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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sheila Marie Orfano: Why should you read "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

reluctantly

adv. in a way that you are unwilling to do something; with hesitation

synonym: unwillingly, hesitantly, grudgingly

(1) **reluctantly** approve the idea, (2) **reluctantly** leave
He **reluctantly** agreed to go to the party.

mahjong

n. a game played by four players, originating in China that involves tiles and strategy; a game that is often played socially and is popular in many countries

(1) **mahjong** friend, (2) **mahjong** tiles

I love playing **mahjong** with my family on game nights.

wonton

n. a type of Chinese dumpling, typically filled with a savory mixture of ground meat or vegetables and served boiled or fried

synonym: dumpling, potsticker

(1) shrimp **wonton**, (2) fried **wonton**

The **wonton** soup was a delicious appetizer, perfect for sharing.

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**.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym : interlink, complect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

vignette

n. a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration

synonym : sketch, drawing, illustration

(1) poignant **vignette**, (2) **vignette** from the incident

The novel has a series of **vignettes** that showcase the everyday struggles of its characters.

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym : mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds

He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

narrate

v. to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media

synonym : tell, recount, describe

(1) **narrate** a news article, (2) **narrate** an event

The audiobook hired a professional actor to **narrate** the story, making it more engaging for listeners.

matriarch

n. a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group

synonym: leader, head, founder

(1) ruled by a **matriarch**, (2) **matriarch** figure

The **matriarch** of the family was known for her wisdom and guidance.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

tirelessly

adv. without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort

synonym: inexhaustibly, indefatigably, unceasingly

(1) dedicated **tirelessly**, (2) **tirelessly** help out

She worked **tirelessly** for hours to finish her project on time.

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.

mindful

adj. being conscious or aware of something; paying close attention to what is happening; being focused and attentive in the present moment

synonym: aware, attentive, conscious

(1) **mindful** of my responsibilities, (2) **mindful** eating

Practicing **mindful** meditation can help reduce stress and improve overall well-being.

reconcile

v. to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
synonym: harmonize, moderate, conciliate

(1) **reconcile** these differences, (2) **reconcile** a dispute
Sometimes it is challenging to **reconcile** science and religion.

interrogate

v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
synonym: question, examine, probe

(1) **interrogate** an enemy soldier, (2) **interrogated** by police
The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately **interrogate** the witness.

alienated

adj. feeling isolated, estranged, or disconnected from others, often due to a sense of difference or lack of belonging
synonym: isolated, estranged, disconnected

(1) **alienated** from my parents, (2) become **alienated**
The new employee felt **alienated** from the rest of the team, as they didn't try to include him in their conversations.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
synonym: braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story
The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

captivate

v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of
synonym: enchant, charm, fascinate

(1) **captivate** public sentiment, (2) **captivate** the mind
The magician **captivated** the audience with his illusions.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym : disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

Session 2: Spelling

1. un____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
2. re_____le a dispute *v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
3. im____e animal sounds *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
4. 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); (*v.*) to increase the number of rotations per minute
5. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
6. un____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
7. become al_____ed *adj.* feeling isolated, estranged, or disconnected from others, often due to a sense of difference or lack of belonging
8. we__e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

ANSWERS: 1. uncover, 2. reconcile, 3. imitate, 4. rev, 5. opportune, 6. uncover, 7. alienated, 8. weave

9. we__e on a loom v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
10. int_____ted by police v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
11. b__y in the earth v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
12. ma_____ch figure n. a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group
13. ma_____g friend n. a game played by four players, originating in China that involves tiles and strategy; a game that is often played socially and is popular in many countries
14. dedicated tir_____ly adv. without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort
15. 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
16. fried wo___n n. a type of Chinese dumpling, typically filled with a savory mixture of ground meat or vegetables and served boiled or fried
17. na_____e an event v. to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media

ANSWERS: 9. weave, 10. interrogate, 11. bury, 12. matriarch, 13. mahjong, 14. tirelessly, 15. rev, 16. wonton, 17. narrate

