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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Carole Cadwalladr: Facebook's role in Brexit -- and the threat to democracy | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

vale

n. a valley or low place between hills or mountains; a poetic term for farewell or goodbye

synonym: valley, dale, dell

(1) rolling **vale**, (2) **vale** of tears

The hikers took a leisurely stroll through the scenic **vale**, admiring the wildflowers.

welsh

v. to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement

synonym: default, renege, fail to pay

(1) **welsh** on a promise, (2) **welsh** on the deal

The shepherd had to **welsh** some of the animals due to illness.

steelwork

n. the use of steel in construction, engineering, or manufacturing; a factory or industrial complex where steel is produced or processed, typically involving the use of furnaces, rollers, and other heavy equipment to shape and refine raw materials into finished products

synonym: steel mill, foundry, ironworks

(1) rusted **steelwork**, (2) **steelwork** production

The bridge's **steelwork** had to be reinforced to withstand the high winds in the area.

devastate

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
synonym: demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy

Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

aback

adv. to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something

synonym: surprised, astounded, shocked

(1) flat **aback**, (2) **aback** shock

The sudden news of the merger took me **aback**.

regeneration

n. the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit

synonym: renewal, regrowth, restoration

(1) economic **regeneration**, (2) **regeneration** of forests

The **regeneration** of the damaged tissue in the body is a slow process.

unreal

adj. imaginary; not existing in fact

synonym: false, fake, fictitious

(1) have an **unreal** feeling, (2) **unreal** situation

The idea of winning the lottery seemed so **unreal** that he didn't even bother buying a ticket.

slogan

n. a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea

synonym: catchphrase, tagline, motto

(1) catchy **slogan**, (2) advertising **slogan**

The company spent months researching and testing different brand **slogans** before finally settling on 'Just Do It' as their new tagline.

baffle

v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

synonym : perplex, astound, hinder

(1) **baffle** his plan, (2) **baffle** outside noises

The paradox **baffled** most philosophers.

tabloid

adj. relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

synonym : gossipy, sensationalistic, scandalous

(1) **tabloid** journalism, (2) political **tabloid**

The **tabloid** newspaper always covers sensational stories.

stronghold

n. a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations

synonym : fortress, bastion, citadel

(1) the last **stronghold**, (2) **stronghold** bastion

The castle served as a **stronghold** for the kingdom, protecting against invaders.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym : disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

wheelbarrow

n. a hand-operated cart with a single wheel in front and two supporting legs behind, used for carrying small loads over short distances

synonym : cart, handcart, trolley

(1) empty the **wheelbarrow**, (2) **wheelbarrow** tire

I loaded up the **wheelbarrow** with dirt and hauled it to the backyard.

elector

n. a person who has the right to vote in an election

synonym: voter, constituent, citizen

(1) presidential **elector**, (2) qualified for an **elector**

The **elector** cast their vote for the candidate they believed in.

unleash

v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

synonym: discharge, free, release

(1) **unleash** a hound, (2) **unleash** her anger

The general was still reluctant to **unleash** his troops in pursuit of an enemy.

disinformation

n. false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion

synonym: misinformation, propaganda, falsehood

(1) **disinformation** campaign, (2) **disinformation** warfare

The government is being criticized for spreading **disinformation** about the pandemic.

sliver

n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something

synonym: splinter, shard, fragment

(1) **sliver** of wood, (2) **sliver** of metal

I had to be careful not to step on a **sliver** of glass on the floor.

persuadable

adj. capable of being convinced or persuaded; open to being influenced by others

synonym: persuasive, convincing, influenceable

(1) **persuadable** opinion, (2) financially **persuadable**

Her **persuadable** nature made her susceptible to changing her mind based on others' opinions.

hinge

n. a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close

synonym : joint, pivot

(1) a stiff **hinge**, (2) insecure **hinge**

His involvement is the **hinge** of our plan.

trump

n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**

The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

indict

v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

synonym : accuse, charge, prosecute

(1) **indict** a suspect, (2) **indict** him of injuries

The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to **indict** the corrupt politician.

entwine

v. to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group

synonym : twist, interlace, interweave

(1) **entwine** fingers, (2) **entwine** branches

The ideas and themes in the movie **entwine** to create a powerful commentary on society

petri

n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

(1) **petri** dish test, (2) bacteria on **petri** dishes

Glass **petri** dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

assimilate

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

synonym : absorb, incorporate, integrate

(1) **assimilate** into society, (2) **assimilate** a language

The immigrant struggled to **assimilate** into the new culture.

sow

v. to plant seeds in the ground to grow crops or plants; to establish or set in motion

synonym : plant, scatter, seed

(1) **sow** wheat in a field, (2) **sow** discord

She carefully **sowed** the seeds in the garden.

undertow

n. a strong underwater current that pulls away from the shore, often occurring beneath surface waves and sometimes posing a danger to swimmers or boats

synonym : undertide, riptide, sea-poose

(1) **undertow** current, (2) powerful **undertow**

The dangerous **undertow** at the beach caught many swimmers off guard.

illicit

adj. forbidden by law, rules, or custom; not approved of or socially acceptable

synonym : illegal, unlawful, prohibited

(1) **illicit** drugs, (2) **illicit** trade

He was arrested for his **illicit** activities in the black market.

billionaire

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

synonym : mega-rich, wealthy, tycoon

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

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

bankroll

v. to provide financial support or funding, typically for a venture, campaign, or personal purposes; (noun) the amount of money a person or organization has available to spend on a particular activity

synonym : finance, fund, sponsor

(1) **bankroll** a project, (2) private **bankroll**

I can **bankroll** this business venture if you present a solid

business plan.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

subversion

n. the act or process of undermining, overthrowing, or sabotaging a system or government, often through covert or manipulative means; the effort to weaken or destroy established authority or social norms

synonym: undermining, sabotage, treason

(1) **subversion** tactics, (2) political **subversion**

The rebel group's **subversion** of the government was successful.

handmaiden

n. a female servant or assistant

synonym: maid, servant, helper

(1) **handmaiden** duties, (2) subservient **handmaiden**

The princess's **handmaiden** helped dress for the ball and assisted with her hair.

authoritarian

adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

synonym: dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic

(1) **authoritarian** practice, (2) **authoritarian** government

The **authoritarian** leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

inflection

n. a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories

synonym: accent, intonation, modulation

(1) **inflection** in voice, (2) **inflection** pattern

The linguist studied the **inflection** of the language's inflection in speech.

unchecked

adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized;
allowed to proceed without restraint or interference

synonym: uncontrolled, unrestrained, unbridled

(1) **unchecked** ambition, (2) **unchecked** growth

The **unchecked** spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ass_____te a language *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
2. advertising sl____n *n.* a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea
3. ta_____d journalism *adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news
4. qualified for an el_____r *n.* a person who has the right to vote in an election
5. rolling v___e *n.* a valley or low place between hills or mountains; a poetic term for farewell or goodbye
6. Silicon Valley bil_____re *n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
7. un_____h a hound *v.* to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
8. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 1. assimilate, 2. slogan, 3. tabloid, 4. elector, 5. vale, 6. billionaire, 7. unleash, 8. disrupt

9. un_____ed ambition *adj.* not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
10. financially per_____le *adj.* capable of being convinced or persuaded; open to being influenced by others
11. dis_____ion warfare *n.* false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion
12. inf_____on pattern *n.* a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories
13. un_____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
14. un_____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
15. the last str_____ld *n.* a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations
16. aut_____ian government *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
17. un____l situation *adj.* imaginary; not existing in fact
18. aut_____ian practice *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

ANSWERS: 9. unchecked, 10. persuadable, 11. disinformation, 12. inflection, 13. uncover, 14. uncover, 15. stronghold, 16. authoritarian, 17. unreal, 18. authoritarian

19. sl___r of wood *n.* a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
20. private ba_____ll *v.* to provide financial support or funding, typically for a venture, campaign, or personal purposes; (noun) the amount of money a person or organization has available to spend on a particular activity
21. han_____en duties *n.* a female servant or assistant
22. un_____ed growth *adj.* not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
23. ba___e his plan *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
24. powerful un_____ow *n.* a strong underwater current that pulls away from the shore, often occurring beneath surface waves and sometimes posing a danger to swimmers or boats
25. economic reg_____ion *n.* the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit
26. il_____t drugs *adj.* forbidden by law, rules, or custom; not approved of or socially acceptable

ANSWERS: 19. sliver, 20. bankroll, 21. handmaiden, 22. unchecked, 23. baffle, 24. undertow, 25. regeneration, 26. illicit

36. political sub_____on *n.* the act or process of undermining, overthrowing, or sabotaging a system or government, often through covert or manipulative means; the effort to weaken or destroy established authority or social norms
37. political ta_____d *adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news
38. ba_____e outside noises *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
39. st_____rk production *n.* the use of steel in construction, engineering, or manufacturing; a factory or industrial complex where steel is produced or processed, typically involving the use of furnaces, rollers, and other heavy equipment to shape and refine raw materials into finished products
40. sub_____on tactics *n.* the act or process of undermining, overthrowing, or sabotaging a system or government, often through covert or manipulative means; the effort to weaken or destroy established authority or social norms

ANSWERS: 36. subversion, 37. tabloid, 38. baffle, 39. steelwork, 40. subversion

51. catchy sl___n *n.* a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea
52. en_____e fingers *v.* to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group
53. v__e of tears *n.* a valley or low place between hills or mountains; a poetic term for farewell or goodbye
54. insecure hi___e *n.* a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close
55. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
56. presidential el_____r *n.* a person who has the right to vote in an election
57. ass_____te into society *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
58. str_____ld bastion *n.* a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations
59. il_____t trade *adj.* forbidden by law, rules, or custom; not approved of or socially acceptable
60. in___t a suspect *v.* to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

ANSWERS: 51. slogan, 52. entwine, 53. vale, 54. hinge, 55. disrupt, 56. elector, 57. assimilate, 58. stronghold, 59. illicit, 60. indict

61. rusted st_____rk
62. per_____le opinion
63. en_____e branches
64. have an un____l feeling
65. empty the whe_____ow
66. we__h on a promise
67. whe_____ow tire
68. un_____ow current
- n.* the use of steel in construction, engineering, or manufacturing; a factory or industrial complex where steel is produced or processed, typically involving the use of furnaces, rollers, and other heavy equipment to shape and refine raw materials into finished products
- adj.* capable of being convinced or persuaded; open to being influenced by others
- v.* to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group
- adj.* imaginary; not existing in fact
- n.* a hand-operated cart with a single wheel in front and two supporting legs behind, used for carrying small loads over short distances
- v.* to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement
- n.* a hand-operated cart with a single wheel in front and two supporting legs behind, used for carrying small loads over short distances
- n.* a strong underwater current that pulls away from the shore, often occurring beneath surface waves and sometimes posing a danger to swimmers or boats

ANSWERS: 61. steelwork, 62. persuadable, 63. entwine, 64. unreal, 65. wheelbarrow, 66. welsh, 67. wheelbarrow, 68. undertow

69. flat ab__k

adv. to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something

70. subservient han_____en

n. a female servant or assistant

ANSWERS: 69. aback, 70. handmaiden

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company spent months researching and testing different brand _____ before finally settling on 'Just Do It' as their new tagline.
 - n.* a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea

2. The castle served as a _____ for the kingdom, protecting against invaders.
 - n.* a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations

3. The paradox _____ most philosophers.
 - v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

4. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
 - v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

5. The dangerous _____ at the beach caught many swimmers off guard.
 - n.* a strong underwater current that pulls away from the shore, often occurring beneath surface waves and sometimes posing a danger to swimmers or boats

6. Her _____ nature made her susceptible to changing her mind based on others' opinions.
 - adj.* capable of being convinced or persuaded; open to being influenced by others

7. The general was still reluctant to _____ his troops in pursuit of an enemy.
 - v.* to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

ANSWERS: 1. slogans, 2. stronghold, 3. baffled, 4. disrupt, 5. undertow, 6. persuadable, 7. unleash

8. The _____ leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.
adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
9. The _____ cast their vote for the candidate they believed in.
n. a person who has the right to vote in an election
10. The _____ of the damaged tissue in the body is a slow process.
n. the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit
11. The bridge's _____ had to be reinforced to withstand the high winds in the area.
n. the use of steel in construction, engineering, or manufacturing; a factory or industrial complex where steel is produced or processed, typically involving the use of furnaces, rollers, and other heavy equipment to shape and refine raw materials into finished products
12. The rebel group's _____ of the government was successful.
n. the act or process of undermining, overthrowing, or sabotaging a system or government, often through covert or manipulative means; the effort to weaken or destroy established authority or social norms
13. The hikers took a leisurely stroll through the scenic _____ admiring the wildflowers.
n. a valley or low place between hills or mountains; a poetic term for farewell or goodbye

ANSWERS: 8. authoritarian, 9. elector, 10. regeneration, 11. steelwork, 12. subversion, 13. vale,

14. The princess's _____ helped dress for the ball and assisted with her hair.
n. a female servant or assistant
15. The _____ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.
n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
16. I had to be careful not to step on a _____ of glass on the floor.
n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
17. The immigrant struggled to _____ into the new culture.
v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
18. The _____ spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.
adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
19. He was arrested for his _____ activities in the black market.
adj. forbidden by law, rules, or custom; not approved of or socially acceptable
20. The shepherder had to _____ some of the animals due to illness.
v. to fail to honor a debt or commitment; to renege on a promise or agreement
21. The government is being criticized for spreading _____ about the pandemic.
n. false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion

ANSWERS: 14. handmaiden, 15. trump, 16. sliver, 17. assimilate, 18. unchecked, 19. illicit, 20. welsh, 21. disinformation

22. She carefully _____ the seeds in the garden.

- v. to plant seeds in the ground to grow crops or plants; to establish or set in motion

23. I loaded up the _____ with dirt and hauled it to the backyard.

- n. a hand-operated cart with a single wheel in front and two supporting legs behind, used for carrying small loads over short distances

24. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.

- v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

25. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.

- v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

26. His involvement is the _____ of our plan.

- n. a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close

27. The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to _____ the corrupt politician.

- v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

28. The self-made _____ donated millions to charity.

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

29. The ideas and themes in the movie _____ to create a powerful commentary on society

- v. to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group

ANSWERS: 22. sowed, 23. wheelbarrow, 24. uncovered, 25. devastate, 26. hinge, 27. indict, 28. billionaire, 29. entwine

30. The idea of winning the lottery seemed so _____ that he didn't even bother buying a ticket.

adj. imaginary; not existing in fact

31. The linguist studied the _____ of the language's inflection in speech.

n. a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories

32. The _____ newspaper always covers sensational stories.

adj. relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

33. Glass _____ dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

34. The sudden news of the merger took me _____.

adv. to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something

35. I can _____ this business venture if you present a solid business plan.

v. to provide financial support or funding, typically for a venture, campaign, or personal purposes; (noun) the amount of money a person or organization has available to spend on a particular activity

ANSWERS: 30. unreal, 31. inflection, 32. tabloid, 33. petri, 34. aback, 35. bankroll