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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: Demolition, disease, and death:

Building the Panama Canal | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

grueling

adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity

synonym: exhausting, draining, demanding

(1) **grueling** process, (2) a **grueling** campaign

The marathon was a **grueling** test of endurance.

isthmus

n. a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water

synonym: neck, choke point, narrow

(1) **isthmus** region, (2) Panama **isthmus**

The ancient city was situated on an **isthmus** between two seas.

unload

v. to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.

synonym : empty, offload, unpack

(1) **unload** the cargo, (2) **unload** a dishwasher

He had to **unload** the merchandise before the Black Friday bargain.

colossal

adj. extremely large and impressive

synonym : gigantic, huge, enormous

(1) **colossal** statue, (2) a **colossal** success

The new building is truly **colossal**, towering over the surrounding buildings.

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.

overconfidence

n. excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior

synonym : overestimation, hubris, arrogance

(1) **overconfidence** bias, (2) false **overconfidence**

The student's **overconfidence** in their writing abilities caused them not to bother to proofread their essay, resulting in a poor grades.

futile

adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

synonym : useless, worthless, ineffective

(1) **futile** talk, (2) make a **futile** protest

It was **futile** to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.

excavation

n. the act or process of removing soil, rock, or other material to reveal or extract something, such as an archaeological site or underground structure, or the hole or area created by this process

synonym : digging, mining, unearthing

(1) fossil **excavation**, (2) **excavation** work

The archaeological **excavation** of the site revealed many artifacts from the ancient civilization.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

landslide

n. a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

synonym : avalanche, mudslide, rockfall

(1) **landslide** victory, (2) prevent a **landslide**

The massive **landslide** buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.

unprepared

adj. not properly or adequately prepared; lacking preparation; not ready

synonym : inexperienced, caught off-guard, ill-equipped

(1) **unprepared** speech, (2) **unprepared** for the exam

The **unprepared** student struggled on the test and received a low grade.

venomous

adj. extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will

synonym : poisonous, toxic, lethal

(1) the **venomous** jellyfish's sting, (2) have **venomous** eyes

The **venomous** snake bit him, causing him to go into shock.

fauna

n. the animal life of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

synonym : wildlife, creatures, animals

(1) the tropical **fauna**, (2) **fauna** reserve
The national park is home to a diverse **fauna** of animal species.

staggering

adj. so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
synonym: astounding, astonishing, stunning
(1) **staggering** number, (2) a **staggering** defeat
The amount of money required was **staggering**.

tempting

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
synonym: alluring, attractive, inviting
(1) **tempting** offer, (2) sound very **tempting**
The chocolate cake was too **tempting** for me to resist.

prestige

n. respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
synonym: honor, distinction, reputation
(1) national **prestige**, (2) **prestige** company
The university has great **prestige** in the academic community.

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.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
synonym: cause, factor, element
(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields
One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and

a strong work ethic.

traverse

v. to cross or move through a land or water area

synonym: cross, pass through, travel over

(1) **traverse** the region, (2) **traverse** a vast extent of sea
Approximately 1000 automobiles **traverse** the bridge every day.

excavate

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

synonym: dig, unearth, extract

(1) **excavate** a deep hole, (2) **excavate** soil

The archaeologists **excavated** the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

shovel

n. a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials

synonym: excavator, scoop, trowel

(1) snow **shovel**, (2) **shovel** blade

The construction workers used a power **shovel** to dig the foundation for the building.

passageway

n. a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions

synonym: corridor, hallway, passage

(1) **passageway** lighting, (2) an enclosed **passageway**

The narrow **passageway** was the only route to the hidden chamber.

reroute

v. to redirect or change the course or direction of something

synonym: redirect, divert, detour

(1) **reroute** traffic, (2) **reroute** path

Due to the traffic, the delivery truck had to **reroute** to avoid the congested roads.

migrant

n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

synonym: immigrant, itinerant, transient

(1) **migrant** worker, (2) the movement of **migrant** birds

The government revoked his license to employ **migrant** labor crews.

telegraph

n. a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals

(1) answer by **telegraph**, (2) **telegraph** wires

The **telegraph** service was interrupted for a while.

dike

n. a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion

synonym: levee, embankment, dam

(1) water **dike**, (2) coastal **dike**

The town council plans to repair the damaged **dike** along the riverbank.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. the tropical fa__a | <i>n.</i> the animal life of a particular region, habitat, or geological period |
| 2. is____s region | <i>n.</i> a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water |
| 3. fa__a reserve | <i>n.</i> the animal life of a particular region, habitat, or geological period |
| 4. expel a di____at | <i>n.</i> a person appointed by a government to conduct diplomacy (= the management of relationships between countries) with one or more other countries or international organizations |
| 5. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 6. exc_____on work | <i>n.</i> the act or process of removing soil, rock, or other material to reveal or extract something, such as an archaeological site or underground structure, or the hole or area created by this process |
| 7. make a fu___e protest | <i>adj.</i> incapable of producing any useful result; pointless |
| 8. a co_____al success | <i>adj.</i> extremely large and impressive |
| 9. gr_____ng process | <i>adj.</i> extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity |

ANSWERS: 1. fauna, 2. isthmus, 3. fauna, 4. diplomat, 5. opportune, 6. excavation, 7. futile, 8. colossal, 9. grueling

10. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
11. fu___e talk *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
12. water d__e *n.* a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
13. ex_____te soil *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
14. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
15. fossil exc_____on *n.* the act or process of removing soil, rock, or other material to reveal or extract something, such as an archaeological site or underground structure, or the hole or area created by this process
16. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
17. se_____rs on some foreign shore *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
18. pas_____ay lighting *n.* a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions

ANSWERS: 10. opportune, 11. futile, 12. dike, 13. excavate, 14. bury, 15. excavation, 16. bury, 17. settler, 18. passageway

19. te_____ng offer *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
20. sh____l blade *n.* a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials
21. ex_____te a deep hole *v.* to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
22. national pr_____ge *n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
23. pr_____ge company *n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
24. have ve_____us eyes *adj.* extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
25. the ve_____us jellyfish's sting *adj.* extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
26. tr_____se the region *v.* to cross or move through a land or water area
27. co_____al statue *adj.* extremely large and impressive
28. re_____e traffic *v.* to redirect or change the course or direction of something
29. Panama is_____s *n.* a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water

ANSWERS: 19. tempting, 20. shovel, 21. excavate, 22. prestige, 23. prestige, 24. venomous, 25. venomous, 26. traverse, 27. colossal, 28. reroute, 29. isthmus

30. false ove_____nce *n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
31. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
32. mi_____t worker *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
33. re_____e path *v.* to redirect or change the course or direction of something
34. an enclosed pas_____ay *n.* a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions
35. coastal d___e *n.* a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
36. unp_____ed speech *adj.* not properly or adequately prepared; lacking preparation; not ready
37. answer by te_____ph *n.* a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals
38. prevent a la_____de *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

ANSWERS: 30. overconfidence, 31. determinant, 32. migrant, 33. reroute, 34. passageway, 35. dike, 36. unprepared, 37. telegraph, 38. landslide

39. new se_____rs *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
40. sta_____ng number *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
41. te_____ph wires *n.* a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals
42. a gr_____ng campaign *adj.* extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
43. ove_____nce bias *n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
44. snow sh____l *n.* a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials
45. la_____de victory *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
46. unpre_____ed for the exam *adj.* not properly or adequately prepared; lacking preparation; not ready
47. un____d a dishwasher *v.* to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.
48. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
49. sound very te_____ng *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

ANSWERS: 39. settler, 40. staggering, 41. telegraph, 42. grueling, 43. overconfidence, 44. shovel, 45. landslide, 46. unprepared, 47. unload, 48. determinant, 49. tempting

50. the movement of mi____t birds *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
51. 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
52. a sta_____ng defeat *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
53. un____d the cargo *v.* to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.
54. tr____se a vast extent of sea *v.* to cross or move through a land or water area

ANSWERS: 50. migrant, 51. diplomat, 52. staggering, 53. unload, 54. traverse

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The amount of money required was _____.
adj. so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
2. The marathon was a _____ test of endurance.
adj. extremely tiring or demanding great effort, especially with long duration or intensity
3. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
4. The _____ service was interrupted for a while.
n. a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals
5. The _____ student struggled on the test and received a low grade.
adj. not properly or adequately prepared; lacking preparation; not ready
6. The archaeologists _____ the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.
v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
7. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 1. staggering, 2. grueling, 3. opportune, 4. telegraph, 5. unprepared, 6. excavated, 7. determinant

8. 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
9. The construction workers used a power _____ to dig the foundation for the building.
n. a tool with a handle and broad scoop or blade used for digging or moving Earth, coal, snow, or other granular materials
10. The student's _____ in their writing abilities caused them not to bother to proofread their essay, resulting in a poor grades.
n. excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
11. The new building is truly _____ towering over the surrounding buildings.
adj. extremely large and impressive
12. The chocolate cake was too _____ for me to resist.
adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
13. The _____ snake bit him, causing him to go into shock.
adj. extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
14. The ancient city was situated on an _____ between two seas.
n. a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas; a narrow passage or canal that connects two bodies of water
15. The massive _____ buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.
n. a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

ANSWERS: 8. settler, 9. shovel, 10. overconfidence, 11. colossal, 12. tempting, 13. venomous, 14. isthmus, 15. landslide

16. The town council plans to repair the damaged _____ along the riverbank.
n. a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
17. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
18. It was _____ to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.
adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
19. The government revoked his license to employ _____ labor crews.
n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
20. The narrow _____ was the only route to the hidden chamber.
n. a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions
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. He had to _____ the merchandise before the Black Friday bargain.
v. to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.
23. Approximately 1000 automobiles _____ the bridge every day.
v. to cross or move through a land or water area

ANSWERS: 16. dike, 17. bury, 18. futile, 19. migrant, 20. passageway, 21. diplomat, 22. unload, 23. traverse

24. The archaeological _____ of the site revealed many artifacts from the ancient civilization.
- n.* the act or process of removing soil, rock, or other material to reveal or extract something, such as an archaeological site or underground structure, or the hole or area created by this process
25. Due to the traffic, the delivery truck had to _____ to avoid the congested roads.
- v.* to redirect or change the course or direction of something
26. The university has great _____ in the academic community.
- n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
27. The national park is home to a diverse _____ of animal species.
- n.* the animal life of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

ANSWERS: 24. excavation, 25. reroute, 26. prestige, 27. fauna