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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Khulan Batkhuyag: The ancient, earth-friendly wisdom of Mongolian nomads | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

untouched

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

synonym : untarnished, pristine, intact

(1) **untouched** wilderness, (2) **untouched** landscape

The abandoned house was **untouched** for years, with vines growing all over it.

nomadic

adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

synonym : mobile, migratory, wandering

(1) **nomadic** life, (2) **nomadic** herdsmen

This dessert is the territory of **nomadic** tribes.

nomad

n. a member of a group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one place all the time; a wanderer; a person with no fixed abode

synonym : wanderer, traveler, rover

(1) **nomad** worker, (2) **nomad** culture

The **nomad** tribe moved from place to place with its herd of sheep.

morin

n. a yellow or greenish-yellow dye extracted from certain plants, commonly used to color fabrics or paper

(1) **morin** compound, (2) natural **morin**

The researchers were fascinated by the antioxidant properties of the **morin** hydrate.

fiddle

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

synonym: tinker, diddle, play

(1) **fiddle** with a PC, (2) **fiddle** away the whole afternoon
She was able to **fiddle** a free trip to the United States.

devastate

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

synonym: demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy
Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

reconnect

v. to connect again after a break or interruption

synonym: reopen, rejoin, link up

(1) **reconnect** a telephone, (2) **reconnect** with family
After a long period of estrangement, they **reconnected** with each other.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age
She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

hospitable

adj. friendly and generous to visitors or guests

synonym: benevolent, generous, gracious

(1) **hospitable** environment, (2) a **hospitable** welcome
He is a good-natured and **hospitable** man.

yurt

n. (also "ger") a circular tent of felt or skins on a collapsible framework used by nomads in the steppes of central

Asia

synonym: tent, nomad dwelling, circular tent

(1) a Mongolian **yurt**, (2) **yurt** home

The nomads lived in **yurts** while they traveled through the desert.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym: welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

chitchat

n. casual, informal conversation; small talk or gossip

synonym: chatting, small talk, gossip

(1) **chitchat** session, (2) idle **chitchat**

I enjoy a little **chitchat** with co-workers during lunch breaks.

politely

adv. in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others

synonym: courteously, respectfully, graciously

(1) **politely** ask, (2) nodded **politely**

She **politely** declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.

snowfall

n. a fall of snow; the amount of snow falling within a particular area in a specific time

synonym: snow, blizzard, gale

(1) the first **snowfall** of the season, (2) **snowfall** prediction

Several roads have been closed due to the heavy **snowfall**.

awaken

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping

synonym: rouse, arouse, revive

(1) **awaken** at daybreak, (2) **awaken** a child

The friend's death **awakens** them.

vodka

n. a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring

synonym : spirit, liquor, distilled beverage

(1) **vodka** shot, (2) flavored **vodka**

I ordered a **vodka** tonic at the bar.

dung

n. solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

synonym : excrement, droppings, manure

(1) ball of **dung**, (2) **dung** the land

You can see the horse **dung** on the country road.

sophistication

n. the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined

synonym : refinement, culture, elegance

(1) cultural **sophistication**, (2) linguistic **sophistication**

The new technology added a level of **sophistication** to the manufacturing process.

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.

materialistic

adj. concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth

synonym : worldly, consumerist, acquisitive

(1) **materialistic** lifestyle, (2) **materialistic** values

Some people believe that the pursuit of wealth is a **materialistic** goal.

downsize

v. to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members

synonym: reduce, cut back, trim

(1) **downsize** a company, (2) **downsize** a menu

The company had to **downsize** due to financial difficulties and let go of many employees.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

rethink

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

synonym: reexplore, review, reconsider

(1) **rethink** a marketing plan, (2) **rethink** the role of the manager

We have to **rethink** our company's product lineup for further growth.

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym: high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed **skyscraper**

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

blueprint

n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym: draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**

A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. an____or language | <i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |
| 2. the first sn____ll of the season | <i>n.</i> a fall of snow; the amount of snow falling within a particular area in a specific time |
| 3. gr____y person | <i>adj.</i> having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food |
| 4. vo__a shot | <i>n.</i> a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring |
| 5. de_____te an area | <i>v.</i> to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage |
| 6. no____c herdsmen | <i>adj.</i> moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time |
| 7. re_____ct with family | <i>v.</i> to connect again after a break or interruption |
| 8. steel-framed sky_____er | <i>n.</i> a very tall building, typically one in a city |
| 9. no__d worker | <i>n.</i> a member of a group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one place all the time; a wanderer; a person with no fixed abode |
| 10. re_____k the role of the manager | <i>v.</i> to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it |

ANSWERS: 1. ancestor, 2. snowfall, 3. greedy, 4. vodka, 5. devastate, 6. nomadic, 7. reconnect, 8. skyscraper, 9. nomad, 10. rethink

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11. idle ch____at | <i>n.</i> casual, informal conversation; small talk or gossip |
| 12. no__d culture | <i>n.</i> a member of a group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one place all the time; a wanderer; a person with no fixed abode |
| 13. mat_____tic lifestyle | <i>adj.</i> concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth |
| 14. fi___e away the whole afternoon | <i>v.</i> to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage |
| 15. y__t home | <i>n.</i> (also "ger") a circular tent of felt or skins on a collapsible framework used by nomads in the steppes of central Asia |
| 16. a Mongolian y__t | <i>n.</i> (also "ger") a circular tent of felt or skins on a collapsible framework used by nomads in the steppes of central Asia |
| 17. gr__t a customer | <i>v.</i> to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone |
| 18. sn_____ll prediction | <i>n.</i> a fall of snow; the amount of snow falling within a particular area in a specific time |
| 19. do_____ze a company | <i>v.</i> to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members |

