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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff: How we can make racism a solvable problem -- and improve policing | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/dr_phillip_atiba_goff_how_we_can_make_racism_a_solvable_problem_and_improve_policing

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

blackness

n. the quality or condition of being black or dark; an absence of light; a state or condition of darkness, bleakness, or depression; the fact of being part of a group of individuals with dark skin who originate from or whose ancestors originated from Africa

synonym: darkness, obscurity, void

(1) the **blackness** of the night, (2) anti- **blackness** racism

The forest's darkness was complete, with a **blackness** that seemed to swallow everything.

godchild

n. a child or young person who is baptized and sponsored by a godparent, typically chosen from among close family or friends

synonym: godson, goddaughter

(1) **godchild's** christening, (2) baptized **godchild**

I feel honored that they asked me to be their daughter's **godchild**.

imam

n. a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community

synonym: leader, cleric, spiritual guide

(1) **imam** of mosque, (2) spiritual **imam**

In some Muslim countries, the **imam's** position is appointed by the government.

unarmed

adj. without weapons or arms; not carrying any form of weapon or ammunition, or engaging in physical conflict with weapons

synonym: defenseless, vulnerable, helpless

(1) **unarmed** combat, (2) **unarmed** robbery

The **unarmed** protesters marched peacefully through the streets.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym: despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

heartbreak

n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment

synonym: grief, sorrow, bitterness

(1) ease her **heartbreak**, (2) go through **heartbreak**

They had experienced the **heartbreak** of losing two children due to premature births.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym: defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

segregation

n. the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation

synonym: isolation, separation, discrimination

(1) racial **segregation**, (2) **segregation** of power

Segregation based on race or ethnicity is illegal and unjust.

solvable

adj. capable of being solved or resolved; able to be fixed or resolved with effort, skill, or knowledge

synonym : attainable, resolvable, achievable

(1) **solvable** problem, (2) mathematically **solvable** equation

The engineers found the technical glitch in the system was quite **solvable** with a software update.

homicide

n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

synonym : murder, killing, manslaughter

(1) mass **homicide**, (2) serial **homicide**

The detective was called to investigate a **homicide** in the city.

tamp

v. to pack down or compress tightly using a tool or instrument; to suppress or reduce something, such as an emotion, a conflict, or a rumor

synonym : press, compact, ram

(1) **tamp** down fighting, (2) **tamp** tobacco into a pipe

Be sure to **tamp** down the soil around the newly planted tree to secure it in place.

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.

disproportionate

adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence

synonym : undeserved, unequal, superfluous

(1) cause **disproportionate** damage, (2) **disproportionate**

amount

This big gate is **disproportionate** to the small hut.

deport

v. to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime

synonym: expel, banish, repatriate

(1) **deport** a refugee, (2) **deport** dissidents from the party

The government has decided to **deport** illegal immigrants back to their home countries.

adrenaline

n. a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger

synonym: epinephrine

(1) **adrenaline** receptor, (2) **adrenaline** addiction

The band has released a lot of **adrenaline-pumping** rock music.

escalate

v. to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious

synonym: increase, intensify, expand

(1) **escalate** into a major international incident, (2) to **escalate**

The situation quickly **escalated** and turned violent.

disparity

n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things

synonym: difference, inequality, gap

(1) the **disparity** between theory and reality, (2) income **disparity**

There is a significant **disparity** in pay between men and women in the company.

brilliance

n. the quality of being very clever or talented; the quality of being very bright or shining

synonym: splendor, glory, luster

(1) **brilliance** of diamond, (2) economic **brilliance**

The scientist's **brilliance** led to many groundbreaking discoveries in his field.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

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.

audacious

adj. showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness

synonym: bold, daring, fearless

(1) **audacious** stunt, (2) **audacious** decision

The young entrepreneur had an **audacious** plan to start his own company.

predatory

adj. living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive

synonym: raptorial, hunting, greedy

(1) a **predatory** bird, (2) **predatory** warfare

The domesticated cat still has its **predatory** instincts.