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|---|---|
| 18. rel_____ly approve the idea | <i>adv.</i> in a way that you are unwilling to do something; with hesitation |
| 19. shrimp wo____n | <i>n.</i> a type of Chinese dumpling, typically filled with a savory mixture of ground meat or vegetables and served boiled or fried |
| 20. rel_____ly leave | <i>adv.</i> in a way that you are unwilling to do something; with hesitation |
| 21. b__y emotion | <i>v.</i> to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb |
| 22. directly int_____ect with those systems | <i>v.</i> to connect similar things |
| 23. re_____le these differences | <i>v.</i> to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist |
| 24. im_____e painting styles | <i>v.</i> to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something |
| 25. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 26. ca_____te public sentiment | <i>v.</i> to attract and hold the attention or interest of |
| 27. ca_____te the mind | <i>v.</i> to attract and hold the attention or interest of |
| 28. vi_____te from the incident | <i>n.</i> a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration |

ANSWERS: 18. reluctantly, 19. wonton, 20. reluctantly, 21. bury, 22. interconnect, 23. reconcile, 24. imitate, 25. opportune, 26. captivate, 27. captivate, 28. vignette

29. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
30. ruled by a ma_____ch *n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group
31. al_____ed from my parents *adj.* feeling isolated, estranged, or disconnected from others, often due to a sense of difference or lack of belonging
32. mi_____l eating *adj.* being conscious or aware of something; paying close attention to what is happening; being focused and attentive in the present moment
33. human activities int_____ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
34. mi_____l of my responsibilities *adj.* being conscious or aware of something; paying close attention to what is happening; being focused and attentive in the present moment
35. ma_____g tiles *n.* a game played by four players, originating in China that involves tiles and strategy; a game that is often played socially and is popular in many countries
36. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
37. tir_____ly help out *adv.* without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort

ANSWERS: 29. overwhelm, 30. matriarch, 31. alienated, 32. mindful, 33. interconnect, 34. mindful, 35. mahjong, 36. overwhelm, 37. tirelessly

38. na____e a news article *v.* to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media
39. poignant vi____te *n.* a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration
40. int____te an enemy soldier *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

ANSWERS: 38. narrate, 39. vignette, 40. interrogate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I love playing _____ with my family on game nights.
 - n.* a game played by four players, originating in China that involves tiles and strategy; a game that is often played socially and is popular in many countries

2. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.
 - v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

3. Sometimes it is challenging to _____ science and religion.
 - v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist

4. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
 - v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

5. The _____ soup was a delicious appetizer, perfect for sharing.
 - n.* a type of Chinese dumpling, typically filled with a savory mixture of ground meat or vegetables and served boiled or fried

6. The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately _____ the witness.
 - v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

7. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
 - v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

ANSWERS: 1. mahjong, 2. weaves, 3. reconcile, 4. uncovered, 5. wonton, 6. interrogate, 7. bury

8. The new employee felt _____ from the rest of the team, as they didn't try to include him in their conversations.

adj. feeling isolated, estranged, or disconnected from others, often due to a sense of difference or lack of belonging

9. The _____ of the family was known for her wisdom and guidance.

n. a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group

10. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

11. Practicing _____ meditation can help reduce stress and improve overall well-being.

adj. being conscious or aware of something; paying close attention to what is happening; being focused and attentive in the present moment

12. He _____ agreed to go to the party.

adv. in a way that you are unwilling to do something; with hesitation

13. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

14. Our system can now _____ with other databases.

v. to connect similar things

15. 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

ANSWERS: 8. alienated, 9. matriarch, 10. overwhelm, 11. mindful, 12. reluctantly, 13. imitated, 14. interconnect, 15. rev

16. The magician _____ the audience with his illusions.
v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of
17. The novel has a series of _____ that showcase the everyday struggles of its characters.
n. a brief or short descriptive account, episode, or story that focuses on a particular moment, person, or object; a small decorative design or illustration
18. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
19. She worked _____ for hours to finish her project on time.
adv. without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort
20. The audiobook hired a professional actor to _____ the story, making it more engaging for listeners.
v. to tell a story or give an account of events, often in a chronological or logical sequence; to provide a voiceover or commentary for a film or other media

ANSWERS: 16. captivated, 17. vignettes, 18. opportune, 19. tirelessly, 20. narrate