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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Canwen Xu: I am not your Asian stereotype | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

aspire

v. to have an ambition or a desire to achieve something, typically something high or great

synonym: aim, desire, strive

(1) **aspire** to greatness, (2) **aspire** after perfection

She **aspired** to become a successful businesswoman.

sleepover

n. a social gathering in which one or more people stay overnight at another person's home, often as a means of casually spending time together, particularly among children or teenagers

synonym: slumber party, overnighter, pajama party

(1) **sleepover** party, (2) girls' **sleepover**

My daughter is having a **sleepover** with her friends tonight.

chopstick

n. a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food

(1) **chopstick** holder, (2) wooden **chopstick**

She struggled to grab the sushi with **chopsticks**.

addict

n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

synonym: devotee, buff, freak

(1) a drug **addict**, (2) Internet **addict**

We have become TV **addicts** due to video streaming services.

reconcile

v. to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
synonym: harmonize, moderate, conciliate

(1) **reconcile** these differences, (2) **reconcile** a dispute
Sometimes it is challenging to **reconcile** science and religion.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**
Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

borderline

adj. in a position or state of being almost but not quite something; on the edge or boundary of something
synonym: marginal, questionable, doubtful

(1) **borderline** personality, (2) **borderline** case
The teacher offered to review the papers of students who received **borderline** grades to provide them with feedback.

clueless

adj. lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation
synonym: uninformed, unaware, ignorant

(1) **clueless** in many ways, (2) **clueless** about the situation
She was completely **clueless** as to how to solve the problem.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality
Her remarks **confused** the debate.

needless

adj. describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or

adverse consequences

synonym: unnecessary, pointless, superfluous

(1) **needless** argument, (2) **needless** waste

This **needless** paperwork is wasting our time and resources.

banter

n. playful and teasing conversation between friends or acquaintances, characterized by good-natured teasing and humor; (verb) to engage in good-natured teasing or playful conversation with someone in a lighthearted and humorous way

synonym: teasing, raillery, chitchat

(1) **banter** back and forth, (2) playful **banter**

The **banter** between the two colleagues lightened the mood in the office.

amuse

v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

synonym: entertain, delight, divert

(1) **amuse** a baby with a rattle, (2) **amuse** guests

He **amused** himself by playing video games during his free time.

degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym: demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

binge

n. a period of excessive or uncontrolled consumption, often of food or alcohol; a spree or bout of reckless behavior or indulgence

synonym: spree, overindulgence, splurge

(1) **binge** on social media, (2) alcohol **binge**

She stayed up all night **binge-watching** her favorite TV show.

loath

adj. unwilling or reluctant to; feeling strong dislike or aversion towards

synonym: reluctant, unwilling, disinclined

(1) **loath** to negotiate, (2) **loath** to fire my loyal employee
I'm **loath** to go to the dentist because I fear the pain.

perpetual

adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

synonym: enduring, unchanging, incessant

(1) **perpetual** motion machine, (2) **perpetual** struggle
The company employs a **perpetual** inventory system.

confrontation

n. the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement

synonym: face-off, conflict, competition

(1) violent **confrontation**, (2) verbal **confrontation**

The **confrontation** between the two nations escalated into a full-blown war.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

hardworking

adj. tending to work with a lot of effort and care

synonym: diligent, dedicated, conscientious

(1) **hardworking** student, (2) retire from **hardworking** life

They sought candidates with **hardworking** and good-natured.

despise

v. to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something

synonym: hate, loathe, detest

(1) **despise** a particular food, (2) secretly **despise**

I **despise** injustice and those who perpetrate it.

horrendous

adj. causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying

synonym: dreadful, terrible, horrifying

(1) **horrendous** traffic, (2) a **horrendous** crime

The **horrendous** storm caused massive flooding in the town and destroyed many houses.

Session 2: Spelling

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. cl____ss in many ways | <i>adj.</i> lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation |
| 2. co____e fantasy with reality | <i>v.</i> to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand |
| 3. Internet ad____t | <i>n.</i> a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful |
| 4. girls' sl____er | <i>n.</i> a social gathering in which one or more people stay overnight at another person's home, often as a means of casually spending time together, particularly among children or teenagers |
| 5. as____e after perfection | <i>v.</i> to have an ambition or a desire to achieve something, typically something high or great |
| 6. violent con____ion | <i>n.</i> the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement |
| 7. verbal con____ion | <i>n.</i> the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement |
| 8. de____e his public image | <i>v.</i> to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others |

ANSWERS: 1. clueless, 2. confuse, 3. addict, 4. sleepover, 5. aspire, 6. confrontation, 7. confrontation, 8. degrade

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|----------------------------|---|
| 9. secretly de____e | <i>v.</i> to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something |
| 10. co____e the listener | <i>v.</i> to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand |
| 11. baseless pre____on | <i>n.</i> the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition |
| 12. pe____al struggle | <i>adj.</i> continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted |
| 13. ch____ck holder | <i>n.</i> a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food |
| 14. bor____ne case | <i>adj.</i> in a position or state of being almost but not quite something; on the edge or boundary of something |
| 15. pre____on to authority | <i>n.</i> the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition |
| 16. ne____ss waste | <i>adj.</i> describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences |
| 17. bor____ne personality | <i>adj.</i> in a position or state of being almost but not quite something; on the edge or boundary of something |

ANSWERS: 9. despise, 10. confuse, 11. pretension, 12. perpetual, 13. chopstick, 14. borderline, 15. pretension, 16. needless, 17. borderline

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| 18. de____e environmental quality | v. | to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others |
| 19. re_____le these differences | v. | to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist |
| 20. avoid ste_____pe | n. | a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |
| 21. playful ba____r | n. | playful and teasing conversation between friends or acquaintances, characterized by good-natured teasing and humor; (verb) to engage in good-natured teasing or playful conversation with someone in a lighthearted and humorous way |
| 22. re_____le a dispute | v. | to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist |
| 23. de____e a particular food | v. | to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something |
| 24. negative ste_____pes | n. | a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |

ANSWERS: 18. degrade, 19. reconcile, 20. stereotype, 21. banter, 22. reconcile, 23. despise, 24. stereotype

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| 25. pe_____al motion machine | <i>adj.</i> continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted |
| 26. of____d his sensibilities | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed |
| 27. am____e a baby with a rattle | <i>v.</i> to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh |
| 28. as____e to greatness | <i>v.</i> to have an ambition or a desire to achieve something, typically something high or great |
| 29. sl_____er party | <i>n.</i> a social gathering in which one or more people stay overnight at another person's home, often as a means of casually spending time together, particularly among children or teenagers |
| 30. a hor_____us crime | <i>adj.</i> causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying |
| 31. lo__h to negotiate | <i>adj.</i> unwilling or reluctant to; feeling strong dislike or aversion towards |
| 32. wooden ch_____ck | <i>n.</i> a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food |
| 33. lo__h to fire my loyal employee | <i>adj.</i> unwilling or reluctant to; feeling strong dislike or aversion towards |
| 34. am____e guests | <i>v.</i> to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh |
| 35. cl_____ss about the situation | <i>adj.</i> lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation |

ANSWERS: 25. perpetual, 26. offend, 27. amuse, 28. aspire, 29. sleepover, 30. horrendous, 31. loath, 32. chopstick, 33. loath, 34. amuse, 35. clueless

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| 36. bi__e on social media | <i>n.</i> a period of excessive or uncontrolled consumption, often of food or alcohol; a spree or bout of reckless behavior or indulgence |
| 37. alcohol bi__e | <i>n.</i> a period of excessive or uncontrolled consumption, often of food or alcohol; a spree or bout of reckless behavior or indulgence |
| 38. ne____ss argument | <i>adj.</i> describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences |
| 39. har_____ng student | <i>adj.</i> tending to work with a lot of effort and care |
| 40. hor_____us traffic | <i>adj.</i> causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying |
| 41. ba___r back and forth | <i>n.</i> playful and teasing conversation between friends or acquaintances, characterized by good-natured teasing and humor; (verb) to engage in good-natured teasing or playful conversation with someone in a lighthearted and humorous way |
| 42. a drug ad___t | <i>n.</i> a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful |
| 43. of___d a customer | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed |
| 44. retire from har_____ng life | <i>adj.</i> tending to work with a lot of effort and care |

ANSWERS: 36. binge, 37. binge, 38. needless, 39. hardworking, 40. horrendous, 41. banter, 42. addict, 43. offend, 44. hardworking

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
2. This _____ paperwork is wasting our time and resources.
adj. describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
3. The _____ storm caused massive flooding in the town and destroyed many houses.
adj. causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying
4. She struggled to grab the sushi with _____.
n. a pair of thin, tapered sticks used in East Asian cultures to pick up and eat food
5. I'm _____ to go to the dentist because I fear the pain.
adj. unwilling or reluctant to; feeling strong dislike or aversion towards
6. I _____ injustice and those who perpetrate it.
v. to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
7. The teacher offered to review the papers of students who received _____ grades to provide them with feedback.
adj. in a position or state of being almost but not quite something; on the edge or boundary of something

ANSWERS: 1. confused, 2. needless, 3. horrendous, 4. chopsticks, 5. loath, 6. despise, 7. borderline

8. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.
- v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
9. Sometimes it is challenging to _____ science and religion.
- v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
10. She _____ to become a successful businesswoman.
- v.* to have an ambition or a desire to achieve something, typically something high or great
11. She was completely _____ as to how to solve the problem.
- adj.* lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation
12. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
13. The _____ between the two nations escalated into a full-blown war.
- n.* the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement
14. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
- n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

ANSWERS: 8. degrade, 9. reconcile, 10. aspired, 11. clueless, 12. pretensions, 13. confrontation, 14. stereotypes

15. My daughter is having a _____ with her friends tonight.
n. a social gathering in which one or more people stay overnight at another person's home, often as a means of casually spending time together, particularly among children or teenagers
16. We have become TV _____ due to video streaming services.
n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
17. They sought candidates with _____ and good-natured.
adj. tending to work with a lot of effort and care
18. She stayed up all night _____ her favorite TV show.
n. a period of excessive or uncontrolled consumption, often of food or alcohol; a spree or bout of reckless behavior or indulgence
19. The company employs a _____ inventory system.
adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
20. The _____ between the two colleagues lightened the mood in the office.
n. playful and teasing conversation between friends or acquaintances, characterized by good-natured teasing and humor; (verb) to engage in good-natured teasing or playful conversation with someone in a lighthearted and humorous way
21. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
22. He _____ himself by playing video games during his free time.
v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

ANSWERS: 15. sleepover, 16. addicts, 17. hardworking, 18. binge-watching, 19. perpetual, 20. banter, 21. offended, 22. amused

ANSWERS: