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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Shunan Teng: The Chinese myth of the white snake and the meddling monk | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

benevolent

adj. well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose

synonym: kindly, compassionate, philanthropic

(1) **benevolent** gesture, (2) a **benevolent** individual

The **benevolent** donor's contribution to the charity greatly impacted the lives of those it served.

meddle

v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own

synonym: interfere, intrude, tamper

(1) **meddle** in relationships, (2) **meddle** with the evidence

She always tries to **meddle** in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.

monk

n. a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

synonym: friar, cleric, brother

(1) **monk** lifestyle, (2) cloistered **monk**

The ascetic **monk** spent his days in prayer and contemplation in the monastery.

devout

adj. deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety

synonym : pious, religious, faithful

(1) **devout** Buddhist, (2) act in a **devout** manner

The **devout** monk spent hours each day in prayer and contemplation.

misguided

adj. having or showing a wrong or mistaken understanding of a situation or course of action

synonym : mistaken, wrong, erring

(1) **misguided** policies, (2) a **misguided** sense of duty

His **misguided** attempt to fix the problem only made it worse.

consort

n. a spouse, typically the wife or husband of a reigning monarch; a companion or partner, especially one who is a member of the same group or organization

synonym : companion, mate, partner

(1) **consort** music, (2) royal **consort**

The politician's advisors counseled him to choose a more suitable **consort** to enhance his public image.

monastery

n. a building or complex of buildings in which members of a male religious community, called monks, live and worship

synonym : abbey, convent, friary

(1) **monastery** garden, (2) leave a **monastery**

This ancient **monastery** was founded in the 13th century and had a long history of religious devotion.

cleans

v. to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body

synonym : purify, detoxify, sanitize

(1) juice **cleans**, (2) **cleans** the face

The new diet is designed to **cleans** toxins from the body.

uneasy

adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort

synonym : anxious, troubled, nervous

(1) have **uneasy** eyes, (2) **uneasy** relationship

He was **uneasy** about the situation and didn't know what to do.

erupt

v. (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

synonym : eject, emit, burst

(1) **erupt** in anger, (2) **erupt** into tears

Battles between whites and blacks **erupted** immediately.

summon

v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

synonym : call for, muster, assemble

(1) **summon** a lawyer, (2) **summon** a city council

The chairperson was responsible for **summoning** committees.

subdue

v. to conquer; to bring under control

synonym : conquer, overpower, vanquish

(1) **subdue** a confusion, (2) **subdue** his anger

The police used tear gas to **subdue** the violent crowd.

blaze

v. to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously

synonym : burn, flame, ignite

(1) **blaze** a trail, (2) **blaze** with fury

The forest fire continued to **blaze** out of control, threatening nearby homes.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym : douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals

easily.

villager

n. a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community

synonym: resident, inhabitant, countryperson

(1) **villager** community, (2) local **villager**

The rural **villagers** were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.

retract

v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made

synonym: withdraw, take back, revoke

(1) **retract** a promise, (2) **retract** a lawsuit

I need to **retract** my statement because I realized it was incorrect.

alms

n. money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy as an act of charity; a charitable donation or gift

synonym: charity, donations, handouts

(1) collect **alms** for charity, (2) **alms** chest

The beggar asked for **alms** to buy food for his family.

misfortune

n. an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble

synonym: adversity, calamity, tragedy

(1) economic **misfortune**, (2) a string of **misfortunes**

The flood was a great **misfortune** to the small town causing extensive damage.

wary

adj. cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience

synonym: cautious, suspicious, leery

(1) a **wary** statesman, (2) **wary** of marriage

She was **wary** of meeting new people because of past experiences.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

pagoda

n. a type of Asian temple with multiple stories and curved or sloping roofs, often used as a place of worship or a religious monument

synonym : temple, shrine, tower

(1) burmese **pagoda**, (2) ancient **pagoda**

The five-story **pagoda** stood tall and majestic in the center of the temple courtyard.

stern

adj. serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude

synonym : severe, harsh, strict

(1) **stern** warning, (2) a **stern** look

The students' antics did not amuse the **stern** teacher.

reincarnation

n. the rebirth of a soul in a new body

synonym : rebirth, regeneration, metempsychosis

(1) **reincarnation** cycle, (2) **reincarnation** belief

Some religions believe in the **reincarnation** of souls after death.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym : ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

bestow

v. to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present

synonym : give, grant, present

(1) **bestow** the name, (2) **bestow** a warm praise

He did not **bestow** one thought on his dead friend.

ornate

adj. elaborately or excessively decorated

synonym : decorative, elaborate, fancy

(1) **ornate** ceiling, (2) depicted in **ornate** detail

She wore an **ornate** necklace to the formal event.

