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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Joëlle Rollo-Koster: Why were there three popes at the same time? | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

papal

adj. relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church

synonym : pontifical, papistic, apostolical

(1) **papal** authority, (2) **papal** visit

The **papal** palace was a grand and imposing structure.

Catholic

adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

(1) **catholic** in his tastes, (2) the **Catholic** Church

Sociologists are now interested in **catholic** world peace.

plethora

n. an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something

synonym : abundance, excess, surplus

(1) **plethora** of information, (2) **plethora** of opportunities

The restaurant's menu offered a **plethora** of options for vegetarians.

predicament

n. a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation

synonym : situation, quandary, plight

(1) tragic **predicament**, (2) **predicament** decision

He was in a **predicament** and didn't know how to escape it.

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.

supremacy

n. the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

synonym: dominance, superiority, preeminence

(1) a race for **supremacy**, (2) **supremacy** of a country

The empire's military power ensured its **supremacy** over the neighboring states.

heretic

n. a person who holds beliefs or opinions that are contrary to, or at odds with, the orthodox or official doctrines of a particular religion, ideology, or group; someone who is seen as a dissenter or rebel within a particular community

synonym: dissenter, nonconformist, dissident

(1) **heretic** beliefs, (2) labeled a **heretic**

The philosopher was accused of being a **heretic** for his controversial ideas.

clement

adj. mild, merciful, or forgiving in temperament or actions; lenient

synonym: merciful, compassionate, forgiving

(1) **clement** weather, (2) **clement** response

The teacher's **clement** demeanor helped ease the students' nerves before the exam.

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.

papacy

n. the office or position of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and head of the Roman Catholic Church

synonym : pontificate, holy see

(1) catholic **papacy**, (2) the **papacy's** role

Many famous figures have held the **papacy**, including Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

vassal

n. a person who is subordinate to and dependent on a feudal lord; a person or nation that is under the control or protection of another; a person who is in a position of subordination or servitude

synonym : serf, subject, liege

(1) medieval **vassal**, (2) loyal **vassal**

The duke had many **vassals** who swore loyalty to him and provided military service.

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.

Christendom

n. the Christian world considered a collective body

synonym : Christianity

(1) Eastern **Christendom**, (2) the principal church of **Christendom**

The medieval concept of **Christendom** strongly influenced the time's political, social, and cultural developments.

cardinal

n. a high-ranking official in the Roman Catholic Church, appointed by the Pope; a deep or bright red color; a bird of the finch family with a distinctive crest on its head; (adjective) of or relating to the highest or most important things

synonym : bishop, archbishop, carmine

(1) **cardinal** rule, (2) **cardinal** red

The **cardinal's** robes were made of rich red silk.

rowdy

n. a person who behaves in a loud, rough, or disorderly manner, causing a disturbance or annoyance to others

synonym : hooligan, troublemaker, ruffian

(1) **rowdy** behavior, (2) **rowdy** fans

The **rowdy** crowd at the concert caused a disturbance and had to be escorted out by security.

conclave

n. a private meeting or gathering; a meeting of a group of officials or leaders to select a pope or other high-ranking church official

synonym : assembly, meeting, gathering

(1) secret **conclave**, (2) papal **conclave**

The cardinals gathered in the **conclave** to choose the next Pope.

plunder

v. to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

synonym : pillage, loot, despoil

(1) **plunder** the enemy's stronghold, (2) **plunder** his reputation

The pirates could **plunder** the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.

archbishop

n. a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region

synonym : bishop, prelate, metropolitan

(1) **archbishop's** palace, (2) interim **archbishop**

The **archbishop's** sermon was a powerful message of hope and encouragement.

reformer

n. a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it

synonym: inciter, innovator, agitator

(1) education **reformer**, (2) catalytic **reformer**

He is regarded as a passionate social **reformer**.

illegitimate

adj. not legally valid or recognized

synonym: unlawful, misbegotten, felonious

(1) an **illegitimate** occupation, (2) **illegitimate** claim

He had an **illegitimate** child that he never acknowledged.

denounce

v. to speak out against; to strongly criticize something or someone

synonym: condemn, disapprove, criticize

(1) **denounce** a statement, (2) **denounce** a heresy

He **denounced** the actions of the corrupt official.

usurp

v. to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force

synonym: seize, preempt, annex

(1) **usurp** power, (2) attempt to **usurp** the throne

The competitor tried to **usurp** the reigning champion's title.

excommunicate

v. to officially exclude someone from membership in a church or religious community; to expel or banish someone from a group or society

synonym: expel, ostracize, banish

(1) **excommunicate** the priest from the church,

(2) **excommunicate** a sinner

The church leaders decided to **excommunicate** the member who had committed a serious offense.

greedy

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

synonym: avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

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.

schism

n. a split or division between two groups or factions, typically caused by differences in opinion or belief

synonym: division, separation, split

(1) **schism** within the community, (2) political **schism**

The church split into two factions during the **schism** in the 15th century.

vie

v. to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise

synonym: compete, contend, strive

(1) **vie** for a trophy, (2) **vie** for attention

They both **vied** for the top spot in the company.

depose

v. to compel to depart; to remove from office

synonym: displace, oust, expel

(1) **depose** a prime minister, (2) **deposed** dictator

The citizens **deposed** the monarch.

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.

resigned

adj. having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or

resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances

synonym: submissive, acquiescent, passive

(1) with a **resigned** voice, (2) **resigned** to their fate

She had a **resigned** look on her face when she realized that she had lost the race.

pious

adj. deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices

synonym: religious, devout, godly

(1) **pious** belief, (2) **pious** follower

The **pious** woman spent her days volunteering at the local church.

petty

adj. of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or spiteful in trivial matters

synonym: minor, insignificant, trivial

(1) **petty** crime, (2) **petty** cash

The **petty** arguments between coworkers were causing a toxic work environment.

Session 2: Spelling

1. with a re____ed voice *adj.* having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances
2. an ill____ate occupation *adj.* not legally valid or recognized
3. de____ce a statement *v.* to speak out against; to strongly criticize something or someone
4. pre____nt decision *n.* a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation
5. gr____y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
6. the principal church of Chr____om *n.* the Christian world considered a collective body
7. medieval va____l *n.* a person who is subordinate to and dependent on a feudal lord; a person or nation that is under the control or protection of another; a person who is in a position of subordination or servitude
8. de____ed dictator *v.* to compel to depart; to remove from office
9. of____d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
10. pi____s follower *adj.* deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices

ANSWERS: 1. resigned, 2. illegitimate, 3. denounce, 4. predicament, 5. greedy, 6. Christendom, 7. vassal, 8. depose, 9. offend, 10. pious

11. papal co____ve *n.* a private meeting or gathering; a meeting of a group of officials or leaders to select a pope or other high-ranking church official
12. environmental det____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
13. ca____al red *n.* a high-ranking official in the Roman Catholic Church, appointed by the Pope; a deep or bright red color; a bird of the finch family with a distinctive crest on its head; (adjective) of or relating to the highest or most important things
14. catholic pa____y *n.* the office or position of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and head of the Roman Catholic Church
15. cl____t response *adj.* mild, merciful, or forgiving in temperament or actions; lenient
16. pl____ra of opportunities *n.* an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something
17. baseless pre____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
18. the pa____y's role *n.* the office or position of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and head of the Roman Catholic Church

ANSWERS: 11. conclave, 12. determinant, 13. cardinal, 14. papacy, 15. clement, 16. plethora, 17. pretension, 18. papacy

19. pa__l visit *adj.* relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church
20. labeled a he____c *n.* a person who holds beliefs or opinions that are contrary to, or at odds with, the orthodox or official doctrines of a particular religion, ideology, or group; someone who is seen as a dissenter or rebel within a particular community
21. arc____op's palace *n.* a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region
22. re____ed to their fate *adj.* having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances
23. su____cy of a country *n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
24. catalytic re____er *n.* a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it
25. ca____al rule *n.* a high-ranking official in the Roman Catholic Church, appointed by the Pope; a deep or bright red color; a bird of the finch family with a distinctive crest on its head; (adjective) of or relating to the highest or most important things
26. ent____ed positions *adj.* established firmly and securely

