 - n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline

2. The politician's words were full of _____ designed to hurt his opponent.
 - n.* a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

3. We are responsible for the care and _____ of all our employees.
 - n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

4. The lack of funds has resulted in a _____ for our university system.
 - n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune

5. 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

6. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
 - v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

7. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
 - adj.* very frightening or intimidating

ANSWERS: 1. seawall, 2. barbs, 3. well-being, 4. catastrophe, 5. prioritized, 6. electrify, 7. terrifying

8. The nuclear _____ in the country was a disaster with far-reaching consequences.
- n.* a severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor resulting in the core melting and radiation escaping; a situation in which something fails or weakens suddenly or dramatically
9. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.
- n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
10. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
- v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
11. The explorer ventured into _____ territory, not knowing what to expect.
- adj.* not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action
12. The music _____ from the car's open windows.
- v.* to make a loud, harsh noise; to sound loudly and harshly
13. The South African government enforced _____ laws that segregated people based on race.
- n.* a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors
14. The farmer's _____ depended on his crops and livestock.
- n.* the state or condition of being able to maintain or support oneself at a basic level, typically through food, shelter, and other vital necessities; the minimum resources required for survival

ANSWERS: 8. meltdown, 9. famine, 10. greeted, 11. uncharted, 12. blared, 13. apartheid, 14. subsistence

15. He quit his job on a _____ and moved to a new city.
n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained
16. Tech billionaires often spend the majority of their time on _____.
n. the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money
17. The _____ of the president sent shockwaves through the nation.
n. the act of killing a public figure, especially a political leader, usually for political or religious motives
18. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
19. Due to the road construction, we had to _____ our course to get to the restaurant.
v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
20. The passengers were evacuated from the sinking ship and boarded the _____.
n. a small boat designed to be launched from a larger vessel in case of an emergency, typically used to rescue passengers or crew members in danger of drowning
21. The procession of demonstrators was _____ continuing.
adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
22. She is a _____ in the music industry.
n. a very famous and successful performer or athlete

ANSWERS: 15. whim, 16. philanthropy, 17. assassination, 18. unfolded, 19. divert, 20. lifeboat, 21. endlessly, 22. superstar

23. 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
24. University is a great place to _____ our minds and expertise.
- v.* to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
25. The _____ in society makes it hard for immigrants to assimilate and integrate.
- n.* extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries
26. The _____ from her boss gave her the confidence she needed to move forward with her project.
- n.* a statement declaring something to be true strongly
27. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.
- v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
28. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
- v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
29. His _____ behavior led him to steal from the company.
- adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
30. The attorney decided to _____ the suspect for stealing from the store.
- v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement

ANSWERS: 23. dictator, 24. cultivate, 25. xenophobia, 26. affirmation, 27. overwhelm, 28. invade, 29. greedy, 30. prosecute

ANSWERS: