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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Yaniv Erlich: How we're building the world's largest family tree | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

insignificant

adj. of little importance, influence, or power

synonym : unimportant, trivial, irrelevant

(1) **insignificant** amount, (2) an **insignificant** mistake

He made me feel small and **insignificant**.

indulgence

n. the state or act of allowing oneself or another person to enjoy the pleasure of something that is considered to be a pleasure or luxury

synonym : luxury, treat, pampering

(1) plenary **indulgence**, (2) selfish **indulgence**

He allowed himself a few small **indulgences** during his diet.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym : torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

thanksgiving

n. an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the

giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year
synonym : gratitude, appreciation, recognition

(1) **thanksgiving** traditions, (2) **thanksgiving** parade

My family gathers together every year for **thanksgiving** dinner.

biomedical

adj. relating to the application of the natural sciences, especially biology, and physiology, to clinical medicine and healthcare

synonym : medical, clinical, health-related

(1) **biomedical** assay, (2) cutting-edge **biomedical**

Biomedical engineering focuses on developing new medical technologies and innovations to improve patient health outcomes.

genealogist

n. a person who studies, researches, or traces family histories or ancestry; someone who specializes in genealogy (= the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages)

synonym : family historian, lineage expert

(1) **genealogist** community, (2) professional **genealogist**

The **genealogist's** research showed that the family had ties to royalty in their ancestry.

crowdsourcing

n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

(1) **crowdsourcing** apps, (2) **crowdsourcing** in climate policy

The company used this **crowdsourcing** platform to gather ideas for its next product.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym : respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **nodded** quietly in response to the question.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

periphery

n. the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
synonym: edge, border, margin

(1) around the **periphery**, (2) **periphery** countries

The factory was located on the city's **periphery**, away from residential areas.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation **descendant**

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

treasury

n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual

synonym: coffer, exchequer, bank

(1) **treasury** bonds, (2) **treasury** money

The protracted war nearly depleted the country's **treasury**.

showbiz

n. the business or industry of entertainment, especially movies, television, and popular music; the glamorous or flashy aspects of the entertainment industry

synonym: entertainment, show business, performance industry

(1) **showbiz** industry, (2) **showbiz** gossip

The singer's career in **showbiz** began with a small role in a television series.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

smirk

v. to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner

synonym : grin, sneer, simper

(1) **smirk** confidently, (2) **smirk** after playing a prank

He couldn't help but **smirk** when he heard her absurd excuse.

patrilineal

adj. (the antonym of "matrilineal") relating to or based on a father's lineage or descent; inherited or passed down through the male line

synonym : agnatic, patriarchal, paternal

(1) **patrilineal** society, (2) **patrilineal** inheritance

The **patrilineal** tradition has been passed down for generations, and there is great pride in maintaining the family's heritage.

pedigree

n. the recorded ancestry or genealogical background of a person or animal; a list of ancestors, especially of purebred animals, that documents the genetic lineage of a particular animal or line of animals

synonym : lineage, ancestry, genealogy

(1) family **pedigree**, (2) **pedigree** chart

The dog's **pedigree** proved that it came from a long line of champion show dogs.

demography

n. the study of the statistics of human populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics

synonym : population statistics, human ecology

(1) **demography** study, (2) the city's **demography** report

The **demography** of the country is changing rapidly due to

migration and the aging population

stratify

v. to arrange or divide into layers or strata based on characteristics such as social, economic, or cultural status

synonym: layer, classify, arrange in layers

(1) **stratify** populations, (2) **stratify** data

Society tends to **stratify** people into different economic classes.

migrant

n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

synonym: immigrant, itinerant, transient

(1) **migrant** worker, (2) the movement of **migrant** birds

The government revoked his license to employ **migrant** labor crews.

pivotal

adj. relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something

synonym: crucial, essential, important

(1) **pivotal** moment, (2) **pivotal** role

The CEO's decision was **pivotal** in the success of the company's expansion plans.

