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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Denice Frohman: "Accents" | TED Talk

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

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

accent

n. a distinctive way of pronouncing the words of a language that shows which area, country, or social group a person comes from; particular importance or significance

synonym: articulation, inflection, pronunciation

(1) a foreign **accent**, (2) put the **accent** on comfort

She has a thick southern **accent**.

shotgun

n. a firearm that is designed to be fired from the shoulder and that typically fires several small metal balls or pellets called shot

synonym: scattergun, blunderbuss

(1) a **shotgun** marriage, (2) a 12-gauge **shotgun**

The robbers used a **shotgun** to threaten the store clerk.

tongue

n. a moveable mass of muscle tissue covered with mucous membrane that is in the mouth; a language

synonym: lingo, language, vocabulary

(1) native **tongue**, (2) **tongue** cancer

The **tongue** is boneless, but it is as strong as bones.

brass

n. a metal alloy of copper and zinc; a yellowish color; a group of wind instruments made of brass

synonym: metal, alloy, copper

(1) **brass** section, (2) **brass** instruments

The **brass** band was performing at the parade.

knuckle

n. one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand

synonym: joint, finger joint, finger knob

(1) **knuckle** sandwich, (2) bare- **knuckle** boxer

He cracked his **knuckles** nervously before the presentation.

laughter

n. the act or sound of laughing

synonym: laugh, chuckle, giggle

(1) **laughter** all around, (2) bring **laughter**

Some doctor says **laughter** is the best medicine.

clap

v. to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

synonym: applaud, spat, acclaim

(1) **clap** my hands, (2) **clap** a book shut

We **clapped** along with the singer's song.

span

n. the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers

synonym: interval, period, length

(1) the **span** of a bird's wings, (2) the average life **span**

He slightly modified the **span** of training because it was just before a match.

hush

v. to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential

synonym: clam up, quieten, settle down

(1) **hush** for a while, (2) **hush** up a case

Please **hush** your voice so that the baby can sleep.

remix

v. to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item

synonym : recreate, recompose, alter

(1) **remix** a couple of tracks, (2) **remix** the album

He **remixed** the tracks to give them a jazz feel.

strawberry

n. a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top

(1) the **strawberry** pie, (2) **strawberry** greenhouse

He had a **strawberry** smoothie for breakfast.

chain

n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle

synonym : series, string, link

(1) **chain** reaction, (2) supply **chain**

The **chain** on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.

suddenly

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

synonym : abruptly, unexpectedly, unawares

(1) **suddenly** attacked by an enemy, (2) die **suddenly**

Who answers **suddenly** knows little.

hector

v. to intimidate or bully someone

synonym : intimidate, bulldoze, bully

(1) **hector** people, (2) **hector** them into shaking hands

He was known for **hectoring** his employees and making them work long hours.

conga

n. a drum shaped like a long cylinder with a slightly narrowed waist, played by being struck with the hands or sticks and used in Latin American music and dance

synonym : line dance, salsa, rumba

(1) **conga** drum, (2) **conga** rhythm

The party was in full swing, with people dancing in a **conga** line.

cleave

v. to split or divide something into two parts, often with force; to adhere or cling to something closely and cohesively

synonym : split, sever, cleave

(1) **cleave** meat, (2) **cleave** the party

He swung the axe with all his might to **cleave** the wood in half.

salsa

n. a type of spicy sauce or condiment made from tomatoes, onions, chili peppers, and other ingredients, commonly used in Latin American and Mexican cuisine, as well as a lively social dance style with origins in those same regions

synonym : sauce, dip, condiment

(1) **salsa** music, (2) homemade **salsa** dip

We brought chips and **salsa** to the party as a tasty appetizer.

anxious

adj. worried and nervous

synonym : nervous, uneasy, afraid

(1) **anxious** about his health, (2) an **anxious** look

He cast **anxious** glances behind her.

concrete

adj. existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement

synonym : actual, factual, hardened

(1) a **concrete** noun, (2) **concrete** examples

The president asked for a more **concrete** plan.

neat

adj. clean or tidy, with everything in its place

synonym : tidy, uncluttered, refined

(1) a **neat** piece of work, (2) **neat** idea

She has **neat** habits.

spill

v. to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident

synonym : slop, drop, scatter

(1) **spill** a bit of wine, (2) **spill** my heart

He was determined to **spill** everything.

conversation

n. an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.

synonym: chat, discussion, dialogue

(1) **conversation** in English, (2) a friendly **conversation**

Your **conversation** reflects your thoughts.

bomb

n. a weapon that explodes and is used to kill or injure people or to cause damage to something

synonym: missile, explosive, ammunition

(1) atomic **bombs**, (2) disarm the **bomb**

The use of cluster **bombs** is strictly prohibited by international law.

plenary

adj. complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants

synonym: complete, full, absolute

(1) **plenary** power, (2) **plenary** discussions

The conference will include a **plenary** session for all attendees to participate in.

dale

n. a valley or a broad, low area between hills or mountains, often with a stream or river running through it

synonym: valley, glen, hollow

(1) **dale** landscape, (2) fertile **dale**

The grassy **dale** was filled with wildflowers and grazing sheep.

reunion

n. a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again

synonym: social gathering, alum association

(1) a class **reunion**, (2) the annual **reunion** of the alum

I will attend my college **reunion** tomorrow.

telegram

n. a message sent by telegraph (= a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals), typically consisting of a few words and

sent at a reduced rate for urgent or brief communications

synonym: wire, message, cablegram

(1) **telegram** service, (2) a congratulatory **telegram**

He sent a **telegram** to let his family know he was safe.

decor

n. the arrangement and style of the furniture, art, and other items in a room or building, used to create a particular atmosphere or aesthetic

synonym: ornamentation, embellishment, adornment

(1) tropical **decor**, (2) **decor** styles

The **decor** of the restaurant gave it a cozy and inviting feel.

stretch

v. to make or be capable of making anything longer or broader without hurting or breaking

synonym: lengthen, prolong, extend

(1) **stretch** along the coast, (2) **stretch** a story

Some herds have been observed to **stretch** hundreds of kilometers.

stubborn

adj. refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

synonym: persistent, obstinate, determined

(1) **stubborn** attitude, (2) **stubborn** stains

He was so **stubborn** about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.

compass

n. a navigational instrument for finding directions with a needle that can move easily and that always points to the north; the limit or range of capability

synonym: guideline, borderline, ambit

(1) read a **compass**, (2) sailing without a **compass**

The results were beyond our **compass** of imagination.

Session 2: Spelling

1. an____s about his health *adj.* worried and nervous
2. to____e cancer *n.* a moveable mass of muscle tissue covered with mucous membrane that is in the mouth; a language
3. die su____ly *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
4. bring la____er *n.* the act or sound of laughing
5. a 12-gauge sh____n *n.* a firearm that is designed to be fired from the shoulder and that typically fires several small metal balls or pellets called shot
6. te____am service *n.* a message sent by telegraph (= a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals), typically consisting of a few words and sent at a reduced rate for urgent or brief communications
7. co__a rhythm *n.* a drum shaped like a long cylinder with a slightly narrowed waist, played by being struck with the hands or sticks and used in Latin American music and dance
8. fertile d__e *n.* a valley or a broad, low area between hills or mountains, often with a stream or river running through it
9. con_____ion in English *n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. anxious, 2. tongue, 3. suddenly, 4. laughter, 5. shotgun, 6. telegram, 7. conga, 8. dale, 9. conversation

10. co____te examples *adj.* existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement
11. a congratulatory te____am *n.* a message sent by telegraph (= a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals), typically consisting of a few words and sent at a reduced rate for urgent or brief communications
12. tropical de__r *n.* the arrangement and style of the furniture, art, and other items in a room or building, used to create a particular atmosphere or aesthetic
13. h__h up a case *v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential
14. native to____e *n.* a moveable mass of muscle tissue covered with mucous membrane that is in the mouth; a language
15. cl____e the party *v.* to split or divide something into two parts, often with force; to adhere or cling to something closely and cohesively
16. su____ly attacked by an enemy *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
17. c__p my hands *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

ANSWERS: 10. concrete, 11. telegram, 12. decor, 13. hush, 14. tongue, 15. cleave, 16. suddenly, 17. clap

