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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Philip Freeman: The rise and fall of the Celtic warriors

| TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

cloak

n. a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise

synonym : cape, mantle, shroud

(1) **cloak** room, (2) hooded **cloak**

The magician seemed to disappear when he threw his **cloak** over himself.

faraway

adj. located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible

synonym : distant, remote, far-off

(1) **faraway** land, (2) **faraway** dream

The view from the **faraway** hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.

enthusiastically

adv. in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

synonym : fervently, eagerly, passionately

(1) **enthusiastically** applauded, (2) discuss

enthusiastically

The study participants **enthusiastically** participated in the discussion, showing genuine interest.

reincarnation

n. the rebirth of a soul in a new body

synonym: rebirth, regeneration, metempsychosis

(1) **reincarnation** cycle, (2) **reincarnation** belief

Some religions believe in the **reincarnation** of souls after death.

reborn

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

synonym: regenerated, revived, renewed

(1) **reborn** soul, (2) **reborn** identity

After recovering from her illness, she felt like a **reborn** person with a new perspective on life.

fearless

adj. having no fear; brave

synonym: brave, courageous, daring

(1) **fearless** attitude, (2) **fearless** bravery

The **fearless** firefighter rushed into the burning building to save a trapped child.

scoff

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

synonym: mock, gibe, jeer

(1) **scoff** at a rumor, (2) **scoff** at the idea

We tend to **scoff** at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship

He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

foe

n. an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another

synonym: enemy, adversary, opponent

(1) a political **foe**, (2) bitter **foe**

The superhero's arch-**foe** was an evil mastermind who

always got away.

cedar

n. a type of fragrant, evergreen tree that is known for its reddish-brown wood and its use in furniture, building materials, and as an ornamental plant

synonym : juniper, redwood, pine

(1) **cedar** wood, (2) **cedar** bark

Tall **cedar** trees surrounded the cabin in the woods.

mercenary

n. a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment

synonym : soldier of fortune, financially-motivated

(1) **mercenary** killers, (2) a **mercenary** enterprise

It would be best if you did your work without any **mercenary** spirit.

craftsman

n. a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials

synonym : artisan, mechanic, workman

(1) **craftsman** skill, (2) a subtle **craftsman**

The adept **craftsman** carefully carved the wooden figurine with precision and skill.

bard

n. a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song

synonym : poet, minstrel, troubadour

(1) medieval **bard**, (2) a famous **bard**

The **bard's** performance at the festival was the highlight of the event.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym : forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

satire

n. a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques

synonym: irony, mockery, ridicule

(1) **satire** magazine, (2) a pungent **satire**

The comedian's **satire** on politics had the audience laughing and thinking.

cower

v. to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally

synonym: crouch, tremble, cringe

(1) **cower** in fear, (2) **cower** under pressure

The actress **cowered** in humiliation as the audience booed her performance.

druid

n. a member of an ancient Celtic order of priests, often associated with nature worship and divination

synonym: pagan, shaman, spiritualist

(1) **druid** ritual, (2) **druid** priestess

The ancient **druids** believed in the power of nature and conducted rituals to honor it.

memorize

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

synonym: learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

encroach

v. to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.

synonym: invade, impinge, infringe

(1) **encroach** on the realm, (2) **encroach** on the habitat of

the animal

You have no right to **encroach** on my leisure time.

conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

synonym: defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

bribery

n. the practice or attempt of offering something, usually money, to gain an unlawful advantage

synonym: graft, bribe

(1) **bribery** scandal, (2) vulnerable to **bribery**

He is currently under accusation of fraud and **bribery**.

enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

synonym: coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

holdout

n. a person or group who refuses to agree to a deal or settlement, often to gain an advantage or more favorable terms

synonym: resister

(1) land **holdout**, (2) **holdout** bidder

The real estate developer was the last **holdout** in negotiations with the city council.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

revolt

n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

synonym: rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

untouched

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

synonym: untarnished, pristine, intact

(1) **untouched** wilderness, (2) **untouched** landscape

The abandoned house was **untouched** for years, with vines growing all over it.

Session 2: Spelling

1. re___n soul *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
2. re___t against existing ways of thinking *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
3. bitter f_e *n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
4. ho_____t bidder *n.* a person or group who refuses to agree to a deal or settlement, often to gain an advantage or more favorable terms
5. re___t against the dictator *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
6. me_____ze musical scores *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
7. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
8. a pungent sa___e *n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques
9. sc__f at the idea *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
10. un_____ed landscape *adj.* not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

ANSWERS: 1. reborn, 2. revolt, 3. foe, 4. holdout, 5. revolt, 6. memorize, 7. ancestor, 8. satire, 9. scoff, 10. untouched

11. hooded cl__k *n.* a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise
12. rei_____ion cycle *n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
13. vulnerable to br_____y *n.* the practice or attempt of offering something, usually money, to gain an unlawful advantage
14. a me_____ry enterprise *n.* a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment
15. medieval b__d *n.* a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song
16. cl__k room *n.* a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise
17. br_____y scandal *n.* the practice or attempt of offering something, usually money, to gain an unlawful advantage
18. fe_____ss bravery *adj.* having no fear; brave
19. fa_____y dream *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
20. en_____ch on the realm *v.* to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.

ANSWERS: 11. cloak, 12. reincarnation, 13. bribery, 14. mercenary, 15. bard, 16. cloak, 17. bribery, 18. fearless, 19. faraway, 20. encroach

21. se__r a positive relationship *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
22. a subtle cr_____an *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials
23. ce__r wood *n.* a type of fragrant, evergreen tree that is known for its reddish-brown wood and its use in furniture, building materials, and as an ornamental plant
24. ent_____lly applauded *adv.* in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval
25. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
26. cr_____an skill *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials
27. a political f_e *n.* an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
28. sc__f at a rumor *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
29. dr__d ritual *n.* a member of an ancient Celtic order of priests, often associated with nature worship and divination
30. a famous b__d *n.* a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song

ANSWERS: 21. sever, 22. craftsman, 23. cedar, 24. enthusiastically, 25. ancestor, 26. craftsman, 27. foe, 28. scoff, 29. druid, 30. bard

31. en____e poor peasants *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
32. in___e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
33. re___n identity *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
34. land ho____t *n.* a person or group who refuses to agree to a deal or settlement, often to gain an advantage or more favorable terms
35. co__r in fear *v.* to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally
36. en____e indigenous people *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
37. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
38. fa____y land *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
39. dr__d priestess *n.* a member of an ancient Celtic order of priests, often associated with nature worship and divination
40. co____r the world *v.* to bring under control by force or authority

ANSWERS: 31. enslave, 32. invade, 33. reborn, 34. holdout, 35. cower, 36. enslave, 37. invade, 38. faraway, 39. druid, 40. conquer

41. discuss ent_____lly *adv.* in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval
42. ce__r bark *n.* a type of fragrant, evergreen tree that is known for its reddish-brown wood and its use in furniture, building materials, and as an ornamental plant
43. en_____ch on the habitat of the animal *v.* to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.
44. un_____ed wilderness *adj.* not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way
45. co_____r fatal disease *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
46. fe_____ss attitude *adj.* having no fear; brave
47. me_____ry killers *n.* a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment
48. se__r a rope *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
49. rei_____ion belief *n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
50. try hard to me_____ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
51. sa___e magazine *n.* a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques

ANSWERS: 41. enthusiastically, 42. cedar, 43. encroach, 44. untouched, 45. conquer, 46. fearless, 47. mercenary, 48. sever, 49. reincarnation, 50. memorize, 51. satire

52. co__r under pressure

v. to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally

ANSWERS: 52. cower

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The superhero's arch-____ was an evil mastermind who always got away.
n. an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another

2. The comedian's _____ on politics had the audience laughing and thinking.
n. a literary or artistic work that uses irony, sarcasm, humor, ridicule, or exaggeration to criticize human vices, follies, or shortcomings; a genre of literature or art that uses such techniques

3. The magician seemed to disappear when he threw his _____ over himself.
n. a type of loose, outer garment worn over the shoulders and fastened at the neck, often with a hood; something that covers or conceals something else; a mask or disguise

4. Some religions believe in the _____ of souls after death.
n. the rebirth of a soul in a new body

5. The study participants _____ participated in the discussion, showing genuine interest.
adv. in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

6. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

7. The view from the _____ hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.
adj. located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible

ANSWERS: 1. foe, 2. satire, 3. cloak, 4. reincarnation, 5. enthusiastically, 6. ancestor, 7. faraway

8. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.
v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
9. Tall _____ trees surrounded the cabin in the woods.
n. a type of fragrant, evergreen tree that is known for its reddish-brown wood and its use in furniture, building materials, and as an ornamental plant
10. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.
v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
11. It would be best if you did your work without any _____ spirit.
n. a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment
12. The _____ firefighter rushed into the burning building to save a trapped child.
adj. having no fear; brave
13. The _____ performance at the festival was the highlight of the event.
n. a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song
14. He is currently under accusation of fraud and _____.
n. the practice or attempt of offering something, usually money, to gain an unlawful advantage
15. The adept _____ carefully carved the wooden figurine with precision and skill.
n. a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials

ANSWERS: 8. memorize, 9. cedar, 10. severed, 11. mercenary, 12. fearless, 13. bard's, 14. bribery, 15. craftsman

16. You have no right to _____ on my leisure time.
- v. to advance beyond the usual or acceptable limit gradually and often without being noticed; to infringe upon someone's territory, rights, privacy, etc.
17. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
- v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
18. You must _____ your anxiety about driving.
- v. to bring under control by force or authority
19. The real estate developer was the last _____ in negotiations with the city council.
- n. a person or group who refuses to agree to a deal or settlement, often to gain an advantage or more favorable terms
20. The people tried to _____ to oust the tyrant.
- n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
21. Her beauty _____ me completely.
- v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
22. We tend to _____ at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.
- v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
23. The actress _____ in humiliation as the audience booed her performance.
- v. to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally

ANSWERS: 16. encroach, 17. invade, 18. conquer, 19. holdout, 20. revolt, 21. enslaved, 22. scoff, 23. cowered

24. The abandoned house was _____ for years, with vines growing all over it.

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

25. After recovering from her illness, she felt like a _____ person with a new perspective on life.

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

26. The ancient _____ believed in the power of nature and conducted rituals to honor it.

n. a member of an ancient Celtic order of priests, often associated with nature worship and divination

ANSWERS: 24. untouched, 25. reborn, 26. druids