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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jon M. Chu: *The pride and power of representation in film* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

superpower

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

synonym: great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

collide

v. to hit something violently when moving

synonym: clash, slam, contradict

(1) **collide** head-on, (2) **collide** in midair

The interests of the two countries **collide**.

gadget

n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

synonym: appliance, gimmick, device

(1) a handy **gadget**, (2) time-saving **gadget**

I found the kitchen **gadget** that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.

lifelike

adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

synonym : realistic, naturalistic, vivid

(1) **lifelike** painting, (2) **lifelike** animation

The artist created a **lifelike** sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.

mannequin

n. a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window

synonym : dummy, model, figure

(1) **mannequin** display, (2) pose **mannequin**

The store's window display featured a series of **mannequins** dressed in the latest fashion.

masculine

adj. having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men

synonym : male, mannish, manly

(1) wear **masculine** attire, (2) **masculine** beauty

Her allure lies in her **masculine** rather than feminine beauty.

rundown

n. a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay

synonym : summation, summary, synopsis

(1) a **rundown** of local events, (2) **rundown** building

The boss gave us a quick **rundown** of the new project during the meeting.

alto

n. the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of

saxophone

synonym : contralto, countertenor, soprano

(1) **alto** saxophone, (2) an **alto** solo

The **alto** singer had a unique and powerful voice.

etiquette

n. a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts

synonym : protocol, manners, decorum

(1) email **etiquette**, (2) breach of **etiquette**

It's important to follow proper **etiquette** when attending a formal dinner.

ballroom

n. a large room for dancing

synonym : dance hall, assembly hall

(1) **ballroom** dance, (2) **ballroom** floor

The grand **ballroom** was filled with twirling couples and the sound of music.

wrangle

n. a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter

synonym : argument, dispute, quarrel

(1) **wrangle** over money, (2) political **wrangle**

The two politicians had a heated **wrangle** over the proposed tax reform.

tangle

n. a confused mass of something twisted together

synonym : knot, snarl, entanglement

(1) in a **tangle**, (2) **tangle** wires

The cords behind my computer were a **tangled** mess.

brag

v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

synonym : boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge

Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from **bragging** about his success.

yang

n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

synonym : masculine, positive, active

(1) the **yang** principle, (2) embody **yang** energy

He saw the balance between the yin and **yang** as crucial for a harmonious life.

sleeplessness

n. the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping

synonym : insomnia, wakefulness, restlessness

(1) **sleeplessness** disorder, (2) beat **sleeplessness**

He tried various treatments for his **sleeplessness**, but nothing seemed to work.

comp

v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment

synonym : waive, cover, provide

(1) **comp** their meal, (2) **comp** the employees with a bonus

The casino **comped** her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.

broth

n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

synonym : bouillon, consomme, soup

(1) chicken **broth**, (2) remains of **broth**

I always add a bit of **broth** to my soup to give it more flavor.

unbeknownst

adv. without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation

synonym : secretly, covertly

(1) **unbeknownst** to me, (2) **unbeknownst** to any of us

Unbeknownst to the family, the treasure had been hidden in

the attic for years.

uprising

n. a public rebellion, especially against an established government or authority

synonym: revolt, rebellion, insurgency

(1) stage an **uprising**, (2) violent **uprising**

The anti-government **uprising** was successful in overthrowing the regime.

swell

v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

synonym: expand, increase, inflate

(1) **swell** at room temperature, (2) **swell** a population

His arm was **swelling** from the insect bite.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

selfie

n. a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

synonym: self-portrait, self-photo, self-snap

(1) **selfie** stick, (2) pose for a **selfie**

She took a **selfie** in front of the famous tower and shared it on the app.

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.

crumb

n. a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something

synonym : fragment, particle, bit

(1) **crumb** of information, (2) bread **crumb**

My dog found a **crumb** on the floor and quickly ate it.

symphony

n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

synonym : orchestra, harmony, concert

(1) a **symphony** orchestra, (2) a beautiful **symphony**

The frequent performances of the **symphony** prove its popularity.

spur

n. a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something

synonym : encouragement, motivation, stimulus

(1) **spur** of the moment, (2) **spur** a momentum of economic growth

The threat of losing his job was the **spur** he needed to work harder.

meme

n. a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online

synonym : buzzword, trend

(1) pronounce **meme**, (2) religious **meme**

This cute dog's photo spread around the world as an Internet **meme**.

underestimate

v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

synonym: underrate, misjudge, miscalculate

(1) **underestimate** an enemy, (2) **underestimate** the probability

They frequently **underestimated** their abilities and felt inferior.

generosity

n. the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely

synonym: goodness, hospitality, unselfishness

(1) act of **generosity**, (2) boundless **generosity**

He is remembered for his **generosity** and civilization.

Session 2: Spelling

1. political wr_____e
n. a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
2. ma_____in display
n. a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window
3. und_____ate an enemy
v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
4. co_____e in midair
v. to hit something violently when moving
5. enrich my in_____ct
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
6. c__p the employees with a bonus
v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
7. a handy ga___t
n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
8. pose ma_____in
n. a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window
9. violent up_____ng
n. a public rebellion, especially against an established government or authority
10. a__o saxophone
n. the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone

ANSWERS: 1. wrangle, 2. mannequin, 3. underestimate, 4. collide, 5. intellect, 6. comp, 7. gadget, 8. mannequin, 9. uprising, 10. alto

11. a sy____ny orchestra *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
12. chicken br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
13. sw__l at room temperature *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
14. ma_____ne beauty *adj.* having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men
15. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
16. wear ma_____ne attire *adj.* having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men
17. boundless gen_____ty *n.* the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely
18. se___e stick *n.* a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media
19. a ru_____n of local events *n.* a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay

ANSWERS: 11. symphony, 12. broth, 13. swell, 14. masculine, 15. determinant, 16. masculine, 17. generosity, 18. selfie, 19. rundown

20. in a ta___e *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
21. bread cr__b *n.* a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something
22. embody y__g energy *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
23. co_____e head-on *v.* to hit something violently when moving
24. sle_____ess disorder *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
25. c__p their meal *v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
26. act of gen_____ty *n.* the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely
27. sw__l a population *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
28. ta___e wires *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
29. s__r a momentum of economic growth *n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
30. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

ANSWERS: 20. tangle, 21. crumb, 22. yang, 23. collide, 24. sleeplessness, 25. comp, 26. generosity, 27. swell, 28. tangle, 29. spur, 30. rot

31. li____ke painting *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
32. unb____st to me *adv.* without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
33. time-saving ga____t *n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
34. a beautiful sy____ny *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
35. environmental det____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
36. stage an up____ng *n.* a public rebellion, especially against an established government or authority
37. ru____n building *n.* a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay
38. sup____er country *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

ANSWERS: 31. lifelike, 32. unbeknownst, 33. gadget, 34. symphony, 35. determinant, 36. uprising, 37. rundown, 38. superpower

39. li____ke animation *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
40. the y__g principle *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
41. pronounce m__e *n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
42. ba____om floor *n.* a large room for dancing
43. sup____er leader *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
44. unb____st to any of us *adv.* without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
45. remains of br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
46. an a__o solo *n.* the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone

ANSWERS: 39. lifelike, 40. yang, 41. meme, 42. ballroom, 43. superpower, 44. unbeknownst, 45. broth, 46. alto

47. beat sle_____ess *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
48. religious m__e *n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
49. b__g about my knowledge *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
50. ba_____om dance *n.* a large room for dancing
51. email et_____te *n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
52. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
53. wr_____e over money *n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
54. und_____ate the probability *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
55. pose for a se___e *n.* a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

ANSWERS: 47. sleeplessness, 48. meme, 49. brag, 50. ballroom, 51. etiquette, 52. intellect, 53. wrangle, 54. underestimate, 55. selfie

56. breach of et_____te *n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
57. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
58. b__g to each other *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
59. s__r of the moment *n.* a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
60. cr__b of information *n.* a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something

ANSWERS: 56. etiquette, 57. rot, 58. brag, 59. spur, 60. crumb

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
 - n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

2. He is remembered for his _____ and civilization.
 - n.* the fact or quality of being willing to do kind things or give somebody money, gifts, or time freely

3. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
 - v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

4. The two politicians had a heated _____ over the proposed tax reform.
 - n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter

5. The interests of the two countries _____.
 - v.* to hit something violently when moving

6. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a _____ in comic books and movies.
 - n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

7. It's important to follow proper _____ when attending a formal dinner.
 - n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts

ANSWERS: 1. determinant, 2. generosity, 3. rot, 4. wrangle, 5. collide, 6. superpower, 7. etiquette

8. He saw the balance between the yin and _____ as crucial for a harmonious life.
n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
9. This cute dog's photo spread around the world as an Internet _____.
n. a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
10. The store's window display featured a series of _____ dressed in the latest fashion.
n. a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window
11. She took a _____ in front of the famous tower and shared it on the app.
n. a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media
12. The grand _____ was filled with twirling couples and the sound of music.
n. a large room for dancing
13. _____ to the family, the treasure had been hidden in the attic for years.
adv. without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
14. The casino _____ her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.
v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment

ANSWERS: 8. yang, 9. meme, 10. mannequins, 11. selfie, 12. ballroom, 13. Unbeknownst, 14. comped

15. The artist created a _____ sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.

adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

16. The boss gave us a quick _____ of the new project during the meeting.

n. a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay

17. I found the kitchen _____ that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.

n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

18. He tried various treatments for his _____ but nothing seemed to work.

n. the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping

19. The frequent performances of the _____ prove its popularity.

n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

20. His arm was _____ from the insect bite.

v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

21. My dog found a _____ on the floor and quickly ate it.

n. a small particle or fragment of food or other substance, often one that has broken off from a larger piece; a very small amount or portion of something

22. The cords behind my computer were a _____ mess.

n. a confused mass of something twisted together

ANSWERS: 15. lifelike, 16. rundown, 17. gadget, 18. sleeplessness, 19. symphony, 20. swelling, 21. crumb, 22. tangled

23. I always add a bit of _____ to my soup to give it more flavor.
n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
24. Her allure lies in her _____ rather than feminine beauty.
adj. having characteristics or an appearance that are usually regarded as typical or appropriate for men
25. The anti-government _____ was successful in overthrowing the regime.
n. a public rebellion, especially against an established government or authority
26. The threat of losing his job was the _____ he needed to work harder.
n. a thing that encourages someone to do something; any sharply pointed projection; (verb) to incite or stimulate someone or something
27. The _____ singer had a unique and powerful voice.
n. the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone
28. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
29. They frequently _____ their abilities and felt inferior.
v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
30. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from _____ about his success.
v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

ANSWERS: 23. broth, 24. masculine, 25. uprising, 26. spur, 27. alto, 28. intellect, 29. underestimated, 30. bragging

ANSWERS: