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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lindsay Morcom: A history of Indigenous languages

-- and how to revitalize them | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

linguist

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
synonym: grammarist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

phonetics

n. the study of speech sounds and their physical properties; the study of the sounds of language and how they are produced, transmitted, and interpreted
synonym: speech sounds, sounds of language

(1) **phonetics** transcription, (2) **phonetics** theory

The study of **phonetics** is essential for understanding the nuances of language.

phonology

n. the study of the sound patterns of a language, including the distribution and organization of speech sounds; the

study of the structure and systematic organization of speech sounds in languages

synonym : phonemics, sound patterns, sound structures

(1) **phonology** rules, (2) **phonology** of English

The study of **phonology** concerns the systematic organization of sounds in a language.

morphology

n. the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another

synonym : structure, form, anatomy

(1) **morphology** of a language, (2) cellular **morphology**

The **morphology** of rocks can reveal clues about their geological history.

polysynthetic

adj. referring to a language that makes use of many morphemes, often combining them to form words or phrases that convey complex ideas

synonym : complex, synthetic, compound

(1) **polysynthetic** language, (2) complex **polysynthetic** system

The Inuit language is known for its **polysynthetic** words, which can contain whole sentences within one word.

morpheme

n. the smallest unit of a language that carries meaning; a combination of phonemes (= the basic units of sound in a language) that conveys a specific semantic or grammatical function

synonym : unit, phoneme, root

(1) **morpheme** analysis, (2) lexical **morpheme**

The teacher used the concept of **morpheme** mapping to help students improve their spelling and vocabulary skills.

murmur

v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath

synonym : burble, gurgle, mutter

(1) **murmur** at low wages, (2) **murmur** a greeting
He always **murmurs** at the ill-treatment.

categorize

v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.

synonym: classify, pigeonhole, sort

(1) **categorize** the image, (2) **categorize** the cause of failure

The biologist **categorized** the viruses into four groups.

animate

v. to make something full of interest and energy

synonym: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

inanimate

adj. not having life or spirit; not animate

synonym: lifeless, inert, passive

(1) **inanimate** nature, (2) **inanimate** matter

The **inanimate** object was not capable of movement or feeling.

masculine

adj. having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men

synonym: male, mannish, manly

(1) wear **masculine** attire, (2) **masculine** beauty

Her allure lies in her **masculine** rather than feminine beauty.

posse

n. a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait

synonym: crew, gang, retinue

(1) **posse** member, (2) **posse** of citizens

My friends and I formed a **posse** to search for the lost hiker.

immemorial

adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old
synonym: ancient, age-old, time-honored

(1) **immemorial** relationship, (2) from **immemorial** times
The ancient ruins had been there since **immemorial**, and their origin was mysterious.

priceless

adj. extremely valuable or important
synonym: invaluable, incalculable, precious

(1) **priceless** work of art, (2) **priceless** opportunity
Investigators discovered **priceless** documents throughout the house.

politic

adj. wise and displaying the ability to make reasonable decisions
synonym: wise, tactful, expedient

(1) a **politic** decision, (2) heal the body **politic**
She was **politic** in her behavior.

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.

defund

v. to withdraw or cut off funding or financial support from a person, organization, or project
synonym: divest, disinvest, withdraw funding

(1) **defund** the healthcare system, (2) **defund** an organization
The protest movement has called on the government to **defund** the police department.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

beacon

n. a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

synonym: lighthouse, guidepost, marker

(1) an aerial **beacon**, (2) **beacon** of hope

The lighthouse served as a **beacon** to guide ships safely into port.

pertain

v. to be relevant or applicable to a particular subject or situation; to belong to or be connected with something

synonym: relate, concern, apply

(1) **pertain** to the case, (2) **pertain** to the topic

The new regulations **pertain** to all employees, regardless of their position.

aboriginal

adj. relating to the people, culture, or history of the original inhabitants of a particular region, especially before the arrival of colonizers or settlers; indigenous

synonym: native, indigenous, autochthonous

(1) **aboriginal** art, (2) **aboriginal** land

Many **aboriginal** cultures have deep spiritual connections to the land and its natural resources.

reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym: settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

revitalization

n. the process of giving new life or energy to something
synonym: renewal, reactivation, rejuvenation

(1) **revitalization** project, (2) **revitalization** of humanity
The **revitalization** of the downtown area brought new life to the community.

immersion

n. the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity

synonym: submergence, involvement, engagement

(1) baptism by **immersion**, (2) **immersion** in acid
I felt like I was in a different world because of the **immersion** experience of virtual reality.

fluent

adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

synonym: eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone
She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

kiln

n. an oven or furnace used for baking, drying, or firing clay, pottery, bricks, or other materials; typically made of brick or refractory material and heated with wood, coal, or gas

synonym: oven, furnace, hearth

(1) brick **kiln**, (2) electric **kiln**
The pottery was fired in the **kiln** for several hours to harden it.

multigenerational

adj. involving or encompassing multiple generations, particularly within a family or community; relating to or affecting people of different age groups or life stages

synonym: cross-generational, intergenerational

(1) **multigenerational** home, (2) **multigenerational** workforce

The **multigenerational** family farm has been passed down for generations.

enact

v. to make a law; to put something into practice

synonym: legislate, pass, decree

(1) **enact** new legislation, (2) **enact** the smoking ban

The government **enacted** this law in 1925.

quote

v. to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services

synonym: cite, reference, mention

(1) **quote** a source, (2) **quote** a price

In his speech, he **quoted** a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.

settler

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

synonym: frontiersperson, immigrant, emigrant

(1) new **settlers**, (2) **settlers** on some foreign shore

A large proportion of railway workers in **settler** colonies were white.

assimilate

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

synonym: absorb, incorporate, integrate

(1) **assimilate** into society, (2) **assimilate** a language

The immigrant struggled to **assimilate** into the new culture.

Session 2: Spelling

1. po__e of citizens
n. a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait
2. commit at____ty
n. brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
3. de____d the healthcare system
v. to withdraw or cut off funding or financial support from a person, organization, or project
4. pr_____ss work of art
adj. extremely valuable or important
5. pe_____n to the topic
v. to be relevant or applicable to a particular subject or situation; to belong to or be connected with something
6. in_____te nature
adj. not having life or spirit; not animate
7. mu____r at low wages
v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
8. mor_____gy of a language
n. the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another
9. rev_____ion project
n. the process of giving new life or energy to something
10. mu____r a greeting
v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath

ANSWERS: 1. posse, 2. atrocity, 3. defund, 4. priceless, 5. pertain, 6. inanimate, 7. murmur, 8. morphology, 9. revitalization, 10. murmur

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 11. baptism by im_____on | <i>n.</i> the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity |
| 12. mo_____me analysis | <i>n.</i> the smallest unit of a language that carries meaning; a combination of phonemes (= the basic units of sound in a language) that conveys a specific semantic or grammatical function |
| 13. new se_____rs | <i>n.</i> a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area |
| 14. cold-blooded at_____ty | <i>n.</i> brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act |
| 15. pol_____tic language | <i>adj.</i> referring to a language that makes use of many morphemes, often combining them to form words or phrases that convey complex ideas |
| 16. an_____or language | <i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |
| 17. en__t the smoking ban | <i>v.</i> to make a law; to put something into practice |
| 18. ins_____ize a system | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 19. ma_____ne beauty | <i>adj.</i> having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men |
| 20. imm_____al relationship | <i>adj.</i> extending back beyond memory or record; very old |

ANSWERS: 11. immersion, 12. morpheme, 13. settler, 14. atrocity, 15. polysynthetic, 16. ancestor, 17. enact, 18. institutionalize, 19. masculine, 20. immemorial

21. abo_____al land *adj.* relating to the people, culture, or history of the original inhabitants of a particular region, especially before the arrival of colonizers or settlers; indigenous
22. de____d an organization *v.* to withdraw or cut off funding or financial support from a person, organization, or project
23. pe_____n to the case *v.* to be relevant or applicable to a particular subject or situation; to belong to or be connected with something
24. co_____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
25. electric k__n *n.* an oven or furnace used for baking, drying, or firing clay, pottery, bricks, or other materials; typically made of brick or refractory material and heated with wood, coal, or gas
26. cat_____ze the cause of failure *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
27. ph_____cs transcription *n.* the study of speech sounds and their physical properties; the study of the sounds of language and how they are produced, transmitted, and interpreted
28. im_____on in acid *n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
29. re_____m a competitive position *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

ANSWERS: 21. aboriginal, 22. defund, 23. pertain, 24. colonize, 25. kiln, 26. categorize, 27. phonetics, 28. immersion, 29. reclaim

30. earliest human an____or
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
31. cellular mor_____gy
n. the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another
32. wear ma_____ne attire
adj. having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men
33. foreign li____st
n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
34. in a fl___t tone
adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
35. from imm_____al times
adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old
36. qu__e a source
v. to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
37. an_____e his soul
v. to make something full of interest and energy
38. po__e member
n. a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait

ANSWERS: 30. ancestor, 31. morphology, 32. masculine, 33. linguist, 34. fluent, 35. immemorial, 36. quote, 37. animate, 38. posse

39. be___n of hope *n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning
40. qu___e a price *v.* to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services
41. heal the body po____c *adj.* wise and displaying the ability to make reasonable decisions
42. an____e the body *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
43. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
44. abo____al art *adj.* relating to the people, culture, or history of the original inhabitants of a particular region, especially before the arrival of colonizers or settlers; indigenous
45. ph____gy rules *n.* the study of the sound patterns of a language, including the distribution and organization of speech sounds; the study of the structure and systematic organization of speech sounds in languages
46. pr____ss opportunity *adj.* extremely valuable or important
47. co____ze planets *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
48. se____rs on some foreign shore *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

ANSWERS: 39. beacon, 40. quote, 41. politic, 42. animate, 43. institutionalize, 44. aboriginal, 45. phonology, 46. priceless, 47. colonize, 48. settler

49. en__t new legislation *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
50. rev_____ion of humanity *n.* the process of giving new life or energy to something
51. cognitive li____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
52. re_____m land from the sea *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
53. complex pol_____tic system *adj.* referring to a language that makes use of many morphemes, often combining them to form words or phrases that convey complex ideas
54. ass_____te into society *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
55. mul_____nal workforce *adj.* involving or encompassing multiple generations, particularly within a family or community; relating to or affecting people of different age groups or life stages
56. ass_____te a language *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
57. ph_____gy of English *n.* the study of the sound patterns of a language, including the distribution and organization of speech sounds; the study of the structure and systematic organization of speech sounds in languages
58. an aerial be____n *n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

ANSWERS: 49. enact, 50. revitalization, 51. linguist, 52. reclaim, 53. polysynthetic, 54. assimilate, 55. multigenerational, 56. assimilate, 57. phonology, 58. beacon

59. cat_____ze the image *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
60. brick k__n *n.* an oven or furnace used for baking, drying, or firing clay, pottery, bricks, or other materials; typically made of brick or refractory material and heated with wood, coal, or gas
61. in_____te matter *adj.* not having life or spirit; not animate
62. ph_____cs theory *n.* the study of speech sounds and their physical properties; the study of the sounds of language and how they are produced, transmitted, and interpreted
63. lexical mo_____me *n.* the smallest unit of a language that carries meaning; a combination of phonemes (= the basic units of sound in a language) that conveys a specific semantic or grammatical function
64. a po_____c decision *adj.* wise and displaying the ability to make reasonable decisions
65. fl___t Chinese *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
66. mul_____nal home *adj.* involving or encompassing multiple generations, particularly within a family or community; relating to or affecting people of different age groups or life stages

ANSWERS: 59. categorize, 60. kiln, 61. inanimate, 62. phonetics, 63. morpheme, 64. politic, 65. fluent, 66. multigenerational

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She was _____ in her behavior.

adj. wise and displaying the ability to make reasonable decisions

2. The ancient ruins had been there since _____ and their origin was mysterious.

adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old

3. The pottery was fired in the _____ for several hours to harden it.

n. an oven or furnace used for baking, drying, or firing clay, pottery, bricks, or other materials; typically made of brick or refractory material and heated with wood, coal, or gas

4. You may be entitled to _____ some tax.

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

5. The _____ family farm has been passed down for generations.

adj. involving or encompassing multiple generations, particularly within a family or community; relating to or affecting people of different age groups or life stages

6. The _____ object was not capable of movement or feeling.

adj. not having life or spirit; not animate

7. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

ANSWERS: 1. politic, 2. immemorial, 3. kiln, 4. reclaim, 5. multigenerational, 6. inanimate, 7. institutionalize

8. The protest movement has called on the government to _____ the police department.
- v. to withdraw or cut off funding or financial support from a person, organization, or project
9. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
- v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
10. The biologist _____ the viruses into four groups.
- v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
11. Her allure lies in her _____ rather than feminine beauty.
- adj. having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men
12. The positive attitude of the supervisor _____ the discussion.
- v. to make something full of interest and energy
13. Though I love literature, I'm a bad _____.
- n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
14. The government _____ this law in 1925.
- v. to make a law; to put something into practice
15. She learned five languages but is only _____ in two of them.
- adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

ANSWERS: 8. defund, 9. colonized, 10. categorized, 11. masculine, 12. animated, 13. linguist, 14. enacted, 15. fluent

16. A large proportion of railway workers in _____ colonies were white.
n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
17. The new regulations _____ to all employees, regardless of their position.
v. to be relevant or applicable to a particular subject or situation; to belong to or be connected with something
18. I felt like I was in a different world because of the _____ experience of virtual reality.
n. the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
19. Many _____ cultures have deep spiritual connections to the land and its natural resources.
adj. relating to the people, culture, or history of the original inhabitants of a particular region, especially before the arrival of colonizers or settlers; indigenous
20. The teacher used the concept of _____ mapping to help students improve their spelling and vocabulary skills.
n. the smallest unit of a language that carries meaning; a combination of phonemes (= the basic units of sound in a language) that conveys a specific semantic or grammatical function
21. He always _____ at the ill-treatment.
v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
22. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 16. settler, 17. pertain, 18. immersion, 19. aboriginal, 20. morpheme, 21. murmurs, 22. ancestor

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

n. brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act

24. My friends and I formed a _____ to search for the lost hiker.

n. a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait

25. In his speech, he _____ a famous philosopher to emphasize his point.

v. to repeat or reproduce the words or statement of someone else, often acknowledging the source; to give an estimated cost or price for goods or services

26. The _____ of the downtown area brought new life to the community.

n. the process of giving new life or energy to something

27. The Inuit language is known for its _____ words, which can contain whole sentences within one word.

adj. referring to a language that makes use of many morphemes, often combining them to form words or phrases that convey complex ideas

28. Investigators discovered _____ documents throughout the house.

adj. extremely valuable or important

29. The _____ of rocks can reveal clues about their geological history.

n. the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another

30. The study of _____ is essential for understanding the nuances of language.

n. the study of speech sounds and their physical properties; the study of the sounds of language and how they are produced, transmitted, and interpreted

ANSWERS: 23. atrocity, 24. posse, 25. quoted, 26. revitalization, 27. polysynthetic, 28. priceless, 29. morphology, 30. phonetics

31. The lighthouse served as a _____ to guide ships safely into port.

n. a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

32. The immigrant struggled to _____ into the new culture.

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

33. The study of _____ concerns the systematic organization of sounds in a language.

n. the study of the sound patterns of a language, including the distribution and organization of speech sounds; the study of the structure and systematic organization of speech sounds in languages

ANSWERS: 31. beacon, 32. assimilate, 33. phonology