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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michael Sandel: The tyranny of merit | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym : outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

rancorous

adj. characterized by bitterness or resentment, especially long-standing or deep-seated; marked by a desire for revenge or retaliation; caustic or sarcastic in speech or tone

synonym : grudging, bitter, resentful

(1) **rancorous** conflict, (2) **rancorous** relationship

The **rancorous** debate between the two politicians became increasingly heated.

meritocratic

adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements

synonym : merit-based, fair, unbiased

(1) **meritocratic** society, (2) **meritocratic** evaluation

The company prides itself on being **meritocratic** in its hiring and promotion practices.

affluent

adj. rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth

synonym : wealthy, rich, prosperous

(1) **affluent** society, (2) live in **affluent** circumstances

She lived in an **affluent** neighborhood surrounded by wealth and luxury.

ivy

n. an evergreen climbing or ground-creeping woody plant that often grows up trees or buildings

(1) poison **ivy**, (2) **ivy** plant

The overgrown **ivy** cleaved to the ruined castle walls.

proclaim

v. to announce or state something publicly and forcefully

synonym : announce, declare, trumpet

(1) **proclaim** victory, (2) **proclaim** law

The leader **proclaimed** a state of emergency in the country.

corrosive

adj. having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive

synonym : destructive, erosive, caustic

(1) **corrosive** substance, (2) **corrosive** effect

The **corrosive** acid ate away at the metal pipes.

hubris

n. excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin

synonym : arrogance, conceit, pride

(1) political **hubris**, (2) **hubris** in business

The athlete's **hubris** resulted in him underestimating his competition and losing the game.

inhale

v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

synonym : breathe in, take in, draw in

(1) **inhale** the smoke, (2) **inhale** the aroma

He **inhaled** deeply, trying to calm down.

credential

v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of

certain stated facts

synonym: certify, verify, (noun) certificate

- (1) **credential** themselves by showing their registration,
(2) teaching **credential**

To get the job, I need to **credential** my experience and education.

backlash

n. a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact

synonym: reaction, retaliation, counteraction

- (1) political **backlash**, (2) the **backlash** from the community

The company faced a **backlash** from customers after the recall.

stagnant

adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water

synonym: still, stagnant, unmoving

- (1) **stagnant** car sales, (2) **stagnant** economy

The **stagnant** water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

proponent

n. a person who supports an idea or pleads for a cause

synonym: advocate, devotee, follower

- (1) enthusiastic **proponent**, (2) **proponent** of world peace

Einstein was a **proponent** of the theory of relativity.

bracing

adj. refreshing or invigorating; designed to provide support or stability

synonym: invigorating, refreshing, stimulating

- (1) **bracing** air, (2) **bracing** walk

The athlete performed some **bracing** exercises to warm up before the game.

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.

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.

arbiter

n. a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision

synonym: judge, referee, mediator

(1) professional **arbiter**, (2) cultural **arbiter**

The **arbiter** of the dispute will be an impartial judge.

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.

folly

n. a lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness or absurdity; specifically, a costly, useless, or pointless building or project that has been created or undertaken for no practical purpose or benefit

synonym: absurdity, foolishness, irrationality

(1) economic **folly**, (2) act of **folly**

It was **folly** for the hiker to climb the dangerous mountain alone.

dignify

v. to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant

synonym: elevate, ennoble, honor

(1) **dignify** the role, (2) **dignify** the occasion

It's important to **dignify** other people's opinions and not dismiss them without consideration.

patriotism

n. love and loyalty to one's country
synonym : nationalism, loyalty, devotion

(1) the spirit of **patriotism**, (2) fanatic **patriotism**

His actions were a testament to his deep love and **patriotism** for his country.

sentimental

adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

synonym : bathetic, drippy, maudlin

(1) in a **sentimental** mood, (2) **sentimental** damage

Stop being **sentimental** and always speak the truth.

assassin

n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

synonym : killer, manslayer

(1) fall victim to an **assassin**, (2) would-be **assassin**

She hired an **assassin** to kill her opponent.