coax

v. to persuade, encourage, or gently urge someone to do something; to manipulate or persuade something to work or function properly

synonym : persuade, cajole, lure

(1) **coax** a confession, (2) **coax** a smile

She tried to **coax** her cat out of the tree with a can of tuna.

exile

n. the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons

synonym : banishment, expulsion, deportation

(1) **exile** community, (2) political **exile**

The **exiled** king lived in poverty in a foreign country for many years.

kneel

v. to rest on someone's knee or knees

synonym : genuflect, crouch, bend

(1) **kneel** down and worship, (2) **kneel** in protest

The players are **kneeling** during the national anthem.

absolve

v. (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

synonym : exempt, acquit, forgive

(1) **absolve** you from this responsibility, (2) **absolve** a person of a sin

The lender offered to **absolve** him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.

blossom

n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

synonym : flower, bloom, bud

(1) apple **blossom**, (2) **blossom** garden

The cherry **blossom** trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.

reunite

v. to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation

synonym : reconcile, reunify, reconvene

(1) **reunite** after five years, (2) **reunite** with my friend

The band will **reunite** only for this show.

Session 2: Spelling

1. de___t Buddhist *adj.* deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety
2. er__t in anger *v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently
3. ab_____e a person of a sin *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
4. be___w the name *v.* to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present
5. mi_____ed policies *adj.* having or showing a wrong or mistaken understanding of a situation or course of action
6. st__n warning *adj.* serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude
7. a st__n look *adj.* serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude
8. dr__n in a bath *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
9. w__y of marriage *adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
10. a mi_____ed sense of duty *adj.* having or showing a wrong or mistaken understanding of a situation or course of action
11. c__x a smile *v.* to persuade, encourage, or gently urge someone to do something; to manipulate or persuade something to work or function properly

ANSWERS: 1. devout, 2. erupt, 3. absolve, 4. bestow, 5. misguided, 6. stern, 7. stern, 8. drown, 9. wary, 10. misguided, 11. coax

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|------------------------------|---|
| 12. em____r of Rome | <i>n.</i> the male ruler of an empire |
| 13. cl____e the face | <i>v.</i> to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body |
| 14. juice cl____e | <i>v.</i> to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body |
| 15. a string of mis____nes | <i>n.</i> an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble |
| 16. ex__e community | <i>n.</i> the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons |
| 17. collect a__s for charity | <i>n.</i> money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy as an act of charity; a charitable donation or gift |
| 18. political ex__e | <i>n.</i> the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons |
| 19. su____n a city council | <i>v.</i> to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally |

ANSWERS: 12. emperor, 13. cleanse, 14. cleanse, 15. misfortune, 16. exile, 17. alms, 18. exile, 19. summon

20. ben_____nt gesture *adj.* well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose
21. re_____t a promise *v.* to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
22. vi_____er community *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
23. burmese pa____a *n.* a type of Asian temple with multiple stories and curved or sloping roofs, often used as a place of worship or a religious monument
24. kn__l down and worship *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees
25. su____e his anger *v.* to conquer; to bring under control
26. me____e in relationships *v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
27. kn__l in protest *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees
28. apple bl_____m *n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
29. mo_____ry garden *n.* a building or complex of buildings in which members of a male religious community, called monks, live and worship

ANSWERS: 20. benevolent, 21. retract, 22. villager, 23. pagoda, 24. kneel, 25. subdue, 26. meddle, 27. kneel, 28. blossom, 29. monastery

30. er__t into tears *v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently
31. un___y relationship *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
32. bl_____m garden *n.* the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
33. be___w a warm praise *v.* to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present
34. former em____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
35. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
36. a w__y statesman *adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
37. c__x a confession *v.* to persuade, encourage, or gently urge someone to do something; to manipulate or persuade something to work or function properly
38. ancient pa___a *n.* a type of Asian temple with multiple stories and curved or sloping roofs, often used as a place of worship or a religious monument
39. cloistered m__k *n.* a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

ANSWERS: 30. erupt, 31. uneasy, 32. blossom, 33. bestow, 34. emperor, 35. bury, 36. wary, 37. coax, 38. pagoda, 39. monk

40. economic mis_____ne *n.* an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble
41. a__s chest *n.* money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy as an act of charity; a charitable donation or gift
42. or___e ceiling *adj.* elaborately or excessively decorated
43. leave a mo_____ry *n.* a building or complex of buildings in which members of a male religious community, called monks, live and worship
44. rei_____ion belief *n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
45. have un___y eyes *adj.* causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
46. I was dr__ned in work *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
47. royal co_____t *n.* a spouse, typically the wife or husband of a reigning monarch; a companion or partner, especially one who is a member of the same group or organization
48. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
49. su___n a lawyer *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
50. rei_____ion cycle *n.* the rebirth of a soul in a new body
51. act in a de___t manner *adj.* deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety

ANSWERS: 40. misfortune, 41. alms, 42. ornate, 43. monastery, 44. reincarnation, 45. uneasy, 46. drown, 47. consort, 48. bury, 49. summon, 50. reincarnation, 51. devout

52. m__k lifestyle *n.* a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
53. bl__e a trail *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
54. ab____e you from this responsibility *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
55. depicted in or____e detail *adj.* elaborately or excessively decorated
56. bl__e with fury *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
57. su____e a confusion *v.* to conquer; to bring under control
58. a ben____nt individual *adj.* well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose
59. local vi____er *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
60. re____e with my friend *v.* to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation
61. me____e with the evidence *v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
62. re____t a lawsuit *v.* to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made

ANSWERS: 52. monk, 53. blaze, 54. absolve, 55. ornate, 56. blaze, 57. subdue, 58. benevolent, 59. villager, 60. reunite, 61. meddle, 62. retract

63. co_____t music

n. a spouse, typically the wife or husband of a reigning monarch; a companion or partner, especially one who is a member of the same group or organization

64. re_____e after five years

v. to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation

ANSWERS: 63. consort, 64. reunite

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He did not _____ one thought on his dead friend.
v. to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present

2. She tried to _____ her cat out of the tree with a can of tuna.
v. to persuade, encourage, or gently urge someone to do something; to manipulate or persuade something to work or function properly

3. His _____ attempt to fix the problem only made it worse.
adj. having or showing a wrong or mistaken understanding of a situation or course of action

4. Battles between whites and blacks _____ immediately.
v. (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

5. The new diet is designed to _____ toxins from the body.
v. to purify or get rid of impurities or toxins; to wash or scrub thoroughly, often in a ritualistic or symbolic context; to purge or remove negative or harmful influences or substances from something; (noun) an act of cleaning or purifying something, typically the body

6. The _____ king lived in poverty in a foreign country for many years.
n. the state of being forced to leave one's country or home, typically for political or punitive reasons

7. The band will _____ only for this show.
v. to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation

ANSWERS: 1. bestow, 2. coax, 3. misguided, 4. erupted, 5. cleanse, 6. exiled, 7. reunite

8. Some religions believe in the _____ of souls after death.
n. the rebirth of a soul in a new body
9. She wore an _____ necklace to the formal event.
adj. elaborately or excessively decorated
10. The _____ donor's contribution to the charity greatly impacted the lives of those it served.
adj. well-meaning and kind; serving a charitable or philanthropic purpose
11. The beggar asked for _____ to buy food for his family.
n. money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy as an act of charity; a charitable donation or gift
12. She was _____ of meeting new people because of past experiences.
adj. cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
13. The _____ monk spent hours each day in prayer and contemplation.
adj. deeply committed to a specific religious faith or practice, often showing great reverence or piety
14. This ancient _____ was founded in the 13th century and had a long history of religious devotion.
n. a building or complex of buildings in which members of a male religious community, called monks, live and worship
15. The police used tear gas to _____ the violent crowd.
v. to conquer; to bring under control

ANSWERS: 8. reincarnation, 9. ornate, 10. benevolent, 11. alms, 12. wary, 13. devout, 14. monastery, 15. subdue

16. I need to _____ my statement because I realized it was incorrect.
- v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
17. The forest fire continued to _____ out of control, threatening nearby homes.
- v. to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
18. The students' antics did not amuse the _____ teacher.
- adj. serious, unyielding, or strict in manner or attitude
19. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
- v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
20. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
- v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
21. The flood was a great _____ to the small town causing extensive damage.
- n. an unfortunate event or circumstance; bad luck or trouble
22. The rural _____ were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.
- n. a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
23. The chairperson was responsible for _____ committees.
- v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally

ANSWERS: 16. retract, 17. blaze, 18. stern, 19. bury, 20. drown, 21. misfortune, 22. villagers, 23. summoning

24. She always tries to _____ in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.
- v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
25. The players are _____ during the national anthem.
- v. to rest on someone's knee or knees
26. The ascetic _____ spent his days in prayer and contemplation in the monastery.
- n. a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
27. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.
- n. the male ruler of an empire
28. The cherry _____ trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.
- n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success
29. The politician's advisors counseled him to choose a more suitable _____ to enhance his public image.
- n. a spouse, typically the wife or husband of a reigning monarch; a companion or partner, especially one who is a member of the same group or organization
30. He was _____ about the situation and didn't know what to do.
- adj. causing or feeling anxiety or discomfort
31. The lender offered to _____ him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.
- v. (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

ANSWERS: 24. meddle, 25. kneeling, 26. monk, 27. Emperor, 28. blossom, 29. consort, 30. uneasy, 31. absolve

32. The five-story _____ stood tall and majestic in the center of the temple courtyard.

- n.* a type of Asian temple with multiple stories and curved or sloping roofs, often used as a place of worship or a religious monument

ANSWERS: 32. pagoda