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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Heather C. McGhee: Racism has a cost for everyone

| TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_c_mcghee_racism](https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_c_mcghee_racism_has_a_cost_for_everyone)

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

wonk

n. a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy

synonym: nerd, geek, enthusiast

(1) book **wonk**, (2) tech **wonk**

The political **wonk** analyzed every detail of the debate.

shortfall

n. the amount by which something falls short of its target or goal; a deficit or shortage in quantity, quality, or standards

synonym: deficit, shortage, insufficiency

(1) energy **shortfall**, (2) production **shortfall**

The company experienced a significant financial **shortfall** last quarter.

pinpoint

v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something

synonym: name, direct, identify

(1) **pinpoint** the problem, (2) **pinpoint** signs of manipulation

This radar quickly **pinpoints** the position of the enemy.

prosperous

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

synonym : successful, thriving, affluent

(1) **prosperous** weather, (2) **prosperous** nation

The company decided to invest in a **prosperous** industry.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

rethink

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

synonym : reexplore, review, reconsider

(1) **rethink** a marketing plan, (2) **rethink** the role of the manager

We have to **rethink** our company's product lineup for further growth.

backfire

v. to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

synonym : recoil, boomerang, misfire

(1) **backfire** big time, (2) **backfire** spectacularly

The company's decision to lay off a large number of employees **backfired** as it led to a decrease in productivity.

policymaker

n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.

synonym : lawmaker, legislator

(1) education **policymaker**, (2) regional **policymaker**

Policymakers struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.

capita

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

synonym : head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**

GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

deem

v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

synonym: believe, consider, suppose

(1) **deem** socially responsible, (2) **deem** wrong or inappropriate

Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were **deemed** unsafe.

unconstitutional

adj. not in accordance with the constitution (= the set of fundamental principles or established precedents) of a country or state

synonym: illegal, unlawful, invalid

(1) **unconstitutional** violation, (2) **unconstitutional** action

The law was determined to be **unconstitutional** by the court.

desegregation

n. the action or process of eliminating segregation, typically of races or ethnic groups, in educational, social, or other institutions

synonym: integration, assimilation

(1) **desegregation** plan, (2) legal **desegregation**

Desegregation of schools was a major social issue in the 1960s.

leafy

adj. covered with or having many leaves; of or relating to plants that produce many leaves, especially those that are broad and flat

synonym: verdant, leaf-covered, foliated

(1) **leafy** canopy, (2) **leafy** suburbs

The neighborhood is known for its **leafy** trees and verdant gardens.

inflated

adj. swollen or blown up, especially with air or gas; excessively or unreasonably high

synonym: enlarged, swollen, distended

(1) **inflated** prices, (2) an **inflated** balloon

The athlete's ego became **inflated** by their success.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

subprime

adj. of or relating to financial loans, particularly mortgages, which are made to individuals with poor credit histories or limited income, often associated with higher interest rates and a greater risk of default

(1) **subprime** lending, (2) **subprime** market

The **subprime** mortgage crisis of 2008 led to a global economic downturn.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

confine

v. to restrict the movement of someone or something

synonym: restrict, limit, contain

(1) **confine** themselves solely, (2) **confine** the scope of use

The animal was **confined** in a small cage.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

synonym: cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

uplift

n. the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits

synonym : upthrust, upheaval, (verb) raise

(1) **uplift** mountains, (2) **uplift** my spirit

The **uplift** in the stock market has been a relief to investors.

tempting

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

synonym : alluring, attractive, inviting

(1) **tempting** offer, (2) sound very **tempting**

The chocolate cake was too **tempting** for me to resist.

revitalization

n. the process of giving new life or energy to something

synonym : renewal, reactivation, rejuvenation

(1) **revitalization** project, (2) **revitalization** of humanity

The **revitalization** of the downtown area brought new life to the community.

bipartisan

adj. involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country

synonym : neutral, impartial, nonpartisan

(1) promote **bipartisan** cooperation, (2) **bipartisan** agreement

The legislation was passed with **bipartisan** support from both parties.

