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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christiana Figueres: The case for stubborn optimism on climate | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/christiana_figueres_the_ca se_for_stubborn_optimism_on_climate



Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

steward	 <i>n</i>. a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc. <i>synonym</i>: caretaker, manager, custodian
	(1) steward duties, (2) steward service
	The steward on the flight was very helpful in assisting
	passengers with their needs.
indifferent	<i>adj.</i> having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral<i>synonym</i>: apathetic, disinterested, unmoved
	(1) an indifferent glance, (2) emotionally indifferent
	Despite the good news, she remained indifferent to the situation.
courageous	adj. able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinchingsynonym: brave, valiant, fearless
	(1) make a courageous decision, (2) courageous rescue attempt
	He was a courageous soldier who had served his country

with honor.

disband	 v. to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally synonym: dissolve, break up, disperse
	(1) disband the assembly, (2) disband an organization
	The band decided to disband the group after several members left.
outlaw	 v. to make something illegal; (noun) a person who has committed a crime or has been legally convicted of a crime
	synonym: ban, prohibit, (noun) bandit
	(1) outlaw racial discrimination, (2) outlaw cloning of human cells
	Some communities began to outlaw alcohol consumption.
stubborn	 adj. refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change synonym: persistent, obstinate, determined
	(1) stubborn attitude, (2) stubborn stains
	He was so stubborn about his beliefs that he refused to
	listen to any other points of view.
optimism	 n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation synonym: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness
	(1) sense of optimism , (2) political optimism
	There is considerable optimism that the economy will recover soon.
mindset	<i>n.</i> the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
	synonym: attitude, ethos, mentality
	(1) flexible mindset , (2) the mindset in an education system

	Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset in each individual.
daunting	 adj. looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something synonym: intimidating, stunning, disheartening
	(1) face the daunting reality, (2) seem like a daunting task
	My homework was daunting and complex, but it was also
	intriguing.
procrastinate	 v. to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring synonym: delay, dawdle, hesitate
	(1) procrastinate about a big challenge, (2) procrastinate on my homework
	He procrastinated the matter until it was almost too late.
exaggeration	<i>n.</i> an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
	synonym: hyperbole, overstatement, embellishment
	(1) sensational exaggeration, (2) minimal exaggeration
	His story was filled with obvious exaggerations .
condemn	<i>v.</i> to express strong disapproval or criticism of something <i>synonym</i> : criticize, denounce, censure
	(1) condemn violence, (2) condemn crime
	The government was condemned for its handling of the crisis.
descendant	<i>n.</i> children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal <i>synonym</i> : child, offspring, heir
	(1) descendant of a pioneer, (2) third-generation descendant
	Those warriors' descendants are still skilled archers.

uninhabitable	 adj. not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation synonym: desolate, dilapidated, unlivable 		
	(1) uninhabitable conditions, (2) uninhabitable apartment The hurricane left many coastal areas uninhabitable for a long time.		
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.		
irreversible	<i>adj.</i> impossible to change or return to a previous condition <i>synonym</i> : irrevocable, unrecoverable, permanent		
	(1) avoid irreversible damage, (2) an irreversible change The development of agricultural technology has had an irreversible impact on humanity.		
converse	v. to talk informallysynonym: discourse, discuss, exchange		
	(1) converse with an acquaintance, (2) ask a converse question		
	She enjoyed the opportunity to converse with a person who spoke her language.		
regenerate	 v. to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful synonym: renew, revive, improve 		
	(1) regenerate bone tissue, (2) a regenerate sinner		
	The new CEO's primary mission is to regenerate the		
	company on the verge of bankruptcy.		
opportune	<i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose <i>synonym</i> :		

suitable, timely, practical

	(1) opportune occasion, (2) an opportune remark The phone rang at the most opportune time.				
plunge	 v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall synonym: dive, drop, thrust 				
	(1) plunge into the water, (2) plunge a dagger through his heart				
	The company's profits plunged after the recall of their new product.				
paralysis	 a condition in which you are unable to move or lose control of part or most of the body because of illness or injury 				
	<pre>synonym: immobility, stiffness, palsy</pre>				
	(1) moral paralysis , (2) paralysis in the leg				
	Massive demonstrations lead to total paralysis of transportation.				
optimist	 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.				
irresponsible	<i>adj.</i> not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable <i>synonym</i> : careless, reckless, thoughtless				
	(1) irresponsible actions, (2) irresponsible behavior				
	It was irresponsible of him to drive home after drinking so much alcohol.				
hail	 v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the 				

	form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky synonym: greet, salute, welcome				
	(1) hail the victorious team with cheers, (2) hail forecast				
	People in the area were forced to hail a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.				
gloom	 n. a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty synonym: darkness, depression, melancholy 				
	(1) a sense of gloom , (2) gloom-filled room				
	The gloom of the rainy weather was beginning to affect her mood.				
decarbonize	 v. to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy 				
	synonym: decoke, decarburise, decarburize				
	(1) decarbonize their manufacturing process,				
	(2) decarbonize its energy system				
	We have to seek methods to decarbonize its fossil fuel				
	economy.				
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.				
envision	v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future				
	synonym: anticipate, foresee, picture				
	(1) envision the future, (2) envision the project's success				
	We cannot envision her as President.				

stumble	 v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily synonym: bumble, struggle, misstep
	(1) stumble financially, (2) stumble through life
	She stumbled over the tree root.
temper	 n. a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object synonym: mood, disposition, nature
	(1) a hasty temper , (2) bridle my temper
	The temper of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.
geopolitical	<i>adj.</i> of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
	(1) the geopolitical situations, (2) reduce geopolitical risk
	The country holds dominant geopolitical power over its
	neighbors.
dampen	 v. to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
	synonym: drench, moisten, saturate
	(1) dampen the sound, (2) dampen the enthusiasm
	The rain helped dampen the flames of the campfire.
stubbornness	<i>n.</i> the trait of being unyielding, obstinate, or inflexible; a refusal to change one's opinions or behavior despite pressure or persuasion
	synonym: inflexibility, doggedness, obstinacy
	(1) plain stubbornness , (2) show stubbornness
	Her stubbornness in negotiations prevented a successful
	outcome for both parties.
grit	<i>n.</i> very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of

	challenges or obstacles synonym: determination, fortitude, courage
	(1) grit determination, (2) grit washer
	She has a lot of grit and determination to succeed.
determinant	 <i>n</i>. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result <i>synonym</i>: 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.
relentless	<i>adj.</i> persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
	synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting
	(1) relentless attack, (2) face relentless pressure
	The athlete's relentless training paid off in the end.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	irrble actions	adj.	not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable
2.	proate on my homework	v.	to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring
3.	proate about a big challenge	v.	to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring
4.	plain stuess	n.	the trait of being unyielding, obstinate, or inflexible; a refusal to change one's opinions or behavior despite pressure or persuasion
5.	ask a cose question	<i>v</i> .	to talk informally
6.	bridle my ter	n.	a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
7.	show stuess	n.	the trait of being unyielding, obstinate, or inflexible; a refusal to change one's opinions or behavior despite pressure or persuasion
8.	a sense of glm	n.	a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty
9.	cose with an acquaintance	<i>v</i> .	to talk informally
10.	std duties	n.	a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of

ANSWERS: 1. irresponsible, 2. procrastinate, 3. procrastinate, 4. stubbornness, 5. converse, 6. temper, 7. stubbornness, 8. gloom, 9. converse, 10. steward

arranging for the supply of food to a

college, club, etc.

11. face relss pressure	adj.	persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
12. face the dang reality	adj.	looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
13. sensational exaion	n.	an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
14. enon the future	v.	to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
15. std service	n.	a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
16. relss attack	adj.	persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
17. ouw cloning of human cells	v.	to make something illegal; (noun) a person who has committed a crime or has been legally convicted of a crime
18. emotionally indnt	adj.	having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral
19. the mit in an education system	n.	the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

ANSWERS: 11. relentless, 12. daunting, 13. exaggeration, 14. envision, 15. steward, 16. relentless, 17. outlaw, 18. indifferent, 19. mindset

20.	verbal conion	n.	the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement
21.	strn stains	adj.	refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
22.	gt determination	n.	very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
23.	did the assembly	v.	to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
24.	third-generation desnt	n.	children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
25.	enon the project's success	v.	to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
26.	couus rescue attempt	adj.	able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching
27.	a detnt of crop yields	n.	a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
28.	minimal exaion	n.	an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
29.	violent conion	n.	the act of facing or dealing with something directly and openly; a direct and often hostile encounter or disagreement

ANSWERS: 20. confrontation, 21. stubborn, 22. grit, 23. disband, 24. descendant, 25. envision, 26. courageous, 27. determinant, 28. exaggeration, 29. confrontation

30.	regte bone tissue	v.	to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
31.	glm-filled room	n.	a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty
32.	dan the enthusiasm	v.	to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
33.	ple into the water	v.	to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
34.	moral pais	n.	a condition in which you are unable to move or lose control of part or most of the body because of illness or injury
35.	dan the sound	v.	to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
36.	reduce geocal risk	adj.	of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
37.	hI the victorious team with cheers	V.	to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

ANSWERS: 30. regenerate, 31. gloom, 32. dampen, 33. plunge, 34. paralysis, 35. dampen, 36. geopolitical, 37. hail

38. desnt of a pioneer	n.	children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
39. decze their manufacturing process	v.	to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy
40. irrble behavior	adj.	not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable
41. the geocal situations	adj.	of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
42. sense of opsm	n.	a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
43. opst by nature	n.	a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
44. unible apartment	adj.	not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation
45. flexible mit	n.	the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
46. opne occasion	adj.	suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
47. gt washer	n.	very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

ANSWERS: 38. descendant, 39. decarbonize, 40. irresponsible, 41. geopolitical, 42. optimism, 43. optimist, 44. uninhabitable, 45. mindset, 46. opportune, 47. grit

48. strn attitude	adj.	refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
49. an indnt glance	adj.	having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral
50. con crime	v.	to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
51. con violence	<i>v</i> .	to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
52. ouw racial discrimination	ν.	to make something illegal; (noun) a person who has committed a crime or has been legally convicted of a crime
53. an opne remark	adj.	suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
54. excessive opst	n.	a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
55. avoid irrble damage	adj.	impossible to change or return to a previous condition
56. ste through life	ν.	to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
57. unible conditions	adj.	not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation
58. hl forecast	v.	to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

ANSWERS: 48. stubborn, 49. indifferent, 50. condemn, 51. condemn, 52. outlaw, 53. opportune, 54. optimist, 55. irreversible, 56. stumble, 57. uninhabitable, 58. hail

59. environmental detnt	n.	a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
60. seem like a dang task	adj.	looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
61. an irrble change	adj.	impossible to change or return to a previous condition
62. a regte sinner	v.	to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
63. ple a dagger through his heart	v.	to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
64. pais in the leg	n.	a condition in which you are unable to move or lose control of part or most of the body because of illness or injury
65. fae relief	n.	a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
66. political opsm	n.	a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
67. did an organization	v.	to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
68. decze its energy system	v.	to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy

ANSWERS: 59. determinant, 60. daunting, 61. irreversible, 62. regenerate, 63. plunge, 64. paralysis, 65. famine, 66. optimism, 67. disband, 68. decarbonize

69. coal fae	n.	a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
70. make a couus decision	adj.	able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching
71. ste financially	v.	to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
72. a hasty ter	n.	a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object

ANSWERS: 69. famine, 70. courageous, 71. stumble, 72. temper

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

- 1. 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
- 2. The government was ______ for its handling of the crisis.
- *v.* to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
- 3. She _____ over the tree root.
- v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
- 4. The new CEO's primary mission is to ______ the company on the verge of bankruptcy.
 - v. to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
- 5. The athlete's ______ training paid off in the end.
- *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
- 6. 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
- 7. The country holds dominant ______ power over its neighbors.
- *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area

ANSWERS: 1. optimist, 2. condemned, 3. stumbled, 4. regenerate, 5. relentless, 6. determinant, 7. geopolitical

- 8. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
- *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
- 9. The band decided to ______ the group after several members left.
- v. to break up or cause to disperse, especially formally
- 10. There is considerable ______ that the economy will recover soon.
 - *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
- 11. Massive demonstrations lead to total ______ of transportation.
- *n.* a condition in which you are unable to move or lose control of part or most of the body because of illness or injury
- 12. The ______ on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.
- *n.* a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
- 13. 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
- 14. Some communities began to _____ alcohol consumption.
- *v.* to make something illegal; (noun) a person who has committed a crime or has been legally convicted of a crime
- 15. He was a ______ soldier who had served his country with honor.
- adj. able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching

ANSWERS: 8. descendants, 9. disband, 10. optimism, 11. paralysis, 12. steward, 13. famine, 14. outlaw, 15. courageous

- 16. The phone rang at the most ______ time.
- *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
- 17. The ______ of the steel needs to be just right to ensure the product's durability.
- *n.* a person's state of mind, emotions, or attitude; a tendency to become angry or excited easily; the elasticity and hardness of a metal object
- 18. She has a lot of _____ and determination to succeed.
- *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
- 19. Despite the good news, she remained ______ to the situation.
- adj. having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral
- 20. He was so ______ about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.
- *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
- 21. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.
 - *v.* to talk informally
- 22. My homework was ______ and complex, but it was also intriguing.
- *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
- 23. Her ______ in negotiations prevented a successful outcome for both parties.
- *n.* the trait of being unyielding, obstinate, or inflexible; a refusal to change one's opinions or behavior despite pressure or persuasion

ANSWERS: 16. opportune, 17. temper, 18. grit, 19. indifferent, 20. stubborn, 21. converse, 22. daunting, 23. stubbornness

- 24. We have to seek methods to ______ its fossil fuel economy.
 - v. to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy
- 25. We cannot _____ her as President.
- *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
- 26. It was ______ of him to drive home after drinking so much alcohol.
- *adj.* not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable
- 27. 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
- 28. He ______ the matter until it was almost too late.
- *v.* to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring
- 29. The hurricane left many coastal areas ______ for a long time.
- *adj.* not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation
- 30. His story was filled with obvious _____.
- *n.* an overstatement of facts or description; the act of making something seem larger, more important, or more significant than it is
- 31. The development of agricultural technology has had an _____ impact on humanity.
- adj. impossible to change or return to a previous condition

ANSWERS: 24. decarbonize, 25. envision, 26. irresponsible, 27. confrontation, 28. procrastinated, 29. uninhabitable, 30. exaggerations, 31. irreversible

- 32. People in the area were forced to _____ a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.
 - v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
- 33. The company's profits ______ after the recall of their new product.
- v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
- 34. The rain helped ______ the flames of the campfire.
- *v.* to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
- 35. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial ______ in each individual.
- *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
- 36. The _____ of the rainy weather was beginning to affect her mood.
- *n.* a state of darkness, sadness, or melancholy; a feeling of depression or lack of hope; a state of obscurity or uncertainty

ANSWERS: 32. hail, 33. plunged, 34. dampen, 35. mindset, 36. gloom