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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Debbie Millman: Love letters to what we hold dear | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym : detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

unimaginable

adj. beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision

synonym : unthinkable, inconceivable, incredulous

(1) **unimaginable** horror, (2) **unimaginable** depths

The complexity of scientific theories was **unimaginable** for most people.

miraculous

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

synonym : amazing, astonishing, awesome

(1) a **miraculous** encounter, (2) go through a **miraculous** change

He made a **miraculous** recovery.

foxglove

n. a tall, showy plant with bell-shaped flowers that can be various shades of pink or purple, which leaves contain digitalis, a powerful drug used to treat heart conditions

synonym : digitalis, fairy bell, witch's glove

(1) **foxglove** plant, (2) purple **foxglove**

The medicinal properties of **foxglove** make it a valuable herb for natural medicine.

lettuce

n. a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor

synonym: greens, salad, cress

(1) crisp **lettuce**, (2) wilted **lettuce**

I want a sandwich with extra **lettuce**, please.

cucumber

n. a long and green fruit with thin skin and crisp, refreshing flesh, typically eaten as a vegetable

(1) a **cucumber** face mask, (2) several varieties of **cucumbers**

I like to slice **cucumber** and put it on my sandwiches.

strawberry

n. a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top

(1) the **strawberry** pie, (2) **strawberry** greenhouse

He had a **strawberry** smoothie for breakfast.

underfoot

adv. in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet

synonym: beneath one's feet

(1) snow **underfoot**, (2) leaves **underfoot**

The muddy terrain made it difficult to walk **underfoot**.

unrelenting

adj. not easing or slackening in intensity; persistent and unwavering in pursuit of a goal

synonym: relentless, persistent, unyielding

(1) **unrelenting** pressure, (2) **unrelenting** pursuit

The **unrelenting** heat made it difficult to sleep.

intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym: amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

tenacity

n. the quality or state of being persistent and determined in the face of difficulties; the quality or property of holding together firmly, tending to adhere or cling

synonym: persistence, determination, perseverance

(1) **tenacity** of purpose, (2) show **tenacity**

Her **tenacity** in pursuing her dreams has inspired many people.

solace

n. comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

synonym: comfort, condolence, peace

(1) **solace** in music, (2) offer **solace**

The grieving widow found **solace** in reading her late husband's letters.

otherworldly

adj. supernatural, other than worldly; not of this world

synonym: celestial, ethereal, unearthly

(1) **otherworldly** experience, (2) **otherworldly** creature

The **otherworldly** landscape was filled with strange, glowing plants.

ode

n. a lyrical poem that expresses feelings or praise for a person, place, or thing; a poem that is marked by a prominent theme or tone

synonym: poem, song, verse

(1) nature **ode**, (2) an **ode** to love

The poet composed a beautiful **ode** to nature and its wonders.

succumb

v. to fail to oppose something, such as desire, pressure, or some other opposing force; to die or suffer badly from

the effect of a disease or injury

synonym: surrender, break down, die

(1) **succumb** to cancer, (2) **succumb** to old age

He finally **succumbed** to temptation.

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**.

dismantle

v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

synonym: take apart, demolish, take down

(1) **dismantle** a machine, (2) **dismantle** a system

The old building had to be **dismantled** because it was structurally unsound.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

insecure

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

synonym: uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment

Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. te____ty of purpose *n.* the quality or state of being persistent and determined in the face of difficulties; the quality or property of holding together firmly, tending to adhere or cling
2. nature o_e *n.* a lyrical poem that expresses feelings or praise for a person, place, or thing; a poem that is marked by a prominent theme or tone
3. the str_____ry pie *n.* a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top
4. snow un_____ot *adv.* in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet
5. su_____b to cancer *v.* to fail to oppose something, such as desire, pressure, or some other opposing force; to die or suffer badly from the effect of a disease or injury
6. in_____fy a good relationship *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
7. str_____ry greenhouse *n.* a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top
8. an in_____re future *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
9. in_____fy diplomatic efforts *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

ANSWERS: 1. tenacity, 2. ode, 3. strawberry, 4. underfoot, 5. succumb, 6. intensify, 7. strawberry, 8. insecure, 9. intensify

10. ex_____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
11. uni_____ble depths *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
12. wilted le_____e *n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
13. a mir_____us encounter *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
14. unr_____ng pursuit *adj.* not easing or slackening in intensity; persistent and unwavering in pursuit of a goal
15. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
16. di_____le a system *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
17. 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
18. 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

