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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dustin Tahmahkera: The last chief of the Comanches and the fall of an empire | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

descend

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

synonym: dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator

She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

altercation

n. a noisy or heated argument or dispute, often involving physical aggression

synonym: argument, dispute, quarrel

(1) violent **altercation**, (2) heated **altercation**

The **altercation** between the two coworkers was finally resolved in a mediation session.

settler

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

synonym: frontiersperson, immigrant, emigrant

(1) new **settlers**, (2) **settlers** on some foreign shore

A large proportion of railway workers in **settler** colonies were white.

colonel

n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

synonym : officer, military, ranking officer

(1) **colonel** rank, (2) brevet **colonel**

The Army **colonel** led the troops into battle.

proWess

n. exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage

synonym : expertise, skill, ability

(1) economic **proWess**, (2) intellectual **proWess**

The athlete's **proWess** in her sport earned her many accolades.

adept

adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

synonym : proficient, masterful, experienced

(1) **adept** at fishing, (2) **adept** in handicrafts

She is highly **adept** with medical equipment.

horseback

n. the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse

synonym : equestrian, horse riding, mounted

(1) **horseback** trek, (2) **horseback** adventure

We went on a scenic trail ride on **horseback** through the mountains.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym : excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales

The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

colonist

n. a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area

synonym : settler, pioneer, inhabitant

(1) space **colonist**, (2) American **colonist**

The first **colonists** arrived in the New World in the early 17th

century.

kidnapping

n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

synonym : abduction, snatch, kidnap

(1) **kidnapping** attempt, (2) mass **kidnapping**

She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated **kidnapping**.

assimilate

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

synonym : absorb, incorporate, integrate

(1) **assimilate** into society, (2) **assimilate** a language

The immigrant struggled to **assimilate** into the new culture.

ambush

n. the act of hiding and waiting for someone before the sudden attack

synonym : trap, surprise, lure

(1) attacking from **ambush**, (2) **ambush** marketing

Armed police officers lay in **ambush** in front of the criminal's house.

elope

v. to run away secretly to get married, often without the consent or knowledge of one's family or friends

synonym : run away, abscond, escape

(1) **elope** secretly, (2) **elope** together

The young couple decided to **elope** instead of having a traditional wedding ceremony.

enrage

v. to make someone extremely angry

synonym : anger, incense, infuriate

(1) **enrage** the international community, (2) **enrage** critics

The news of the betrayal **enraged** him.

elude

v. to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning

synonym : evade, avoid, dodge

(1) **elude** the law, (2) **elude** responsibility for the failure
The suspect **eluded** capture for weeks before being caught by the police.

lucrative

adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
synonym: profitable, moneymaking, remunerative

(1) **lucrative** deal, (2) **lucrative** market

Investing in real estate can be a **lucrative** business if done correctly.

vow

v. to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn

synonym: promise, pledge, swear

(1) **vow** allegiance to the new king, (2) **vow** never to give up
They **vowed** to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.

bison

n. a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison

synonym: buffalo

(1) endangered **bison**, (2) American **bison's** meat

Large herds of **bison** used to live on the plains of this area.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

synonym: hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

sill

n. a horizontal piece of material, such as wood or stone, that forms the bottom of a window or door frame; a narrow shelf or ledge at the bottom of a window or door

synonym: windowsill, ledge, threshold

(1) **sill** plate, (2) window **sill**

The door **sill** was painted a bright red to make it more visible.

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.

grassland

n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

synonym : meadow, plain, savanna

(1) endangered **grassland**, (2) vast **grassland**

Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale **grasslands** in many parts of the world.

rancher

n. a person who owns, manages, or works on a ranch, especially one that is used for raising or grazing livestock

synonym : cowboy, farmer, herder

(1) **rancher's** wife, (2) traditional **rancher**

The local grocery store carried meat sourced from the **rancher's** farm.

graze

v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

synonym : nibble, feed, scrape

(1) turn cattle out to **graze**, (2) **graze** the left shoulder

The sheep **graze** on the green grass in the meadow.

adversary

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

synonym : opponent, enemy, foe

(1) **adversary** team, (2) political **adversary**

The boxer's toughest **adversary** was his fear of losing.

befriend

v. to become a friend of someone, especially when in need

synonym : support, advise, patronize

(1) **befriend** a young boy, (2) **befriend** other members

I'm willing to **befriend** the weak and the poor.

inauguration

n. the formal beginning or initiation of something, especially the beginning of a political leader's term in office; a ceremony marking the beginning of an organization or event

synonym: swearing-in, investiture, initiation

(1) **inauguration** ceremony, (2) presidential **inauguration**

The **inauguration** of the new station was a great success.

braid

n. a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

synonym: plait, twist, weave

(1) **braid** hair, (2) elastic cord **braid**

She always wore her hair in a single **braid** down her back.

peyote

n. a small, spineless cactus that contains mescaline and is native to Mexico and the southwestern US, which is used in some Native American religions for its hallucinogenic properties

synonym: mescal, hikuri, divine cactus

(1) ingredient in **peyote**, (2) **peyote** ritual

Many Native American tribes use **peyote** in their religious ceremonies.

insurmountable

adj. impossible to overcome or conquer; too difficult or daunting to overcome

synonym: invincible, hopeless, overwhelming

(1) **insurmountable** odds, (2) **insurmountable** disadvantage

The challenge seemed **insurmountable**, but they overcame it with hard work and determination.

chairperson

n. the officer who presides over organization meetings

synonym: director, head, leader

(1) vice **chairperson**, (2) the meeting elected a

chairperson

The **chairperson** has the authority to approve or deny any request.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation

descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. des_____nt of a pioneer | <i>n.</i> children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal |
| 2. endangered bi__n | <i>n.</i> a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison |
| 3. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 4. ra_____r's wife | <i>n.</i> a person who owns, manages, or works on a ranch, especially one that is used for raising or grazing livestock |
| 5. ad_____ry team | <i>n.</i> a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent |
| 6. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 7. el__e the law | <i>v.</i> to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning |
| 8. lu_____ve market | <i>adj.</i> producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding |
| 9. ad__t in handicrafts | <i>adj.</i> having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult |

ANSWERS: 1. descendant, 2. bison, 3. opportune, 4. rancher, 5. adversary, 6. opportune, 7. elude, 8. lucrative, 9. adept

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|---|---|
| 10. de____d by elevator | <i>v.</i> to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood |
| 11. space co____st | <i>n.</i> a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area |
| 12. ingredient in pe____e | <i>n.</i> a small, spineless cactus that contains mescaline and is native to Mexico and the southwestern US, which is used in some Native American religions for its hallucinogenic properties |
| 13. violent alt____on | <i>n.</i> a noisy or heated argument or dispute, often involving physical aggression |
| 14. elastic cord br__d | <i>n.</i> a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration |
| 15. ins____ble disadvantage | <i>adj.</i> impossible to overcome or conquer; too difficult or daunting to overcome |
| 16. en____e the international community | <i>v.</i> to make someone extremely angry |
| 17. se____rs on some foreign shore | <i>n.</i> a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area |
| 18. intellectual pr____s | <i>n.</i> exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage |

ANSWERS: 10. descend, 11. colonist, 12. peyote, 13. altercation, 14. braid, 15. insurmountable, 16. enrage, 17. settler, 18. prowess

19. el__e responsibility for the failure *v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
20. new se_____rs *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
21. ina_____ion ceremony *n.* the formal beginning or initiation of something, especially the beginning of a political leader's term in office; a ceremony marking the beginning of an organization or event
22. gr__e the left shoulder *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
23. window s__l *n.* a horizontal piece of material, such as wood or stone, that forms the bottom of a window or door frame; a narrow shelf or ledge at the bottom of a window or door
24. the meeting elected a cha_____on *n.* the officer who presides over organization meetings
25. su_____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
26. American bi__n's meat *n.* a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison
27. turn cattle out to gr__e *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

ANSWERS: 19. elude, 20. settler, 21. inauguration, 22. graze, 23. sill, 24. chairperson, 25. surpass, 26. bison, 27. graze

28. pe___e ritual *n.* a small, spineless cactus that contains mescaline and is native to Mexico and the southwestern US, which is used in some Native American religions for its hallucinogenic properties
29. endangered gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
30. attacking from am___h *n.* the act of hiding and waiting for someone before the sudden attack
31. br__d hair *n.* a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration
32. lu_____ve deal *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
33. heated alt_____on *n.* a noisy or heated argument or dispute, often involving physical aggression
34. v_w allegiance to the new king *v.* to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
35. de_____d a steep hill *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
36. su_____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

ANSWERS: 28. peyote, 29. grassland, 30. ambush, 31. braid, 32. lucrative, 33. altercation, 34. vow, 35. descend, 36. surpass

37. ins_____ble odds *adj.* impossible to overcome or conquer; too difficult or daunting to overcome
38. brevet co_____l *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
39. be_____nd other members *v.* to become a friend of someone, especially when in need
40. vast gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
41. v_w never to give up *v.* to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
42. s__l plate *n.* a horizontal piece of material, such as wood or stone, that forms the bottom of a window or door frame; a narrow shelf or ledge at the bottom of a window or door
43. be_____nd a young boy *v.* to become a friend of someone, especially when in need
44. political ad_____ry *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
45. American co_____st *n.* a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area
46. kid_____ng attempt *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
47. ho_____ck adventure *n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse

ANSWERS: 37. insurmountable, 38. colonel, 39. befriend, 40. grassland, 41. vow, 42. sill, 43. befriend, 44. adversary, 45. colonist, 46. kidnapping, 47. horseback

48. economic pr____s *n.* exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage
49. traditional ra____r *n.* a person who owns, manages, or works on a ranch, especially one that is used for raising or grazing livestock
50. ass____te into society *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
51. presidential ina____ion *n.* the formal beginning or initiation of something, especially the beginning of a political leader's term in office; a ceremony marking the beginning of an organization or event
52. ass____te a language *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
53. el__e secretly *v.* to run away secretly to get married, often without the consent or knowledge of one's family or friends
54. vice cha____on *n.* the officer who presides over organization meetings
55. mass kid____ng *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
56. ho____ck trek *n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
57. sta____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
58. el__e together *v.* to run away secretly to get married, often without the consent or knowledge of one's family or friends

ANSWERS: 48. prowess, 49. rancher, 50. assimilate, 51. inauguration, 52. assimilate, 53. elope, 54. chairperson, 55. kidnapping, 56. horseback, 57. starvation, 58. elope

59. en___e critics *v.* to make someone extremely angry
60. am___h marketing *n.* the act of hiding and waiting for someone before the sudden attack
61. ad__t at fishing *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult
62. co____l rank *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
63. die of sta_____on *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
64. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

ANSWERS: 59. enrage, 60. ambush, 61. adept, 62. colonel, 63. starvation, 64. descendant

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We went on a scenic trail ride on _____ through the mountains.
n. the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse

2. They _____ to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.
v. to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn

3. The _____ between the two coworkers was finally resolved in a mediation session.
n. a noisy or heated argument or dispute, often involving physical aggression

4. The _____ has the authority to approve or deny any request.
n. the officer who presides over organization meetings

5. Many Native American tribes use _____ in their religious ceremonies.
n. a small, spineless cactus that contains mescaline and is native to Mexico and the southwestern US, which is used in some Native American religions for its hallucinogenic properties

6. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

7. She is highly _____ with medical equipment.
adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

8. She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated _____.
n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

ANSWERS: 1. horseback, 2. vowed, 3. altercation, 4. chairperson, 5. peyote, 6. surpassed, 7. adept, 8. kidnapping

9. Investing in real estate can be a _____ business if done correctly.

adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

10. The _____ of the new station was a great success.

n. the formal beginning or initiation of something, especially the beginning of a political leader's term in office; a ceremony marking the beginning of an organization or event

11. She always wore her hair in a single _____ down her back.

n. a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

12. Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale _____ in many parts of the world.

n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

13. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

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

14. The sheep _____ on the green grass in the meadow.

v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

15. Armed police officers lay in _____ in front of the criminal's house.

n. the act of hiding and waiting for someone before the sudden attack

ANSWERS: 9. lucrative, 10. inauguration, 11. braid, 12. grasslands, 13. opportune, 14. graze, 15. ambush

16. Large herds of _____ used to live on the plains of this area.
- n.* a large wild animal of the cow family that has shaggy manes, large heads, and short horns, and there are American bison, also called buffalo, and European bison
17. The athlete's _____ in her sport earned her many accolades.
- n.* exceptional or superior skill or ability, particularly in a physical or athletic context; valorous bravery or courage
18. I'm willing to _____ the weak and the poor.
- v.* to become a friend of someone, especially when in need
19. The immigrant struggled to _____ into the new culture.
- v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
20. The boxer's toughest _____ was his fear of losing.
- n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
21. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.
- n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
22. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
- n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
23. The first _____ arrived in the New World in the early 17th century.
- n.* a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area

ANSWERS: 16. bison, 17. prowess, 18. befriend, 19. assimilate, 20. adversary, 21. starvation, 22. descendants, 23. colonists

24. The Army _____ led the troops into battle.

n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

25. The local grocery store carried meat sourced from the _____ farm.

n. a person who owns, manages, or works on a ranch, especially one that is used for raising or grazing livestock

26. The suspect _____ capture for weeks before being caught by the police.

v. to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning

27. The challenge seemed _____ but they overcame it with hard work and determination.

adj. impossible to overcome or conquer; too difficult or daunting to overcome

28. The news of the betrayal _____ him.

v. to make someone extremely angry

29. The young couple decided to _____ instead of having a traditional wedding ceremony.

v. to run away secretly to get married, often without the consent or knowledge of one's family or friends

30. The door _____ was painted a bright red to make it more visible.

n. a horizontal piece of material, such as wood or stone, that forms the bottom of a window or door frame; a narrow shelf or ledge at the bottom of a window or door

31. A large proportion of railway workers in _____ colonies were white.

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

ANSWERS: 24. colonel, 25. rancher's, 26. eluded, 27. insurmountable, 28. enraged, 29. elope, 30. sill, 31. settler

32. She was _____ from an old Italian noble family.

- v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

ANSWERS: 32. descended