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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Max Rashbrooke: 3 ways to upgrade democracy for the 21st century | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/max_rashbrooke_3_ways_to_upgrade_democracy_for_the_21st_century

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

kowtow

- v. to kneel and touch one's forehead to the ground as a sign of respect or worship, particularly in traditional Chinese culture; to show extreme subservience or deference to someone or something

synonym: kneel, bow, submit

- (1) **kowtow** to authority, (2) **kowtow** to pressure

I refuse to **kowtow** to anyone who doesn't treat me with respect.

detour

- n. a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action

synonym: diversion, deviation, bypass

- (1) **detour** sign, (2) unnecessary **detour**

We had to take a **detour because** of the road construction ahead.

flourish

- v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

synonym: boom, advance, succeed

- (1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide

The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

intern

v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria

synonym: apprentice, trainee, student

(1) **intern** civilians, (2) medical **intern**

The navy **interned** ships of defeated nations.

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

authoritarian

adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

synonym: dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic

(1) **authoritarian** practice, (2) **authoritarian** government

The **authoritarian** leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

reliant

adj. needing something or something to continue, to work correctly, or to succeed

synonym: dependent, subservient

(1) heavily **reliant** on oil, (2) export- **reliant** economy

The company is heavily **reliant** on its overseas operations for revenue.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym: obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

deferential

adj. showing or expressing respect or obedience; yielding to someone else's opinions or judgment

synonym: respectful, submissive, obedient

(1) **deferential** attitude, (2) **deferential** language

The new employee was **deferential** and respectful towards his superiors.

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.

scatter

v. to cause to separate and go in different directions

synonym: disperse, spread, bestrew

(1) **scatter** seeds, (2) **scatter** around the internet

The hunter's approach **scattered** the geese.

unevenly

adv. in a manner that is not uniform or consistent; with irregularities or disparities

synonym: unequally, irregularly, inconsistently

(1) **unevenly** distributed, (2) **unevenly** lit

The field was mowed **unevenly**, making it difficult to play soccer.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

trade-off

n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise

synonym: compromise, balance, exchange

(1) **trade-off** problem, (2) environmental **trade-off**

There was a **trade-off** between speed and accuracy in the task.

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax
His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

coincident

adj. happening or operating in the same place or at the same time

synonym: concurrent, accompanying, coextensive

(1) **coincident** indicators, (2) a series of **coincident** events
Coincident with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.

optimist

n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

synonym: positive thinker, dreamer, idealist

(1) **optimist** by nature, (2) excessive **optimist**
She is a confident **optimist** who always looks on the bright side.

peril

n. serious and great danger or risk

synonym: hazard, danger, threat

(1) the **peril** of the sea, (2) environmental **peril**
Due to hunger, the lives of the refugees were in **peril**.

descend

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

synonym: dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator
She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

agile

adj. able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled

synonym: nimble, quick, flexible

(1) an **agile** mind, (2) **agile** in his movements
The **agile** development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.

nimble

adj. quick and light in movement or action

synonym : agile, quick, flexible

(1) **nimble** handling, (2) **nimble-minded** person

His **nimble** movements allowed him to navigate the crowded streets with ease.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

disproportionately

adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

synonym : excessively, unequally

(1) **disproportionately** affected, (2) **disproportionately** high

The rich can often **disproportionately** benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

entrenched

adj. established firmly and securely

synonym : deep-rooted, confirmed, ingrained

(1) **entrenched** ideas, (2) **entrenched** positions

The monarch exploited the peasants using its **entrenched** power.

astound

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

synonym : amaze, astonish, surprise

(1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer

The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

misinformation

n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

synonym : falsity, misreport, misstatement

(1) **misinformation** about a vaccine, (2) combat **misinformation** on social media

The government called for caution against pseudoscientific **misinformation** about vaccines.

heath

n. an area of open uncultivated land, typically covered in heather, gorse, or other shrubs; a low-growing, evergreen shrub found in heathland areas

synonym: moor, bog, swamp

(1) small **heath**, (2) **heath** habitat

The birdwatcher spotted a rare species on the **heath**.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. ex___e rebellion | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 2. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 3. in_____t ancestral property | <i>v.</i> to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died |
| 4. de___r sign | <i>n.</i> a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action |
| 5. dis_____ely high | <i>adv.</i> in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else |
| 6. a series of coi_____nt events | <i>adj.</i> happening or operating in the same place or at the same time |
| 7. un_____ly distributed | <i>adv.</i> in a manner that is not uniform or consistent; with irregularities or disparities |
| 8. inh_____nt tax | <i>n.</i> a person or an animal that lives in a particular place |
| 9. an ag__e mind | <i>adj.</i> able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled |
| 10. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |

ANSWERS: 1. excite, 2. opportune, 3. inherit, 4. detour, 5. disproportionately, 6. coincident, 7. unevenly, 8. inhabitant, 9. agile, 10. opportune

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11. un_____ly lit | <i>adv.</i> in a manner that is not uniform or consistent; with irregularities or disparities |
| 12. sc_____r seeds | <i>v.</i> to cause to separate and go in different directions |
| 13. tr_____ff problem | <i>n.</i> a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise |
| 14. fl_____sh economically | <i>v.</i> to grow or develop vigorously or successfully |
| 15. ni____e handling | <i>adj.</i> quick and light in movement or action |
| 16. small he__h | <i>n.</i> an area of open uncultivated land, typically covered in heather, gorse, or other shrubs; a low-growing, evergreen shrub found in heathland areas |
| 17. export-re_____t economy | <i>adj.</i> needing something or something to continue, to work correctly, or to succeed |
| 18. fl_____sh worldwide | <i>v.</i> to grow or develop vigorously or successfully |
| 19. de_____d a steep hill | <i>v.</i> to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood |
| 20. the early inh_____nts of Europe | <i>n.</i> a person or an animal that lives in a particular place |
| 21. sc_____r around the internet | <i>v.</i> to cause to separate and go in different directions |
| 22. dis_____ely affected | <i>adv.</i> in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else |