rampant

adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

synonym : prevalent, dense, uncontrolled

(1) **rampant** growth of weeds, (2) **rampant** corruption

In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be **rampant**.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

overlook

v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

synonym : disregard, look down, supervise

(1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

humility

n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

synonym : humbleness, modesty, unpretentiousness

(1) develop an attitude of **humility**, (2) lack of **humility**

We were filled with **humility** at the sight of the Queen.

ethic

n. a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

synonym : moral code, code of conduct, principles

(1) moral **ethic**, (2) professional **ethic**

Having a strong work **ethic** is important for success in any field.

tyranny

n. a form of government in which a single ruler has absolute power, often exercised cruelly and oppressively; the arbitrary or oppressive exercise of power or control over others

synonym : despotism, oppression, dictatorship

(1) brutal **tyranny**, (2) **tyranny** of the majority

The country was ruled by a **tyranny** that oppressed its citizens.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. flu pa____ic | <i>n.</i> an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area |
| 2. professional et__c | <i>n.</i> a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems |
| 3. i_y plant | <i>n.</i> an evergreen climbing or ground-creeping woody plant that often grows up trees or buildings |
| 4. ty____y of the majority | <i>n.</i> a form of government in which a single ruler has absolute power, often exercised cruelly and oppressively; the arbitrary or oppressive exercise of power or control over others |
| 5. develop an attitude of hu____ty | <i>n.</i> the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self |
| 6. political hu____s | <i>n.</i> excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin |
| 7. pr____im victory | <i>v.</i> to announce or state something publicly and forcefully |
| 8. the ba____sh from the community | <i>n.</i> a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact |
| 9. di____y the occasion | <i>v.</i> to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant |

ANSWERS: 1. pandemic, 2. ethic, 3. ivy, 4. tyranny, 5. humility, 6. hubris, 7. proclaim, 8. backlash, 9. dignify

10. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
11. ra____t growth of weeds *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
12. lack of hu____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
13. br____g air *adj.* refreshing or invigorating; designed to provide support or stability
14. pr____nt of world peace *n.* a person who supports an idea or pleads for a cause
15. an op____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
16. co____ve effect *adj.* having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive
17. ra____us relationship *adj.* characterized by bitterness or resentment, especially long-standing or deep-seated; marked by a desire for revenge or retaliation; caustic or sarcastic in speech or tone
18. sen____al damage *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

ANSWERS: 10. rev, 11. rampant, 12. humility, 13. bracing, 14. proponent, 15. opportune, 16. corrosive, 17. rancorous, 18. sentimental

19. di_____y the role *v.* to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant
20. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
21. pr_____im law *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
22. st_____nt economy *adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
23. st_____nt car sales *adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
24. af_____nt society *adj.* rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth
25. co_____ve substance *adj.* having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive
26. teaching cre_____al *v.* to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
27. would-be as_____in *n.* a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

ANSWERS: 19. dignify, 20. rev, 21. proclaim, 22. stagnant, 23. stagnant, 24. affluent, 25. corrosive, 26. credential, 27. assassin

28. act of fo__y *n.* a lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness or absurdity; specifically, a costly, useless, or pointless building or project that has been created or undertaken for no practical purpose or benefit
29. ra_____us conflict *adj.* characterized by bitterness or resentment, especially long-standing or deep-seated; marked by a desire for revenge or retaliation; caustic or sarcastic in speech or tone
30. economic fo__y *n.* a lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness or absurdity; specifically, a costly, useless, or pointless building or project that has been created or undertaken for no practical purpose or benefit
31. global pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
32. poison i_y *n.* an evergreen climbing or ground-creeping woody plant that often grows up trees or buildings
33. cre_____al themselves by showing their registration *v.* to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
34. enthusiastic pr_____nt *n.* a person who supports an idea or pleads for a cause
35. re_____k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

ANSWERS: 28. folly, 29. rancorous, 30. folly, 31. pandemic, 32. ivy, 33. credential, 34. proponent, 35. rethink

36. fanatic pat_____sm *n.* love and loyalty to one's country
37. in___e the aroma *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
38. hu___s in business *n.* excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin
39. in___e the smoke *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
40. the spirit of pat_____sm *n.* love and loyalty to one's country
41. fl_____sh economically *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
42. re_____k the role of the manager *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
43. br_____g walk *adj.* refreshing or invigorating; designed to provide support or stability
44. in a sen_____al mood *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism
45. mer_____tic evaluation *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
46. brutal ty_____y *n.* a form of government in which a single ruler has absolute power, often exercised cruelly and oppressively; the arbitrary or oppressive exercise of power or control over others
47. moral et__c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