ANSWERS: 11. chitchat, 12. nomad, 13. materialistic, 14. fiddle, 15. yurt, 16. yurt, 17. greet, 18. snowfall, 19. downsize

20. re____k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
21. po____ly ask *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
22. nodded po____ly *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
23. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
24. a hos_____le welcome *adj.* friendly and generous to visitors or guests
25. mo__n compound *n.* a yellow or greenish-yellow dye extracted from certain plants, commonly used to color fabrics or paper
26. natural mo__n *n.* a yellow or greenish-yellow dye extracted from certain plants, commonly used to color fabrics or paper
27. do____ze a menu *v.* to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members
28. d__g the land *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
29. cultural sop_____ion *n.* the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined

ANSWERS: 20. rethink, 21. politely, 22. politely, 23. opportune, 24. hospitable, 25. morin, 26. morin, 27. downsize, 28. dung, 29. sophistication

30. no____c life *adj.* moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
31. hos_____le environment *adj.* friendly and generous to visitors or guests
32. aw___n at daybreak *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
33. gr___y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
34. linguistic sop_____ion *n.* the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined
35. mat_____tic values *adj.* concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth
36. sky_____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
37. aw___n a child *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
38. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
39. person of gra_____nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
40. flavored vo__a *n.* a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring

ANSWERS: 30. nomadic, 31. hospitable, 32. awaken, 33. greedy, 34. sophistication, 35. materialistic, 36. skyscraper, 37. awaken, 38. footprint, 39. grandparent, 40. vodka

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 41. gr__t an idea | <i>v.</i> to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone |
| 42. fo_____nts in the snow | <i>n.</i> a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface |
| 43. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 44. re_____ct a telephone | <i>v.</i> to connect again after a break or interruption |
| 45. ch_____at session | <i>n.</i> casual, informal conversation; small talk or gossip |
| 46. architect's bl_____nt | <i>n.</i> a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine |
| 47. bl_____nt for economic reform | <i>n.</i> a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine |
| 48. ball of d__g | <i>n.</i> solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement |
| 49. great-gra_____nt | <i>n.</i> a parent of one's father or mother |
| 50. un_____ed wilderness | <i>adj.</i> not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way |
| 51. earliest human an____or | <i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |
| 52. fi___e with a PC | <i>v.</i> to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage |

ANSWERS: 41. greet, 42. footprint, 43. opportune, 44. reconnect, 45. chitchat, 46. blueprint, 47. blueprint, 48. dung, 49. grandparent, 50. untouched, 51. ancestor, 52. fiddle

53. de_____te the economy

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

54. un_____ed landscape

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

ANSWERS: 53. devastate, 54. untouched

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. The _____ tribe moved from place to place with its herd of sheep.
n. a member of a group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one place all the time; a wanderer; a person with no fixed abode
3. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.
n. a very tall building, typically one in a city
4. This desert is the territory of _____ tribes.
adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time
5. A business plan is a _____ for your success.
n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
6. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.
v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
7. I ordered a _____ tonic at the bar.
n. a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring
8. She _____ declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.
adv. in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. nomad, 3. skyscraper, 4. nomadic, 5. blueprint, 6. devastate, 7. vodka, 8. politely

9. He is a good-natured and _____ man.

adj. friendly and generous to visitors or guests

10. The new technology added a level of _____ to the manufacturing process.

n. the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined

11. We have to _____ our company's product lineup for further growth.

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

12. The friend's death _____ them.

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping

13. After a long period of estrangement, they _____ with each other.

v. to connect again after a break or interruption

14. You can see the horse _____ on the country road.

n. solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

15. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.

n. a parent of one's father or mother

16. The abandoned house was _____ for years, with vines growing all over it.

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

ANSWERS: 9. hospitable, 10. sophistication, 11. rethink, 12. awakens, 13. reconnected, 14. dung, 15. grandparents, 16. untouched

17. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

18. Some people believe that the pursuit of wealth is a _____ goal.

adj. concerned primarily with material possessions rather than spiritual or intellectual values; adhering to a philosophy that places a high value on material goods or wealth

19. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

20. I enjoy a little _____ with co-workers during lunch breaks.

n. casual, informal conversation; small talk or gossip

21. She was able to _____ a free trip to the United States.

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

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

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

23. The nomads lived in _____ while they traveled through the desert.

n. (also "ger") a circular tent of felt or skins on a collapsible framework used by nomads in the steppes of central Asia

24. The researchers were fascinated by the antioxidant properties of the _____ hydrate.

n. a yellow or greenish-yellow dye extracted from certain plants, commonly used to color fabrics or paper

ANSWERS: 17. greeted, 18. materialistic, 19. ancestor, 20. chitchat, 21. fiddle, 22. greedy, 23. yurts, 24. morin

25. Several roads have been closed due to the heavy _____.

- n.* a fall of snow; the amount of snow falling within a particular area in a specific time

26. The company had to _____ due to financial difficulties and let go of many employees.

- v.* to reduce the size, scale, or scope of something, such as a company or organization; to decrease the number of employees or members

27. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.

- n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

ANSWERS: 25. snowfall, 26. downsize, 27. footprint