18. atomic b__bs *n.* a weapon that explodes and is used to kill or injure people or to cause damage to something
19. br__s section *n.* a metal alloy of copper and zinc; a yellowish color; a group of wind instruments made of brass
20. bare-kn_____e boxer *n.* one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand
21. st_____rn attitude *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
22. the average life s__n *n.* the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers
23. a foreign ac____t *n.* a distinctive way of pronouncing the words of a language that shows which area, country, or social group a person comes from; particular importance or significance
24. c__p a book shut *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
25. pl_____y power *adj.* complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants
26. la_____er all around *n.* the act or sound of laughing
27. a co_____te noun *adj.* existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement

ANSWERS: 18. bomb, 19. brass, 20. knuckle, 21. stubborn, 22. span, 23. accent, 24. clap, 25. plenary, 26. laughter, 27. concrete

28. pl____y discussions *adj.* complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants
29. he___r them into shaking hands *v.* to intimidate or bully someone
30. kn_____e sandwich *n.* one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand
31. co__a drum *n.* a drum shaped like a long cylinder with a slightly narrowed waist, played by being struck with the hands or sticks and used in Latin American music and dance
32. sp__l a bit of wine *v.* to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident
33. read a co____s *n.* a navigational instrument for finding directions with a needle that can move easily and that always points to the north; the limit or range of capability
34. sa__a music *n.* a type of spicy sauce or condiment made from tomatoes, onions, chili peppers, and other ingredients, commonly used in Latin American and Mexican cuisine, as well as a lively social dance style with origins in those same regions
35. supply ch__n *n.* a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
36. h__h for a while *v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential

ANSWERS: 28. plenary, 29. hector, 30. knuckle, 31. conga, 32. spill, 33. compass, 34. salsa, 35. chain, 36. hush

37. the annual re____n of the alum *n.* a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again
38. re__x a couple of tracks *v.* to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item
39. put the ac____t on comfort *n.* a distinctive way of pronouncing the words of a language that shows which area, country, or social group a person comes from; particular importance or significance
40. a n__t piece of work *adj.* clean or tidy, with everything in its place
41. homemade sa__a dip *n.* a type of spicy sauce or condiment made from tomatoes, onions, chili peppers, and other ingredients, commonly used in Latin American and Mexican cuisine, as well as a lively social dance style with origins in those same regions
42. st____rn stains *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
43. d__e landscape *n.* a valley or a broad, low area between hills or mountains, often with a stream or river running through it
44. sailing without a co____s *n.* a navigational instrument for finding directions with a needle that can move easily and that always points to the north; the limit or range of capability

ANSWERS: 37. reunion, 38. remix, 39. accent, 40. neat, 41. salsa, 42. stubborn, 43. dale, 44. compass

45. ch__n reaction *n.* a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
46. de__r styles *n.* the arrangement and style of the furniture, art, and other items in a room or building, used to create a particular atmosphere or aesthetic
47. the s__n of a bird's wings *n.* the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers
48. he___r people *v.* to intimidate or bully someone
49. re__x the album *v.* to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item
50. str_____ry greenhouse *n.* a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top
51. a friendly con_____ion *n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.
52. n__t idea *adj.* clean or tidy, with everything in its place
53. a class re_____n *n.* a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again
54. a sh_____n marriage *n.* a firearm that is designed to be fired from the shoulder and that typically fires several small metal balls or pellets called shot

ANSWERS: 45. chain, 46. decor, 47. span, 48. hector, 49. remix, 50. strawberry, 51. conversation, 52. neat, 53. reunion, 54. shotgun

55. br__s instruments *n.* a metal alloy of copper and zinc; a yellowish color; a group of wind instruments made of brass
56. cl___e meat *v.* to split or divide something into two parts, often with force; to adhere or cling to something closely and cohesively
57. sp__l my heart *v.* to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident
58. the str_____ry pie *n.* a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top
59. an an_____s look *adj.* worried and nervous
60. st_____h along the coast *v.* to make or be capable of making anything longer or broader without hurting or breaking
61. st_____h a story *v.* to make or be capable of making anything longer or broader without hurting or breaking
62. disarm the b__b *n.* a weapon that explodes and is used to kill or injure people or to cause damage to something

ANSWERS: 55. brass, 56. cleave, 57. spill, 58. strawberry, 59. anxious, 60. stretch, 61. stretch, 62. bomb