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.

longevity

n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

synonym : seniority, endurance

(1) **longevity** crisis, (2) **longevity** genes

He is proud of the **longevity** of the business.

correlate

v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

synonym : associate, liken, connect

(1) **correlate** closely with the quality, (2) **correlate** to the size

We may frequently **correlate** age with the frequency of disease.

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.

tease

v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

synonym : bully, annoy, provoke

(1) **tease** the children, (2) **tease** wool

This ad is intended to **tease** a competing product.

beacon

n. a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

synonym : lighthouse, guidepost, marker

(1) an aerial **beacon**, (2) **beacon** of hope

The lighthouse served as a **beacon** to guide ships safely into port.

illuminate

v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

synonym : brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding
That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

Session 2: Spelling

1. tr____ry money *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
2. te__e wool *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
3. bio_____al assay *adj.* relating to the application of the natural sciences, especially biology, and physiology, to clinical medicine and healthcare
4. pi_____l role *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
5. cutting-edge bio_____al *adj.* relating to the application of the natural sciences, especially biology, and physiology, to clinical medicine and healthcare
6. professional gen_____st *n.* a person who studies, researches, or traces family histories or ancestry; someone who specializes in genealogy (= the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages)
7. lo_____ty crisis *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
8. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 1. treasury, 2. tease, 3. biomedical, 4. pivotal, 5. biomedical, 6. genealogist, 7. longevity, 8. ancestor

9. cro_____ing apps *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
10. sm__k confidently *v.* to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner
11. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
12. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
13. sh____z gossip *n.* the business or industry of entertainment, especially movies, television, and popular music; the glamorous or flashy aspects of the entertainment industry
14. pe_____ee chart *n.* the recorded ancestry or genealogical background of a person or animal; a list of ancestors, especially of purebred animals, that documents the genetic lineage of a particular animal or line of animals
15. ill_____te a dark hall *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
16. 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

ANSWERS: 9. crowdsourcing, 10. smirk, 11. nod, 12. obsess, 13. showbiz, 14. pedigree, 15. illuminate, 16. determinant

17. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
18. pi_____l moment *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
19. the movement of mi_____t birds *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
20. ill_____te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
21. ins_____ant amount *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
22. st_____fy populations *v.* to arrange or divide into layers or strata based on characteristics such as social, economic, or cultural status
23. be____n of hope *n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning
24. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
25. lo_____ty genes *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
26. around the pe_____ry *n.* the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
27. gen_____st community *n.* a person who studies, researches, or traces family histories or ancestry; someone who specializes in genealogy (= the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages)

ANSWERS: 17. industrious, 18. pivotal, 19. migrant, 20. illuminate, 21. insignificant, 22. stratify, 23. beacon, 24. descendant, 25. longevity, 26. periphery, 27. genealogist

28. co_____te to the size *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
29. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
30. st_____fy data *v.* to arrange or divide into layers or strata based on characteristics such as social, economic, or cultural status
31. family pe_____ee *n.* the recorded ancestry or genealogical background of a person or animal; a list of ancestors, especially of purebred animals, that documents the genetic lineage of a particular animal or line of animals
32. pat_____al inheritance *adj.* (the antonym of "matrilineal") relating to or based on a father's lineage or descent; inherited or passed down through the male line
33. sm__k after playing a prank *v.* to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner
34. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
35. sh_____z industry *n.* the business or industry of entertainment, especially movies, television, and popular music; the glamorous or flashy aspects of the entertainment industry

ANSWERS: 28. correlate, 29. nod, 30. stratify, 31. pedigree, 32. patrilineal, 33. smirk, 34. ancestor, 35. showbiz

36. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
37. te__e the children *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
38. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
39. tha_____ing traditions *n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year
40. selfish ind_____ce *n.* the state or act of allowing oneself or another person to enjoy the pleasure of something that is considered to be a pleasure or luxury
41. tr_____ry bonds *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
42. tha_____ing parade *n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

ANSWERS: 36. industrious, 37. tease, 38. determinant, 39. thanksgiving, 40. indulgence, 41. treasury, 42. thanksgiving

43. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
44. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
45. cro_____ing in climate policy *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
46. co_____te closely with the quality *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
47. an aerial be___n *n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning
48. dem_____hy study *n.* the study of the statistics of human populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics
49. mi_____t worker *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
50. des_____nt of a pioneer *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
51. the city's dem_____hy report *n.* the study of the statistics of human populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics
52. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 43. opportune, 44. obsess, 45. crowdsourcing, 46. correlate, 47. beacon, 48. demography, 49. migrant, 50. descendant, 51. demography, 52. opportune

53. an ins_____ant mistake *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
54. pat_____al society *adj.* (the antonym of "matrilineal") relating to or based on a father's lineage or descent; inherited or passed down through the male line
55. plenary ind_____ce *n.* the state or act of allowing oneself or another person to enjoy the pleasure of something that is considered to be a pleasure or luxury
56. pe_____ry countries *n.* the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people

ANSWERS: 53. insignificant, 54. patrilineal, 55. indulgence, 56. periphery

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
2. That biologist _____ the mechanism of heredity.
v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
3. He made me feel small and _____.
adj. of little importance, influence, or power
4. We may frequently _____ age with the frequency of disease.
v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
5. This ad is intended to _____ a competing product.
v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
6. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
7. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
8. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 1. obsessed, 2. illuminated, 3. insignificant, 4. correlate, 5. tease, 6. nodded, 7. descendants, 8. ancestor

9. The government revoked his license to employ _____ labor crews.
n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
10. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
11. The company used this _____ platform to gather ideas for its next product.
n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
12. _____ engineering focuses on developing new medical technologies and innovations to improve patient health outcomes.
adj. relating to the application of the natural sciences, especially biology, and physiology, to clinical medicine and healthcare
13. The singer's career in _____ began with a small role in a television series.
n. the business or industry of entertainment, especially movies, television, and popular music; the glamorous or flashy aspects of the entertainment industry
14. The CEO's decision was _____ in the success of the company's expansion plans.
adj. relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
15. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 9. migrant, 10. industrious, 11. crowdsourcing, 12. Biomedical, 13. showbiz, 14. pivotal, 15. opportune

16. He couldn't help but _____ when he heard her absurd excuse.
- v.* to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner
17. My family gathers together every year for _____ dinner.
- n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year
18. He allowed himself a few small _____ during his diet.
- n.* the state or act of allowing oneself or another person to enjoy the pleasure of something that is considered to be a pleasure or luxury
19. He is proud of the _____ of the business.
- n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
20. The _____ of the country is changing rapidly due to migration and the aging population
- n.* the study of the statistics of human populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics
21. The _____ tradition has been passed down for generations, and there is great pride in maintaining the family's heritage.
- adj.* (the antonym of "matrilineal") relating to or based on a father's lineage or descent; inherited or passed down through the male line
22. The lighthouse served as a _____ to guide ships safely into port.
- n.* a light or other visible object serving as a signal, guide, or warning

ANSWERS: 16. smirk, 17. thanksgiving, 18. indulgences, 19. longevity, 20. demography, 21. patrilineal, 22. beacon

23. The protracted war nearly depleted the country's _____.
- n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
24. The dog's _____ proved that it came from a long line of champion show dogs.
- n.* the recorded ancestry or genealogical background of a person or animal; a list of ancestors, especially of purebred animals, that documents the genetic lineage of a particular animal or line of animals
25. The factory was located on the city's _____ away from residential areas.
- n.* the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
26. Society tends to _____ people into different economic classes.
- v.* to arrange or divide into layers or strata based on characteristics such as social, economic, or cultural status
27. The _____ research showed that the family had ties to royalty in their ancestry.
- n.* a person who studies, researches, or traces family histories or ancestry; someone who specializes in genealogy (= the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages)
28. 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: 23. treasury, 24. pedigree, 25. periphery, 26. stratify, 27. genealogist's, 28. determinant