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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Denise Zmekhol: A story of Brazil through a single iconic building | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

optimism

n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism**

There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

nova

n. a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth

synonym: supernova, exploding star, nova remnant

(1) **nova** explosion, (2) **nova** star

The astronomer spent months studying the **nova's** light spectrum to learn more about its properties.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

turmoil

n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions

synonym: chaos, confusion, disorder

(1) political **turmoil**, (2) the **turmoil** of the war

The company experienced financial **turmoil** after the CEO was arrested.

headquarter

n. the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed

synonym: base, center, command

(1) administrative **headquarter**, (2) an emergency

headquarter

The company decided to move its **headquarters** to New York City.

amaze

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym: astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

squatter

n. a person who lives in or occupies a property or land without legal ownership or permission; a person who occupies a place or position without having the proper qualifications, training, or authority

synonym: trespasser, occupant, interloper

(1) **squatter** settlement, (2) urban **squatter**

The city has many **squatters living** in abandoned buildings or streets.

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.

hover

v. to stay in one place in the air

synonym: hang, float over, drift

(1) **hover** between life and death, (2) **hover** around the table

Two birds were **hovering** overhead.

wail

v. to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger

synonym: moan, keen, lament

(1) **wail** in sorrow, (2) **wail** in pain

The baby **wailed** loudly, signaling its hunger.

blazing

adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive

synonym: burning, fiery, scorching

(1) **blazing** fury, (2) **blazing** fire

The **blazing** sun beat down on the desert.

mourn

v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone

synonym: grieve, lament, weep

(1) **mourn** with deep grief, (2) **mourn** death

We **mourned** the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.

encampment

n. a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes

synonym: campsite, bivouac, settlement

(1) military **encampment**, (2) temporary **encampment**

The **encampment** of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.

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.

biennial

adj. occurring every two years

synonym: every other year, two-year, occurring bi-yearly

(1) **biennial** event, (2) **biennial** report

The **biennial** art festival is famous and draws artists and art lovers worldwide.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

rubble

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

synonym: debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road

After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. ho__r between life and death | <i>v.</i> to stay in one place in the air |
| 2. clear away ru___e | <i>n.</i> fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed |
| 3. an emergency hea_____er | <i>n.</i> the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed |
| 4. political tu____l | <i>n.</i> a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions |
| 5. am____y a signal | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 6. am____y the effect | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 7. sense of op____sm | <i>n.</i> a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation |
| 8. w__l in pain | <i>v.</i> to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger |
| 9. re_____ct with family | <i>v.</i> to connect again after a break or interruption |
| 10. the tu____l of the war | <i>n.</i> a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions |

ANSWERS: 1. hover, 2. rubble, 3. headquarter, 4. turmoil, 5. amplify, 6. amplify, 7. optimism, 8. wail, 9. reconnect, 10. turmoil

11. urban sq_____er *n.* a person who lives in or occupies a property or land without legal ownership or permission; a person who occupies a place or position without having the proper qualifications, training, or authority
12. mo__n with deep grief *v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
13. n__a star *n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
14. bi_____al report *adj.* occurring every two years
15. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
16. political op_____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
17. ho__r around the table *v.* to stay in one place in the air
18. uni_____ble depths *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
19. military enc_____nt *n.* a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
20. am__e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 11. squatter, 12. mourn, 13. nova, 14. biennial, 15. fascinate, 16. optimism, 17. hover, 18. unimaginable, 19. encampment, 20. amaze

21. bi____al event *adj.* occurring every two years
22. uni_____ble horror *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
23. w__l in sorrow *v.* to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger
24. administrative hea_____er *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
25. sq_____er settlement *n.* a person who lives in or occupies a property or land without legal ownership or permission; a person who occupies a place or position without having the proper qualifications, training, or authority
26. n__a explosion *n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
27. mo__n death *v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
28. bl_____g fury *adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
29. temporary enc_____nt *n.* a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
30. bl_____g fire *adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive

ANSWERS: 21. biennial, 22. unimaginable, 23. wail, 24. headquarter, 25. squatter, 26. nova, 27. mourn, 28. blazing, 29. encampment, 30. blazing

31. ru___e-strewn road *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
32. re_____ct a telephone *v.* to connect again after a break or interruption
33. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
34. am___e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 31. rubble, 32. reconnect, 33. fascinate, 34. amaze

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. There is considerable _____ that the economy will recover soon.
n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

2. The city has many _____ in abandoned buildings or streets.
n. a person who lives in or occupies a property or land without legal ownership or permission; a person who occupies a place or position without having the proper qualifications, training, or authority

3. The _____ sun beat down on the desert.
adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive

4. The _____ of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.
n. a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes

5. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

6. The company decided to move its _____ to New York City.
n. the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed

7. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

8. We _____ the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.
v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone

ANSWERS: 1. optimism, 2. squatters living, 3. blazing, 4. encampment, 5. amplify, 6. headquarters, 7. fascinated, 8. mourned

9. After a long period of estrangement, they _____ with each other.
v. to connect again after a break or interruption
10. After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of _____.
n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
11. The baby _____ loudly, signaling its hunger.
v. to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger
12. The _____ art festival is famous and draws artists and art lovers worldwide.
adj. occurring every two years
13. The complexity of scientific theories was _____ for most people.
adj. beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
14. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.
v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
15. The astronomer spent months studying the _____ light spectrum to learn more about its properties.
n. a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
16. Two birds were _____ overhead.
v. to stay in one place in the air

ANSWERS: 9. reconnected, 10. rubble, 11. wailed, 12. biennial, 13. unimaginable, 14. amazed, 15. nova's, 16. hovering

17. The company experienced financial _____ after the CEO was arrested.

- n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions

ANSWERS: 17. turmoil