ANSWERS: 19. papal, 20. heretic, 21. archbishop, 22. resigned, 23. supremacy, 24. reformer, 25. cardinal, 26. entrenched

27. 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
28. secret co_____ve *n.* a private meeting or gathering; a meeting of a group of officials or leaders to select a pope or other high-ranking church official
29. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
30. of____d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
31. political sc_____m *n.* a split or division between two groups or factions, typically caused by differences in opinion or belief
32. pa__l authority *adj.* relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church
33. a race for su_____cy *n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
34. pe__y cash *adj.* of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or spiteful in trivial matters
35. pl_____r his reputation *v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

ANSWERS: 27. determinant, 28. conclave, 29. pretension, 30. offend, 31. schism, 32. papal, 33. supremacy, 34. petty, 35. plunder

36. pi__s belief *adj.* deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices
37. he____c beliefs *n.* a person who holds beliefs or opinions that are contrary to, or at odds with, the orthodox or official doctrines of a particular religion, ideology, or group; someone who is seen as a dissenter or rebel within a particular community
38. v_e for attention *v.* to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise
39. de___e a prime minister *v.* to compel to depart; to remove from office
40. de____ce a heresy *v.* to speak out against; to strongly criticize something or someone
41. expel a 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
42. tragic pre_____nt *n.* a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation
43. pe__y crime *adj.* of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or spiteful in trivial matters
44. ill_____ate claim *adj.* not legally valid or recognized

ANSWERS: 36. pious, 37. heretic, 38. vie, 39. depose, 40. denounce, 41. diplomat, 42. predicament, 43. petty, 44. illegitimate

45. sc___m within the community *n.* a split or division between two groups or factions, typically caused by differences in opinion or belief
46. ro__y fans *n.* a person who behaves in a loud, rough, or disorderly manner, causing a disturbance or annoyance to others
47. attempt to us__p the throne *v.* to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force
48. interim arc_____op *n.* a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region
49. loyal va___l *n.* a person who is subordinate to and dependent on a feudal lord; a person or nation that is under the control or protection of another; a person who is in a position of subordination or servitude
50. the Ca_____ic Church *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
51. exc_____ate a sinner *v.* to officially exclude someone from membership in a church or religious community; to expel or banish someone from a group or society
52. pl_____ra of information *n.* an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something

ANSWERS: 45. schism, 46. rowdy, 47. usurp, 48. archbishop, 49. vassal, 50. Catholic, 51. excommunicate, 52. plethora

53. v_e for a trophy
v. to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise
54. gr___y person
adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
55. cl_____t weather
adj. mild, merciful, or forgiving in temperament or actions; lenient
56. education re_____er
n. a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it
57. us__p power
v. to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force
58. ro__y behavior
n. a person who behaves in a loud, rough, or disorderly manner, causing a disturbance or annoyance to others
59. Eastern Chr_____om
n. the Christian world considered a collective body
60. ca_____ic in his tastes
adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
61. 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

ANSWERS: 53. vie, 54. greedy, 55. clement, 56. reformer, 57. usurp, 58. rowdy, 59. Christendom, 60. Catholic, 61. diplomat

62. exc_____ate the priest from the church
v. to officially exclude someone from membership in a church or religious community; to expel or banish someone from a group or society
63. pl_____r the enemy's stronghold
v. to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property
64. ent_____ed ideas
adj. established firmly and securely

ANSWERS: 62. excommunicate, 63. plunder, 64. entrenched

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The cardinals gathered in the _____ to choose the next Pope.
n. a private meeting or gathering; a meeting of a group of officials or leaders to select a pope or other high-ranking church official

2. 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

3. The church leaders decided to _____ the member who had committed a serious offense.
v. to officially exclude someone from membership in a church or religious community; to expel or banish someone from a group or society

4. Sociologists are now interested in _____ world peace.
adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

5. He was in a _____ and didn't know how to escape it.
n. a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation

6. He had an _____ child that he never acknowledged.
adj. not legally valid or recognized

7. The empire's military power ensured its _____ over the neighboring states.
n. the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

ANSWERS: 1. conclave, 2. determinant, 3. excommunicate, 4. catholic, 5. predicament, 6. illegitimate, 7. supremacy

8. She had a _____ look on her face when she realized that she had lost the race.
adj. having accepted something unpleasant or difficult, particularly a job or situation, without complaint or resistance; accepting one's fate or circumstances
9. 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
10. The _____ woman spent her days volunteering at the local church.
adj. deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices
11. The _____ crowd at the concert caused a disturbance and had to be escorted out by security.
n. a person who behaves in a loud, rough, or disorderly manner, causing a disturbance or annoyance to others
12. The duke had many _____ who swore loyalty to him and provided military service.
n. a person who is subordinate to and dependent on a feudal lord; a person or nation that is under the control or protection of another; a person who is in a position of subordination or servitude
13. The competitor tried to _____ the reigning champion's title.
v. to take or claim a position, power, authority, etc., without the right or legitimate claim; to seize and hold something, especially a position or power, by force
14. They both _____ for the top spot in the company.
v. to compete or contend for something, usually a prize, position, or advantage; to strive for superiority or mastery in one's field or area of expertise

ANSWERS: 8. resigned, 9. pretensions, 10. pious, 11. rowdy, 12. vassals, 13. usurp, 14. vied

15. The citizens _____ the monarch.

v. to compel to depart; to remove from office

16. His _____ behavior led him to steal from the company.

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

17. He is regarded as a passionate social _____.

n. a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it

18. The restaurant's menu offered a _____ of options for vegetarians.

n. an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something

19. Many famous figures have held the _____ including Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

n. the office or position of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and head of the Roman Catholic Church

20. The philosopher was accused of being a _____ for his controversial ideas.

n. a person who holds beliefs or opinions that are contrary to, or at odds with, the orthodox or official doctrines of a particular religion, ideology, or group; someone who is seen as a dissenter or rebel within a particular community

21. He _____ the actions of the corrupt official.

v. to speak out against; to strongly criticize something or someone

22. 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

ANSWERS: 15. deposed, 16. greedy, 17. reformer, 18. plethora, 19. papacy, 20. heretic, 21. denounced, 22. diplomat

23. The monarch exploited the peasants using its _____ power.

adj. established firmly and securely

24. The _____ palace was a grand and imposing structure.

adj. relating to the pope (= the head of the Roman Catholic Church) or the Roman Catholic Church

25. The _____ sermon was a powerful message of hope and encouragement.

n. a high-ranking bishop (= a member of the clergy) in the Christian church, typically in charge of an archdiocese and holding a position of authority over other bishops in the region

26. The _____ robes were made of rich red silk.

n. a high-ranking official in the Roman Catholic Church, appointed by the Pope; a deep or bright red color; a bird of the finch family with a distinctive crest on its head; (adjective) of or relating to the highest or most important things

27. The _____ arguments between coworkers were causing a toxic work environment.

adj. of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or spiteful in trivial matters

28. The medieval concept of _____ strongly influenced the time's political, social, and cultural developments.

n. the Christian world considered a collective body

29. The teacher's _____ demeanor helped ease the students' nerves before the exam.

adj. mild, merciful, or forgiving in temperament or actions; lenient

ANSWERS: 23. entrenched, 24. papal, 25. archbishop's, 26. cardinal's, 27. petty, 28. Christendom, 29. clement

30. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.

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

31. The pirates could _____ the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.

v. to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

32. The church split into two factions during the _____ in the 15th century.

n. a split or division between two groups or factions, typically caused by differences in opinion or belief

ANSWERS: 30. offended, 31. plunder, 32. schism