incarceration

n. the state of being confined in prison or jail

synonym: confinement, imprisonment, detention

(1) mass **incarceration**, (2) **incarceration** rates

The judge sentenced him to five years of **incarceration** for embezzlement.

aggravate

v. to make a problem or situation worse; to irritate or annoy someone

synonym: irritate, provoke, worsen

(1) **aggravate** the situation, (2) **aggravate** an injury

Stress can **aggravate** existing health conditions and cause further problems.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

holster

n. a case or pouch designed to hold a handgun securely and provide quick access when needed

synonym: case, sheath, scabbard

(1) **holster** weapon, (2) ankle **holster**

He reached for his gun in its leather **holster** as the intruder approached.

Session 2: Spelling

1. go_____ld's christening *n.* a child or young person who is baptized and sponsored by a godparent, typically chosen from among close family or friends
2. ease her hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
3. cause dis_____ate damage *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
4. es_____te into a major international incident *v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
5. pr_____ry warfare *adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
6. au_____us decision *adj.* showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
7. ag_____te an injury *v.* to make a problem or situation worse; to irritate or annoy someone
8. de____t a refugee *v.* to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime
9. inc_____ion rates *n.* the state of being confined in prison or jail

ANSWERS: 1. godchild, 2. heartbreak, 3. disproportionate, 4. escalate, 5. predatory, 6. audacious, 7. aggravate, 8. deport, 9. incarceration

10. ho____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
11. 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
12. mass ho____de *n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
13. the di_____ty between theory and reality *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
14. con_____te his ego *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
15. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
16. dis_____ate amount *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
17. seg_____on of power *n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation
18. de___t dissidents from the party *v.* to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime
19. t__p tobacco into a pipe *v.* to pack down or compress tightly using a tool or instrument; to suppress or reduce something, such as an emotion, a conflict, or a rumor

ANSWERS: 10. hopeless, 11. determinant, 12. homicide, 13. disparity, 14. contaminate, 15. terrifying, 16. disproportionate, 17. segregation, 18. deport, 19. tamp

20. income di_____ty *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
21. i__m of mosque *n.* a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community
22. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
23. adr_____ne addiction *n.* a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
24. go through hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
25. a pr_____ry bird *adj.* living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
26. serial ho_____de *n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
27. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
28. con_____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
29. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

ANSWERS: 20. disparity, 21. imam, 22. determinant, 23. adrenaline, 24. heartbreak, 25. predatory, 26. homicide, 27. dedicate, 28. contaminate, 29. hopeless

30. spiritual i__m *n.* a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community
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. ankle ho____r *n.* a case or pouch designed to hold a handgun securely and provide quick access when needed
33. to es____te *v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
34. de____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
35. racial seg_____on *n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation
36. au_____us stunt *adj.* showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
37. un____d combat *adj.* without weapons or arms; not carrying any form of weapon or ammunition, or engaging in physical conflict with weapons

ANSWERS: 30. imam, 31. desegregation, 32. holster, 33. escalate, 34. dedicate, 35. segregation, 36. audacious, 37. unarmed

38. t__p down fighting *v.* to pack down or compress tightly using a tool or instrument; to suppress or reduce something, such as an emotion, a conflict, or a rumor
39. the bl_____ss of the night *n.* the quality or condition of being black or dark; an absence of light; a state or condition of darkness, bleakness, or depression; the fact of being part of a group of individuals with dark skin who originate from or whose ancestors originated from Africa
40. ag_____te the situation *v.* to make a problem or situation worse; to irritate or annoy someone
41. ho_____r weapon *n.* a case or pouch designed to hold a handgun securely and provide quick access when needed
42. un_____d robbery *adj.* without weapons or arms; not carrying any form of weapon or ammunition, or engaging in physical conflict with weapons
43. baptized go_____ld *n.* a child or young person who is baptized and sponsored by a godparent, typically chosen from among close family or friends
44. adr_____ne receptor *n.* a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
45. so_____le problem *adj.* capable of being solved or resolved; able to be fixed or resolved with effort, skill, or knowledge