ANSWERS: 36. patriotism, 37. inhale, 38. hubris, 39. inhale, 40. patriotism, 41. flourish, 42. rethink, 43. bracing, 44. sentimental, 45. meritocratic, 46. tyranny, 47. ethic

48. cultural ar_____r *n.* a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
49. mer_____tic society *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
50. ov_____ok a street *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
51. professional ar_____r *n.* a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
52. political ba_____sh *n.* a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact
53. live in af_____nt circumstances *adj.* rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth
54. ov_____ok that fact *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
55. ra_____t corruption *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
56. fall victim to an as_____in *n.* a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money
57. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 48. arbiter, 49. meritocratic, 50. overlook, 51. arbiter, 52. backlash, 53. affluent, 54. overlook, 55. rampant, 56. assassin, 57. opportune

58. fl____sh worldwide

v. to grow or develop vigorously or
successfully

ANSWERS: 58. flourish

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Einstein was a _____ of the theory of relativity.
n. a person who supports an idea or pleads for a cause
2. The _____ of the dispute will be an impartial judge.
n. a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
3. It's important to _____ other people's opinions and not dismiss them without consideration.
v. to make something worthy of respect or honor; to elevate or give importance to something that may otherwise be considered insignificant
4. We were filled with _____ at the sight of the Queen.
n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
5. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.
n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
6. The overgrown _____ cleaved to the ruined castle walls.
n. an evergreen climbing or ground-creeping woody plant that often grows up trees or buildings
7. She lived in an _____ neighborhood surrounded by wealth and luxury.
adj. rich and wealthy; having a lot of money and material wealth
8. The country was ruled by a _____ that oppressed its citizens.
n. a form of government in which a single ruler has absolute power, often exercised cruelly and oppressively; the arbitrary or oppressive exercise of power or control over others

ANSWERS: 1. proponent, 2. arbiter, 3. dignify, 4. humility, 5. pandemic, 6. ivy, 7. affluent, 8. tyranny

9. It was _____ for the hiker to climb the dangerous mountain alone.
n. a lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness or absurdity; specifically, a costly, useless, or pointless building or project that has been created or undertaken for no practical purpose or benefit
10. Having a strong work _____ is important for success in any field.
n. a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
11. The athlete performed some _____ exercises to warm up before the game.
adj. refreshing or invigorating; designed to provide support or stability
12. His actions were a testament to his deep love and _____ for his country.
n. love and loyalty to one's country
13. The company faced a _____ from customers after the recall.
n. a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact
14. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
15. The _____ water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
16. To get the job, I need to _____ my experience and education.
v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts

ANSWERS: 9. folly, 10. ethic, 11. bracing, 12. patriotism, 13. backlash, 14. rev, 15. stagnant, 16. credential

17. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.
v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
18. We cannot _____ an opportunity for great success.
v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
19. The leader _____ a state of emergency in the country.
v. to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
20. The athlete's _____ resulted in him underestimating his competition and losing the game.
n. excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin
21. She hired an _____ to kill her opponent.
n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money
22. He _____ deeply, trying to calm down.
v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
23. The _____ acid ate away at the metal pipes.
adj. having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive
24. We have to _____ our company's product lineup for further growth.
v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

ANSWERS: 17. flourished, 18. overlook, 19. proclaimed, 20. hubris, 21. assassin, 22. inhaled, 23. corrosive, 24. rethink

25. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

26. The _____ debate between the two politicians became increasingly heated.

adj. characterized by bitterness or resentment, especially long-standing or deep-seated; marked by a desire for revenge or retaliation; caustic or sarcastic in speech or tone

27. Stop being _____ and always speak the truth.

adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

28. In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be _____.

adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

29. The company prides itself on being _____ in its hiring and promotion practices.

adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements

ANSWERS: 25. opportune, 26. rancorous, 27. sentimental, 28. rampant, 29. meritocratic