boast

v. to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

synonym : show off, brag, bluster

(1) **boast** of his success, (2) **boast** a long history

This town **boasts** a national park.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

sabotage

n. the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies

synonym: sabotage, subversion, destruction

(1) act of **sabotage**, (2) **sabotage** mission

The **sabotage** of the factory's equipment caused significant damage.

hamstring

n. a group of three muscles located on the back of the thigh that are responsible for flexing the knee joint and extending the hip joint; (verb) to impair or disable someone or something by damaging their effectiveness, strength, or power, particularly in a way that restricts movement or agility

synonym: leg muscle, (verb) impede, (verb) hinder

(1) **hamstring** injury, (2) **hamstring** his effort

Physical therapy can be useful in rehabilitating a **hamstring** injury.

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**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. up___t my spirit *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
2. bo__t of his success *v.* to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction
3. co_____e themselves solely *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
4. su_____me market *adj.* of or relating to financial loans, particularly mortgages, which are made to individuals with poor credit histories or limited income, often associated with higher interest rates and a greater risk of default
5. pro_____us nation *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
6. a casting m__d *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
7. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
8. book w__k *n.* a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy

ANSWERS: 1. uplift, 2. boast, 3. confine, 4. subprime, 5. prosperous, 6. mold, 7. creditor, 8. wonk

9. an in_____ed balloon *adj.* swollen or blown up, especially with air or gas; excessively or unreasonably high
10. pi_____nt signs of manipulation *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
11. le__y suburbs *adj.* covered with or having many leaves; of or relating to plants that produce many leaves, especially those that are broad and flat
12. 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
13. education pol_____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
14. su_____me lending *adj.* of or relating to financial loans, particularly mortgages, which are made to individuals with poor credit histories or limited income, often associated with higher interest rates and a greater risk of default
15. ba_____re big time *v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion
16. pro_____us weather *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
17. ba_____re spectacularly *v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

ANSWERS: 9. inflated, 10. pinpoint, 11. leafy, 12. rev, 13. policymaker, 14. subprime, 15. backfire, 16. prosperous, 17. backfire

18. promote bip_____an cooperation *adj.* involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country
19. le__y canopy *adj.* covered with or having many leaves; of or relating to plants that produce many leaves, especially those that are broad and flat
20. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
21. unc_____nal action *adj.* not in accordance with the constitution (= the set of fundamental principles or established precedents) of a country or state
22. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
23. pi_____nt the problem *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
24. bip_____an agreement *adj.* involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country
25. des_____ion plan *n.* the action or process of eliminating segregation, typically of races or ethnic groups, in educational, social, or other institutions
26. act of sa_____ge *n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies

ANSWERS: 18. bipartisan, 19. leafy, 20. pretension, 21. unconstitutional, 22. excite, 23. pinpoint, 24. bipartisan, 25. desegregation, 26. sabotage

27. tech w__k *n.* a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy
28. co_____e the scope of use *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
29. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
30. sa_____ge mission *n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies
31. legal des_____ion *n.* the action or process of eliminating segregation, typically of races or ethnic groups, in educational, social, or other institutions
32. d__m wrong or inappropriate *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
33. rev_____ion project *n.* the process of giving new life or energy to something
34. negative ste_____pes *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
35. up___t mountains *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits

ANSWERS: 27. wonk, 28. confine, 29. excite, 30. sabotage, 31. desegregation, 32. deem, 33. revitalization, 34. stereotype, 35. uplift

36. ha_____ng injury *n.* a group of three muscles located on the back of the thigh that are responsible for flexing the knee joint and extending the hip joint; (verb) to impair or disable someone or something by damaging their effectiveness, strength, or power, particularly in a way that restricts movement or agility
37. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
38. re_____k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
39. m__d allergy *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
40. rev_____ion of humanity *n.* the process of giving new life or energy to something
41. bo__t a long history *v.* to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction
42. ha_____ng his effort *n.* a group of three muscles located on the back of the thigh that are responsible for flexing the knee joint and extending the hip joint; (verb) to impair or disable someone or something by damaging their effectiveness, strength, or power, particularly in a way that restricts movement or agility

ANSWERS: 36. hamstring, 37. pretension, 38. rethink, 39. mold, 40. revitalization, 41. boast, 42. hamstring

43. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
44. per ca____a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
45. production sh____ll *n.* the amount by which something falls short of its target or goal; a deficit or shortage in quantity, quality, or standards
46. sound very te____ng *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
47. regional pol____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
48. energy sh____ll *n.* the amount by which something falls short of its target or goal; a deficit or shortage in quantity, quality, or standards
49. avoid ste____pe *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
50. unc____nal violation *adj.* not in accordance with the constitution (= the set of fundamental principles or established precedents) of a country or state
51. d__m socially responsible *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way

ANSWERS: 43. creditor, 44. capita, 45. shortfall, 46. tempting, 47. policymaker, 48. shortfall, 49. stereotype, 50. unconstitutional, 51. deem

52. the agricultural yield per ca___a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
53. 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
54. re_____k the role of the manager *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
55. te_____ng offer *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
56. in_____ed prices *adj.* swollen or blown up, especially with air or gas; excessively or unreasonably high

ANSWERS: 52. capita, 53. rev, 54. rethink, 55. tempting, 56. inflated

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company's decision to lay off a large number of employees _____ as it led to a decrease in productivity.
 - v. to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

2. _____ of schools was a major social issue in the 1960s.
 - n. the action or process of eliminating segregation, typically of races or ethnic groups, in educational, social, or other institutions

3. Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were _____ unsafe.
 - v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

4. This radar quickly _____ the position of the enemy.
 - v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something

5. The chocolate cake was too _____ for me to resist.
 - adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

6. The political _____ analyzed every detail of the debate.
 - n. a person who is very interested in or knowledgeable about a particular subject, especially one regarded as dry or nerdy

7. The legislation was passed with _____ support from both parties.
 - adj. involving or supported by both of the main political parties in a country

8. The news of her promotion _____ her.
 - v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 1. backfired, 2. Desegregation, 3. deemed, 4. pinpoints, 5. tempting, 6. wonk, 7. bipartisan, 8. excited

9. The animal was _____ in a small cage.
v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
10. 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
11. This town _____ a national park.
v. to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction
12. _____ struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.
n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
13. We have to _____ our company's product lineup for further growth.
v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
14. The athlete's ego became _____ by their success.
adj. swollen or blown up, especially with air or gas; excessively or unreasonably high
15. The law was determined to be _____ by the court.
adj. not in accordance with the constitution (= the set of fundamental principles or established precedents) of a country or state
16. The company experienced a significant financial _____ last quarter.
n. the amount by which something falls short of its target or goal; a deficit or shortage in quantity, quality, or standards

ANSWERS: 9. confined, 10. rev, 11. boasts, 12. Policymakers, 13. rethink, 14. inflated, 15. unconstitutional, 16. shortfall

17. The _____ in the stock market has been a relief to investors.
- n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
18. The _____ of the factory's equipment caused significant damage.
- n.* the deliberate and malicious damage, destruction, or disruption of equipment, machinery, or other property, often by someone with a particular agenda or motive; the subversion of an organization or institution by secret agents or spies
19. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
- n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
20. The neighborhood is known for its _____ trees and verdant gardens.
- adj.* covered with or having many leaves; of or relating to plants that produce many leaves, especially those that are broad and flat
21. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.
- adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
22. GDP per _____ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.
- n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
23. The _____ of the downtown area brought new life to the community.
- n.* the process of giving new life or energy to something
24. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 17. uplift, 18. sabotage, 19. stereotypes, 20. leafy, 21. prosperous, 22. capita, 23. revitalization, 24. pretensions

25. Physical therapy can be useful in rehabilitating a _____ injury.
- n.* a group of three muscles located on the back of the thigh that are responsible for flexing the knee joint and extending the hip joint; (verb) to impair or disable someone or something by damaging their effectiveness, strength, or power, particularly in a way that restricts movement or agility
26. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.
- n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
27. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
28. The _____ mortgage crisis of 2008 led to a global economic downturn.
- adj.* of or relating to financial loans, particularly mortgages, which are made to individuals with poor credit histories or limited income, often associated with higher interest rates and a greater risk of default

ANSWERS: 25. hamstring, 26. mold, 27. creditor, 28. subprime