ANSWERS: 38. tamp, 39. blackness, 40. aggravate, 41. holster, 42. unarmed, 43. godchild, 44. adrenaline, 45. solvable

46. des_____ion plan *n.* the action or process of eliminating segregation, typically of races or ethnic groups, in educational, social, or other institutions
47. mathematically so_____le equation *adj.* capable of being solved or resolved; able to be fixed or resolved with effort, skill, or knowledge
48. mass inc_____ion *n.* the state of being confined in prison or jail
49. economic bri_____ce *n.* the quality of being very clever or talented; the quality of being very bright or shining
50. bri_____ce of diamond *n.* the quality of being very clever or talented; the quality of being very bright or shining
51. ter_____ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
52. anti-bl_____ss racism *n.* the quality or condition of being black or dark; an absence of light; a state or condition of darkness, bleakness, or depression; the fact of being part of a group of individuals with dark skin who originate from or whose ancestors originated from Africa

ANSWERS: 46. desegregation, 47. solvable, 48. incarceration, 49. brilliance, 50. brilliance, 51. terrifying, 52. blackness

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The detective was called to investigate a _____ in the city.
n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
2. The young entrepreneur had an _____ plan to start his own company.
adj. showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
3. The forest's darkness was complete, with a _____ that seemed to swallow everything.
n. the quality or condition of being black or dark; an absence of light; a state or condition of darkness, bleakness, or depression; the fact of being part of a group of individuals with dark skin who originate from or whose ancestors originated from Africa
4. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.
v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
5. There is a significant _____ in pay between men and women in the company.
n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
6. The _____ protesters marched peacefully through the streets.
adj. without weapons or arms; not carrying any form of weapon or ammunition, or engaging in physical conflict with weapons
7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. homicide, 2. audacious, 3. blackness, 4. contaminate, 5. disparity, 6. unarmed, 7. determinant

8. The band has released a lot of _____ rock music.
n. a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
9. They had experienced the _____ of losing two children due to premature births.
n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
10. The scientist's _____ led to many groundbreaking discoveries in his field.
n. the quality of being very clever or talented; the quality of being very bright or shining
11. The domesticated cat still has its _____ instincts.
adj. living by eating other animals, especially by catching prey that is still alive
12. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
13. Stress can _____ existing health conditions and cause further problems.
v. to make a problem or situation worse; to irritate or annoy someone
14. _____ 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
15. He reached for his gun in its leather _____ as the intruder approached.
n. a case or pouch designed to hold a handgun securely and provide quick access when needed

ANSWERS: 8. adrenaline-pumping, 9. heartbreak, 10. brilliance, 11. predatory, 12. hopeless, 13. aggravate, 14. Desegregation, 15. holster

16. In some Muslim countries, the _____ position is appointed by the government.
- n.* a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community
17. The situation quickly _____ and turned violent.
- v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
18. I feel honored that they asked me to be their daughter's _____.
- n.* a child or young person who is baptized and sponsored by a godparent, typically chosen from among close family or friends
19. This big gate is _____ to the small hut.
- adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
20. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
- adj.* very frightening or intimidating
21. _____ based on race or ethnicity is illegal and unjust.
- n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation
22. The engineers found the technical glitch in the system was quite _____ with a software update.
- adj.* capable of being solved or resolved; able to be fixed or resolved with effort, skill, or knowledge
23. Be sure to _____ down the soil around the newly planted tree to secure it in place.
- v.* to pack down or compress tightly using a tool or instrument; to suppress or reduce something, such as an emotion, a conflict, or a rumor

ANSWERS: 16. imam's, 17. escalated, 18. godchild, 19. disproportionate, 20. terrifying, 21. Segregation, 22. solvable, 23. tamp

24. The government has decided to _____ illegal immigrants back to their home countries.
- v. to force someone to leave a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or for having committed a crime
25. The judge sentenced him to five years of _____ for embezzlement.
- n. the state of being confined in prison or jail
26. He _____ his life to helping others.
- v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

ANSWERS: 24. deport, 25. incarceration, 26. dedicated