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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Cecilia M. Orphan: What makes a "good college" -- and why it matters | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

aspiration

n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

synonym: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs

He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

incarcerate

v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape

synonym: confine, detain, imprison

(1) **incarcerate** the murderer, (2) **incarcerate** her for life

He was **incarcerated** for the duration of the war.

endowment

n. a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization

synonym: fund, gift, donation

(1) education **endowment** insurance, (2) **endowment** gift

The wealthy benefactor's **endowment** helped the university build a new library.

skyrocket

v. to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;

synonym: rocket, soar, shoot up

(1) **skyrocket** the cost, (2) price **skyrocketed**

Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have **skyrocketed** dramatically.

alumni

n. (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program

synonym: graduates, former students, alum

(1) **alumni** network, (2) **alumni** relations

Many **alumni** of our college have become successful in their chosen fields.

billionaire

n. a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars

synonym: mega-rich, wealthy, tycoon

(1) Silicon Valley **billionaire**, (2) oil **billionaire**

The self-made **billionaire** donated millions to charity.

philanthropy

n. the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money

synonym: altruism, benevolence, generosity

(1) **philanthropy** organization, (2) private **philanthropy**

Tech billionaires often spend the majority of their time on **philanthropy**.

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.

prestige

n. respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality

synonym: honor, distinction, reputation

(1) national **prestige**, (2) **prestige** company

The university has great **prestige** in the academic community.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. phi_____opy organization | <i>n.</i> the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money |
| 2. enrich my in_____ct | <i>n.</i> the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level |
| 3. no asp_____on for fame | <i>n.</i> a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath |
| 4. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 5. en_____nt gift | <i>n.</i> a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization |
| 6. private phi_____opy | <i>n.</i> the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money |
| 7. human in_____ct | <i>n.</i> the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level |
| 8. sk_____et the cost | <i>v.</i> to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly; |
| 9. inc_____te her for life | <i>v.</i> to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape |
| 10. oil bil_____re | <i>n.</i> a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars |

ANSWERS: 1. philanthropy, 2. intellect, 3. aspiration, 4. opportune, 5. endowment, 6. philanthropy, 7. intellect, 8. skyrocket, 9. incarcerate, 10. billionaire

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 11. al___i relations | <i>n.</i> (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program |
| 12. Silicon Valley bil_____re | <i>n.</i> a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars |
| 13. inc_____te the murderer | <i>v.</i> to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape |
| 14. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 15. he is ob___sed with the fear | <i>v.</i> to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else |
| 16. pr_____ge company | <i>n.</i> respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality |
| 17. asp_____on into the lungs | <i>n.</i> a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath |
| 18. price sk_____eted | <i>v.</i> to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly; |
| 19. ins_____ize customary laws | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 20. al___i network | <i>n.</i> (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program |
| 21. ob_____on with character | <i>n.</i> the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person |

ANSWERS: 11. alumni, 12. billionaire, 13. incarcerate, 14. opportune, 15. obsess, 16. prestige, 17. aspiration, 18. skyrocket, 19. institutionalize, 20. alumni, 21. obsession

22. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
23. national ob_____on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
24. education en_____nt insurance *n.* a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization
25. national pr_____ge *n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
26. ob____s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 22. institutionalize, 23. obsession, 24. endowment, 25. prestige, 26. obsess

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He was _____ for the duration of the war.
v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
2. The university has great _____ in the academic community.
n. respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
3. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.
n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
4. The self-made _____ donated millions to charity.
n. a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
5. Tech billionaires often spend the majority of their time on _____.
n. the practice of voluntarily helping the poor, especially by giving money
6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
8. Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have _____ dramatically.
v. to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;

ANSWERS: 1. incarcerated, 2. prestige, 3. obsession, 4. billionaire, 5. philanthropy, 6. opportune, 7. obsessed, 8. skyrocketed

9. The wealthy benefactor's _____ helped the university build a new library.
- n.* a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization
10. Many _____ of our college have become successful in their chosen fields.
- n.* (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program
11. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
12. He has an _____ to become a doctor.
- n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
13. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

ANSWERS: 9. endowment, 10. alumni, 11. intellect, 12. aspiration, 13. institutionalize