ANSWERS: 10. explode, 11. unimaginable, 12. lettuce, 13. miraculous, 14. unrelenting, 15. storytelling, 16. dismantle, 17. rev, 18. rev

19. su____b to old age *v.* to fail to oppose something, such as desire, pressure, or some other opposing force; to die or suffer badly from the effect of a disease or injury
20. di_____le a machine *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
21. an o_e to love *n.* a lyrical poem that expresses feelings or praise for a person, place, or thing; a poem that is marked by a prominent theme or tone
22. ex_____e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
23. crisp le_____e *n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
24. uni_____ble horror *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
25. go through a mir_____us change *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
26. oth_____dly experience *adj.* supernatural, other than worldly; not of this world
27. in_____re attachment *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
28. so___e in music *n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

ANSWERS: 19. succumb, 20. dismantle, 21. ode, 22. explode, 23. lettuce, 24. unimaginable, 25. miraculous, 26. otherworldly, 27. insecure, 28. solace

29. purple fo____ve *n.* a tall, showy plant with bell-shaped flowers that can be various shades of pink or purple, which leaves contain digitalis, a powerful drug used to treat heart conditions
30. offer so____e *n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
31. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
32. leaves un_____ot *adv.* in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet
33. fo____ve plant *n.* a tall, showy plant with bell-shaped flowers that can be various shades of pink or purple, which leaves contain digitalis, a powerful drug used to treat heart conditions
34. show te____ty *n.* the quality or state of being persistent and determined in the face of difficulties; the quality or property of holding together firmly, tending to adhere or cling
35. oth_____dly creature *adj.* supernatural, other than worldly; not of this world
36. a cu____er face mask *n.* a long and green fruit with thin skin and crisp, refreshing flesh, typically eaten as a vegetable
37. unr_____ng pressure *adj.* not easing or slackening in intensity; persistent and unwavering in pursuit of a goal

ANSWERS: 29. foxglove, 30. solace, 31. storytelling, 32. underfoot, 33. foxglove, 34. tenacity, 35. otherworldly, 36. cucumber, 37. unrelenting

38. several varieties of cu____ers

n. a long and green fruit with thin skin and crisp, refreshing flesh, typically eaten as a vegetable

ANSWERS: 38. cucumber

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The poet composed a beautiful ____ to nature and its wonders.
n. a lyrical poem that expresses feelings or praise for a person, place, or thing; a poem that is marked by a prominent theme or tone

2. He finally _____ to temptation.
v. to fail to oppose something, such as desire, pressure, or some other opposing force; to die or suffer badly from the effect of a disease or injury

3. The grieving widow found _____ in reading her late husband's letters.
n. comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

4. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

5. The medicinal properties of _____ make it a valuable herb for natural medicine.
n. a tall, showy plant with bell-shaped flowers that can be various shades of pink or purple, which leaves contain digitalis, a powerful drug used to treat heart conditions

6. I like to slice _____ and put it on my sandwiches.
n. a long and green fruit with thin skin and crisp, refreshing flesh, typically eaten as a vegetable

7. Children in an unstructured environment often feel _____.
adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

ANSWERS: 1. ode, 2. succumbed, 3. solace, 4. intensify, 5. foxglove, 6. cucumber, 7. insecure

8. The old building had to be _____ because it was structurally unsound.
v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
9. The complexity of scientific theories was _____ for most people.
adj. beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
10. Her _____ in pursuing her dreams has inspired many people.
n. the quality or state of being persistent and determined in the face of difficulties; the quality or property of holding together firmly, tending to adhere or cling
11. He had a _____ smoothie for breakfast.
n. a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top
12. I want a sandwich with extra _____ please.
n. a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
13. He made a _____ recovery.
adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
14. The _____ landscape was filled with strange, glowing plants.
adj. supernatural, other than worldly; not of this world
15. 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

ANSWERS: 8. dismantled, 9. unimaginable, 10. tenacity, 11. strawberry, 12. lettuce, 13. miraculous, 14. otherworldly, 15. rev

16. The muddy terrain made it difficult to walk _____.

adv. in a position under one's feet; in the space on the ground beneath one's feet

17. The _____ heat made it difficult to sleep.

adj. not easing or slackening in intensity; persistent and unwavering in pursuit of a goal

18. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

19. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

ANSWERS: 16. underfoot, 17. unrelenting, 18. storytelling, 19. exploded