ANSWERS: 11. unevenly, 12. scatter, 13. trade-off, 14. flourish, 15. nimble, 16. heath, 17. reliant, 18. flourish, 19. descend, 20. inhabitant, 21. scatter, 22. disproportionately

23. di____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
24. ent_____ed ideas *adj.* established firmly and securely
25. ni___e-minded person *adj.* quick and light in movement or action
26. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
27. ent_____ed positions *adj.* established firmly and securely
28. def_____al language *adj.* showing or expressing respect or obedience; yielding to someone else's opinions or judgment
29. as_____d everyone *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
30. heavily re_____t on oil *adj.* needing something or something to continue, to work correctly, or to succeed
31. the pe__l of the sea *n.* serious and great danger or risk
32. ko___w to authority *v.* to kneel and touch one's forehead to the ground as a sign of respect or worship, particularly in traditional Chinese culture; to show extreme subservience or deference to someone or something
33. ko___w to pressure *v.* to kneel and touch one's forehead to the ground as a sign of respect or worship, particularly in traditional Chinese culture; to show extreme subservience or deference to someone or something

ANSWERS: 23. disrupt, 24. entrenched, 25. nimble, 26. frightening, 27. entrenched, 28. deferential, 29. astound, 30. reliant, 31. peril, 32. kowtow, 33. kowtow

34. fri_____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
35. mis_____ion about a vaccine *n.* information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately
36. in_____t estate *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
37. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
38. he__h habitat *n.* an area of open uncultivated land, typically covered in heather, gorse, or other shrubs; a low-growing, evergreen shrub found in heathland areas
39. op_____st by nature *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
40. as_____d the viewer *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
41. coi_____nt indicators *adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
42. ag__e in his movements *adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
43. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
44. aut_____ian government *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

ANSWERS: 34. frightening, 35. misinformation, 36. inherit, 37. disrupt, 38. heath, 39. optimist, 40. astound, 41. coincident, 42. agile, 43. excite, 44. authoritarian

45. medical in___n *v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
46. excessive op_____st *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
47. def_____al attitude *adj.* showing or expressing respect or obedience; yielding to someone else's opinions or judgment
48. environmental tr_____ff *n.* a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
49. unnecessary de___r *n.* a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action
50. combat mis_____ion on social media *n.* information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately
51. in___n civilians *v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
52. environmental pe__l *n.* serious and great danger or risk

ANSWERS: 45. intern, 46. optimist, 47. deferential, 48. trade-off, 49. detour, 50. misinformation, 51. intern, 52. peril

53. aut_____ian practice

adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

54. de_____d by elevator

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

ANSWERS: 53. authoritarian, 54. descend

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The monarch exploited the peasants using its _____ power.
adj. established firmly and securely
2. The company is heavily _____ on its overseas operations for revenue.
adj. needing something or something to continue, to work correctly, or to succeed
3. His _____ movements allowed him to navigate the crowded streets with ease.
adj. quick and light in movement or action
4. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
5. The hunter's approach _____ the geese.
v. to cause to separate and go in different directions
6. The final result was nothing short of _____.
v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
7. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
8. The navy _____ ships of defeated nations.
v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria

ANSWERS: 1. entrenched, 2. reliant, 3. nimble, 4. disrupt, 5. scattered, 6. astounding, 7. frightening, 8. interned

9. We had to take a _____ of the road construction ahead.
- n.* a route that deviates from the main or direct one, usually taken to avoid something such as traffic or construction; a diversion from the usual or expected course of action
10. She was _____ from an old Italian noble family.
- v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
11. The birdwatcher spotted a rare species on the _____.
- n.* an area of open uncultivated land, typically covered in heather, gorse, or other shrubs; a low-growing, evergreen shrub found in heathland areas
12. The _____ leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.
- adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
13. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
- n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
15. _____ with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.
- adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
16. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
- v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

ANSWERS: 9. detour because, 10. descended, 11. heath, 12. authoritarian, 13. opportune, 14. inhabitant, 15. Coincident, 16. inherited

17. She is a confident _____ who always looks on the bright side.
n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
18. I refuse to _____ to anyone who doesn't treat me with respect.
v. to kneel and touch one's forehead to the ground as a sign of respect or worship, particularly in traditional Chinese culture; to show extreme subservience or deference to someone or something
19. Due to hunger, the lives of the refugees were in _____.
n. serious and great danger or risk
20. There was a _____ between speed and accuracy in the task.
n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
21. The new employee was _____ and respectful towards his superiors.
adj. showing or expressing respect or obedience; yielding to someone else's opinions or judgment
22. The field was mowed _____ making it difficult to play soccer.
adv. in a manner that is not uniform or consistent; with irregularities or disparities
23. The _____ development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.
adj. able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
24. The rich can often _____ benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.
adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

ANSWERS: 17. optimist, 18. kowtow, 19. peril, 20. trade-off, 21. deferential, 22. unevenly, 23. agile, 24. disproportionately

25. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

26. The news of her promotion _____ her.

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

27. The government called for caution against pseudoscientific _____ about vaccines.

n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

ANSWERS: 25. flourished, 26. excited, 27. misinformation