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He cracked his _____ nervously before the presentation.
n. one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand
2. Some herds have been observed to _____ hundreds of kilometers.
v. to make or be capable of making anything longer or broader without hurting or breaking
3. He swung the axe with all his might to _____ the wood in half.
v. to split or divide something into two parts, often with force; to adhere or cling to something closely and cohesively
4. The conference will include a _____ session for all attendees to participate in.
adj. complete or absolute; full in scope or extent; attended by all members or participants
5. He was determined to _____ everything.
v. to cause or allow liquid to run or flow over the edge of its container by accident
6. The results were beyond our _____ of imagination.
n. a navigational instrument for finding directions with a needle that can move easily and that always points to the north; the limit or range of capability
7. He _____ the tracks to give them a jazz feel.
v. to compose a piece of media that has been altered or contorted from its original state by adding, removing, or changing elements of the item
8. He sent a _____ to let his family know he was safe.
n. a message sent by telegraph (= a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals), typically consisting of a few words and sent at a reduced rate for urgent or brief communications

ANSWERS: 1. knuckles, 2. stretch, 3. cleave, 4. plenary, 5. spill, 6. compass, 7. remixed, 8. telegram

9. He was known for _____ his employees and making them work long hours.
v. to intimidate or bully someone
10. She has _____ habits.
adj. clean or tidy, with everything in its place
11. The president asked for a more _____ plan.
adj. existing in a physical or material form rather than an abstract one; based on facts rather than ideas or guesses; made of or covered with cement
12. He cast _____ glances behind her.
adj. worried and nervous
13. The _____ on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.
n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
14. The party was in full swing, with people dancing in a _____ line.
n. a drum shaped like a long cylinder with a slightly narrowed waist, played by being struck with the hands or sticks and used in Latin American music and dance
15. The robbers used a _____ to threaten the store clerk.
n. a firearm that is designed to be fired from the shoulder and that typically fires several small metal balls or pellets called shot
16. He was so _____ about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.
adj. refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

ANSWERS: 9. hectoring, 10. neat, 11. concrete, 12. anxious, 13. chain, 14. conga, 15. shotgun, 16. stubborn

17. We _____ along with the singer's song.

- v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

18. The _____ band was performing at the parade.

- n.* a metal alloy of copper and zinc; a yellowish color; a group of wind instruments made of brass

19. We brought chips and _____ to the party as a tasty appetizer.

- n.* a type of spicy sauce or condiment made from tomatoes, onions, chili peppers, and other ingredients, commonly used in Latin American and Mexican cuisine, as well as a lively social dance style with origins in those same regions

20. She has a thick southern _____.

- n.* a distinctive way of pronouncing the words of a language that shows which area, country, or social group a person comes from; particular importance or significance

21. The use of cluster _____ is strictly prohibited by international law.

- n.* a weapon that explodes and is used to kill or injure people or to cause damage to something

22. Your _____ reflects your thoughts.

- n.* an informal talk between two or more people to exchange their views, ideas, information, etc.

23. He slightly modified the _____ of training because it was just before a match.

- n.* the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers

ANSWERS: 17. clapped, 18. brass, 19. salsa, 20. accent, 21. bombs, 22. conversation, 23. span

24. He had a _____ smoothie for breakfast.

- n.* a sweet, juicy fruit with a reddish color, a seeded surface, and a green, leafy top

25. Please _____ your voice so that the baby can sleep.

- v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential

26. I will attend my college _____ tomorrow.

- n.* a social occasion or party for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time; the act of coming together again

27. Some doctor says _____ is the best medicine.

- n.* the act or sound of laughing

28. The _____ of the restaurant gave it a cozy and inviting feel.

- n.* the arrangement and style of the furniture, art, and other items in a room or building, used to create a particular atmosphere or aesthetic

29. Who answers _____ knows little.

- adv.* quickly and unexpectedly

30. The _____ is boneless, but it is as strong as bones.

- n.* a moveable mass of muscle tissue covered with mucous membrane that is in the mouth; a language

31. The grassy _____ was filled with wildflowers and grazing sheep.

- n.* a valley or a broad, low area between hills or mountains, often with a stream or river running through it

ANSWERS: 24. strawberry, 25. hush, 26. reunion, 27. laughter, 28. decor, 29. suddenly, 30. tongue, 31. dale

ANSWERS: