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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

billionaire

n. a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars

synonym: mega-rich, wealthy, tycoon

(1) Silicon Valley **billionaire**, (2) oil **billionaire**

The self-made **billionaire** donated millions to charity.

enact

v. to make a law; to put something into practice

synonym: legislate, pass, decree

(1) **enact** new legislation, (2) **enact** the smoking ban

The government **enacted** this law in 1925.

inefficient

adj. lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.

synonym: ineffective, counterproductive, inadequate

(1) **inefficient** use, (2) **inefficient** management

The system is still so **inefficient** that it is useless.

widen

v. to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive

synonym: broaden, enlarge, extend

(1) **widen** in excitement, (2) **widen** a narrowed heart valve

He **widened** his investigation into a medical clinic.

budge

v. to move or shift slightly, particularly with effort or resistance; to make or cause a slight change in something

synonym : move, shift, nudge

(1) **budge** an inch, (2) **budge** the shelf

No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't **budge** the heavy couch from its place in the room.

dislocate

v. to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship

synonym : displace

(1) **dislocate** my shoulder, (2) **dislocate** residents

X-rays revealed that several of his joints were **dislocated**.

austerity

n. the state or condition of being stern, rigid, or uncompromising, or being simple or plain; an economic policy or measure that seeks to reduce government spending and debt

synonym : frugality, nonindulgence, rigor

(1) impose **austerity**, (2) economic **austerity**

The government's **austerity** measures have resulted in widespread protests and discontent.

dismal

adj. depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair

synonym : gloomy, depressing, dreary

(1) **dismal** failure, (2) **dismal** performance

The weather was so **dismal** that we decided to stay indoors all day.

dazzling

adj. shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting

synonym : astonishing, breathtaking, flashy

(1) **dazzling** debut, (2) **dazzling** views

Last night, the team delivered a **dazzling** performance.

reciprocity

n. a mutual exchange of help and advantages; privileges granted in return for similar privileges

synonym: mutuality, interchange, exchange

(1) **reciprocity** relationship, (2) **reciprocity** exchange

The policy of **reciprocity** between the two countries allowed for visa-free travel.

undergird

v. to provide support or a foundation for something, often by strengthening or reinforcing a structure or system

synonym: support, underpin, reinforce

(1) **undergird** your argument, (2) **undergird** the ship

A strong foundation of customer satisfaction **undergirds** the business's success.

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.

imbalance

n. a situation in which two or more things are not equal or equally treated

synonym: inequality, asymmetry, instability

(1) trade **imbalance**, (2) symptoms of hormonal **imbalance**

An **imbalance** in certain substances causes problems with brain function.

racket

n. a loud and unpleasant noise that is often repeated or sustained over a period of time; a tool or implement used in various leisure activities or sports, such as tennis or badminton

synonym: dissonance, noise, paddle

(1) make a **racket**, (2) badminton **racket**

The sound of shelves crashing to the floor created a terrible **racket** in the grocery store.

pernicious

adj. causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way

synonym: harmful, malicious, destructive

(1) **pernicious** effect, (2) **pernicious** disease

The **pernicious** influence of the corrupt officials had a detrimental effect on the town.

relentless

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting

(1) **relentless** attack, (2) face **relentless** pressure

The athlete's **relentless** training paid off in the end.

grenade

n. a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time

synonym: bomb, explosive, shrapnel

(1) **grenade** explosion, (2) smoke **grenade**

The soldier threw a **grenade** to destroy the enemy's bunker.

intuition

n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

synonym: instinct, gut feeling, sixth sense

(1) creative **intuition**, (2) **intuition** research

Some studies suggest that people's **intuitions** can be influenced by their experiences and biases.

corrosive

adj. having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive

synonym: destructive, erosive, caustic

(1) **corrosive** substance, (2) **corrosive** effect

The **corrosive** acid ate away at the metal pipes.

transubstantiate

v. to change from one substance to another, especially in a religious context, such as the transformation of bread

and wine into the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharist

synonym : transmute, transform, metamorphose

(1) **transubstantiate** matter, (2) **transubstantiate** her innermost thoughts

Catholics believe the bread and wine **transubstantiate** into the body and blood of Christ during mass.

greedy

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

synonym : avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym : enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services

Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

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.

anthropology

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

(1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion

The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

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.

constrain

v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

synonym : restrict, limit, confine

(1) **constrain** his freedom, (2) **constrain** information flow

The political situation **constrained** the country's economic growth and foreign relations.

grift

n. a dishonest scheme or fraud, often involving the theft of money or property

synonym : scam, fraud, con

(1) **grift** scheme, (2) social media **grift**

The scam artist used a classic **grift** to trick unsuspecting tourists out of their money.

rapacious

adj. aggressively greedy or grasping, often about money or resources; devouring or predacious in nature

synonym : greedy, predatory, acquisitive

(1) **rapacious** appetite, (2) **rapacious** behavior

The **rapacious** CEO made millions while exploiting his workers.

sociopath

n. a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"

synonym : psychopath, antisocial

(1) psychopathic **sociopath**, (2) narcissistic **sociopath**

The psychiatrist recognized signs of **sociopathy** in his patient's behavior.

pseudoscience

n. a belief or practice that is presented as scientific but lacks supporting evidence or is contradicted by scientific evidence; a system of beliefs or practices that is not based on scientific principles

synonym : quackery, pseudology, false science

(1) **pseudoscience** claims, (2) debunking **pseudoscience**

The idea that certain crystals have healing powers is considered **pseudoscience** by the scientific community.

Session 2: Spelling

1. da____ng views *adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
2. pro____us weather *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
3. 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
4. gr____y person *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
5. co____ve substance *adj.* having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive
6. da____ng debut *adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
7. rec____ty relationship *n.* a mutual exchange of help and advantages; privileges granted in return for similar privileges
8. social ant____ogy *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

ANSWERS: 1. dazzling, 2. prosperous, 3. superpower, 4. greedy, 5. corrosive, 6. dazzling, 7. reciprocity, 8. anthropology

9. per_____us effect *adj.* causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way
10. economic au_____ty *n.* the state or condition of being stern, rigid, or uncompromising, or being simple or plain; an economic policy or measure that seeks to reduce government spending and debt
11. impose au_____ty *n.* the state or condition of being stern, rigid, or uncompromising, or being simple or plain; an economic policy or measure that seeks to reduce government spending and debt
12. en___h public services *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
13. ant_____ogy of religion *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
14. wi__n in excitement *v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
15. rec_____ty exchange *n.* a mutual exchange of help and advantages; privileges granted in return for similar privileges
16. un_____rd your argument *v.* to provide support or a foundation for something, often by strengthening or reinforcing a structure or system
17. co_____in information flow *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

ANSWERS: 9. pernicious, 10. austerity, 11. austerity, 12. enrich, 13. anthropology, 14. widen, 15. reciprocity, 16. undergird, 17. constrain

18. debunking pse_____nce *n.* a belief or practice that is presented as scientific but lacks supporting evidence or is contradicted by scientific evidence; a system of beliefs or practices that is not based on scientific principles
19. badminton ra____t *n.* a loud and unpleasant noise that is often repeated or sustained over a period of time; a tool or implement used in various leisure activities or sports, such as tennis or badminton
20. oil bil_____re *n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
21. tra_____ate matter *v.* to change from one substance to another, especially in a religious context, such as the transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharist
22. make a ra____t *n.* a loud and unpleasant noise that is often repeated or sustained over a period of time; a tool or implement used in various leisure activities or sports, such as tennis or badminton
23. ra_____us behavior *adj.* aggressively greedy or grasping, often about money or resources; devouring or predacious in nature
24. symptoms of hormonal im_____ce *n.* a situation in which two or more things are not equal or equally treated
25. per_____us disease *adj.* causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way
26. 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

ANSWERS: 18. pseudoscience, 19. racket, 20. billionaire, 21. transubstantiate, 22. racket, 23. rapacious, 24. imbalance, 25. pernicious, 26. superpower

27. di___l performance *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
28. di_____te my shoulder *v.* to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship
29. social media gr__t *n.* a dishonest scheme or fraud, often involving the theft of money or property
30. wi__n a narrowed heart valve *v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
31. en___h a gas with a balloon *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
32. ine_____nt management *adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
33. en__t the smoking ban *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
34. pse_____nce claims *n.* a belief or practice that is presented as scientific but lacks supporting evidence or is contradicted by scientific evidence; a system of beliefs or practices that is not based on scientific principles
35. co_____in his freedom *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
36. in_____on research *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

ANSWERS: 27. dismal, 28. dislocate, 29. grift, 30. widen, 31. enrich, 32. inefficient, 33. enact, 34. pseudoscience, 35. constrain, 36. intuition

37. en__t new legislation *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
38. face rel_____ss pressure *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
39. gr_____e explosion *n.* a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time
40. rel_____ss attack *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
41. bu__e an inch *v.* to move or shift slightly, particularly with effort or resistance; to make or cause a slight change in something
42. di_____te residents *v.* to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship
43. narcissistic so_____th *n.* a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"
44. Silicon Valley bil_____re *n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
45. ine_____nt use *adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
46. 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

ANSWERS: 37. enact, 38. relentless, 39. grenade, 40. relentless, 41. budge, 42. dislocate, 43. sociopath, 44. billionaire, 45. inefficient, 46. pretension

47. 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
48. pro_____us nation *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
49. smoke gr_____e *n.* a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time
50. psychopathic so_____th *n.* a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"
51. creative in_____on *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
52. bu__e the shelf *v.* to move or shift slightly, particularly with effort or resistance; to make or cause a slight change in something
53. gr___y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
54. di___l failure *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair

ANSWERS: 47. pretension, 48. prosperous, 49. grenade, 50. sociopath, 51. intuition, 52. budge, 53. greedy, 54. dismal

55. gr__t scheme *n.* a dishonest scheme or fraud, often involving the theft of money or property
56. ra_____us appetite *adj.* aggressively greedy or grasping, often about money or resources; devouring or predacious in nature
57. co_____ve effect *adj.* having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive
58. un_____rd the ship *v.* to provide support or a foundation for something, often by strengthening or reinforcing a structure or system
59. tra_____ate her innermost thoughts *v.* to change from one substance to another, especially in a religious context, such as the transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharist
60. trade im_____ce *n.* a situation in which two or more things are not equal or equally treated

ANSWERS: 55. grift, 56. rapacious, 57. corrosive, 58. undergird, 59. transubstantiate, 60. imbalance

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. An _____ in certain substances causes problems with brain function.
n. a situation in which two or more things are not equal or equally treated
2. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.
adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
3. The _____ acid ate away at the metal pipes.
adj. having the ability to corrode or erode a material or substance; causing damage or deterioration over time; harmful or destructive
4. The self-made _____ donated millions to charity.
n. a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
5. Last night, the team delivered a _____ performance.
adj. shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
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. The sound of shelves crashing to the floor created a terrible _____ in the grocery store.
n. a loud and unpleasant noise that is often repeated or sustained over a period of time; a tool or implement used in various leisure activities or sports, such as tennis or badminton

ANSWERS: 1. imbalance, 2. prosperous, 3. corrosive, 4. billionaire, 5. dazzling, 6. superpower, 7. racket

8. The soldier threw a _____ to destroy the enemy's bunker.
n. a hand-held explosive device designed to be thrown or projected toward a target and detonate upon impact or after a specified time
9. His _____ behavior led him to steal from the company.
adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
10. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't _____ the heavy couch from its place in the room.
v. to move or shift slightly, particularly with effort or resistance; to make or cause a slight change in something
11. The government's _____ measures have resulted in widespread protests and discontent.
n. the state or condition of being stern, rigid, or uncompromising, or being simple or plain; an economic policy or measure that seeks to reduce government spending and debt
12. The athlete's _____ training paid off in the end.
adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
13. The scam artist used a classic _____ to trick unsuspecting tourists out of their money.
n. a dishonest scheme or fraud, often involving the theft of money or property
14. The _____ influence of the corrupt officials had a detrimental effect on the town.
adj. causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way

ANSWERS: 8. grenade, 9. greedy, 10. budge, 11. austerity, 12. relentless, 13. grift, 14. pernicious

15. The political situation _____ the country's economic growth and foreign relations.
- v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
16. A strong foundation of customer satisfaction _____ the business's success.
- v. to provide support or a foundation for something, often by strengthening or reinforcing a structure or system
17. The weather was so _____ that we decided to stay indoors all day.
- adj. depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
18. The government _____ this law in 1925.
- v. to make a law; to put something into practice
19. The idea that certain crystals have healing powers is considered _____ by the scientific community.
- n. a belief or practice that is presented as scientific but lacks supporting evidence or is contradicted by scientific evidence; a system of beliefs or practices that is not based on scientific principles
20. The _____ CEO made millions while exploiting his workers.
- adj. aggressively greedy or grasping, often about money or resources; devouring or predacious in nature
21. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
- n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

ANSWERS: 15. constrained, 16. undergirds, 17. dismal, 18. enacted, 19. pseudoscience, 20. rapacious, 21. anthropology

22. X-rays revealed that several of his joints were _____.
- v.* to move out of a position of the bone in a joint; to put out of its usual place, position, or relationship
23. The policy of _____ between the two countries allowed for visa-free travel.
- n.* a mutual exchange of help and advantages; privileges granted in return for similar privileges
24. The psychiatrist recognized signs of _____ in his patient's behavior.
- n.* a person who exhibits a disregard for other people's rights, feelings, and safety; someone who lacks empathy or the ability to understand and share the feelings of others; sometimes used interchangeably with the term "psychopath"
25. Catholics believe the bread and wine _____ into the body and blood of Christ during mass.
- v.* to change from one substance to another, especially in a religious context, such as the transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharist
26. The system is still so _____ that it is useless.
- adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
27. Reading not only increases knowledge but also _____ life.
- v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
28. Some studies suggest that people's _____ can be influenced by their experiences and biases.
- n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

ANSWERS: 22. dislocated, 23. reciprocity, 24. sociopathy, 25. transubstantiate, 26. inefficient, 27. enriches, 28. intuitions

29. 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

30. He _____ his investigation into a medical clinic.

v. to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive

ANSWERS: 29. pretensions, 30. widened