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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Paula Stone Williams and Jonathan Williams: The story of a parent's transition and a son's redemption | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

transgender

adj. relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth

synonym : non-binary

(1) **transgender** person, (2) **transgender** rights

Many **transgender** individuals face discrimination and marginalization in society.

coworker

n. a person who works with another in the same company or organization

synonym : colleague, peer, associate

(1) **coworker** relationship, (2) argue with a **coworker**

My ex- **coworker** and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

estrangement

n. the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends

synonym : alienation, separation, detachment

(1) **estrangement** from family, (2) emotional **estrangement**

The **estrangement** between the two friends lasted for years.

pickle

n. vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation

synonym : jam, predicament, quagmire

(1) **pickle** a cucumber, (2) **pickle** barrel

The **pickle** must have an acidity level high enough to inhibit the growth of bacteria.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

mourning

n. the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

synonym : grieving, sorrow, lamentation

(1) **mourning** period, (2) **mourning** ritual

She wore black clothing as a symbol of **mourning** for her grandmother.

playbook

n. a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action

synonym : strategy, game plan, manual

(1) **playbook** strategy, (2) political **playbook**

The coach's **playbook** helped the team win the championship.

lettuce

n. a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor

synonym : greens, salad, cress

(1) crisp **lettuce**, (2) wilted **lettuce**

I want a sandwich with extra **lettuce**, please.

jean

n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

synonym : denim, cotton, pants

(1) a **jean** skirt, (2) **jean** denim

She wore her favorite pair of **jeans** to the party.

disbelief

n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real

synonym : doubt, mistrust, incredulity

(1) **disbelief** in the authority, (2) ask in **disbelief**

His reaction was one of complete **disbelief**.

wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

synonym : collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

betray

v. to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

synonym : fail, denounce, display

(1) **betray** a friend, (2) **betray** confidence

He felt **betrayed** when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.

bagel

n. a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

synonym : roll, doughnut, bialy

(1) freshly baked **bagel**, (2) **bagel** with cream cheese

I prefer a toasty **bagel** with bacon and eggs for weekend brunch.

consciously

adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner

synonym: intentionally, deliberately, knowingly

(1) **consciously** aware of a problem, (2) act **consciously**
He **consciously** criticizes her in the publicity.

turnpike

n. a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access

synonym: toll road, expressway, freeway

(1) **turnpike** interchange, (2) **turnpike** exit

The toll booth on the **turnpike** caused a traffic backup.

decompress

v. to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone

synonym: unload, relieve, unburden

(1) **decompress** data, (2) **decompress** an archive file

She **decompressed** after a long day at work with a yoga class.

surrogate

adj. acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

synonym: substitute, replacement, deputy

(1) **surrogate** pregnancy, (2) **surrogate** decision

The **surrogate** mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the couple who couldn't conceive independently.

cling

v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

synonym: stick, adhere, attach

(1) **cling** onto power, (2) **cling** tightly to the skin

He **clings** to the hope that he will find a job soon.

jeopardize

v. to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone

synonym : endanger, imperil, risk

(1) **jeopardize** safety, (2) **jeopardize** reputation

His reckless behavior could **jeopardize** his chances of getting hired for the job.

livelihood

n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

synonym : occupation, living, income

(1) a means of **livelihood**, (2) **livelihood** assistance

I could no longer earn my own **livelihood**.

straddle

v. to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

synonym : straddle, sit astride, span

(1) **straddle** a fence, (2) **straddle** a motorcycle

We had to **straddle** the fallen tree to cross the river.

impassioned

adj. having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal

synonym : enthusiastic, fervent, ardent

(1) give an **impassioned** defense, (2) **impassioned** plea

He spoke with **impassioned** conviction about the need for change.

abate

v. to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time

synonym : decrease, diminish, reduce

(1) **abate** a storm, (2) **abate** a crisis

He tried to **abate** his anger by taking deep breaths and counting to ten.

subside

v. to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level

synonym : decrease, decline, diminish

(1) **subside** an argument, (2) **subside** after a short time

The storm **subsided**, leaving the town in peace.

christen

v. to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church

synonym: baptize, name, initiate

(1) **christen** a child, (2) **christen** the baby at the baptism

The newborn baby was **christened** in a ceremony at the church.

grandchild

n. a child of someone's son or daughter

synonym: offspring, descendant, progeny

(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

foothill

n. a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area

synonym: hillside, incline, slope

(1) **foothill** trail, (2) **foothill** region

The settlers built their homes in the **foothills** near the river.

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.

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.

twirl

v. to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion

synonym: spin, swirl, rotate

(1) **twirl** a ribbon, (2) **twirl** a hula hoop

She **twirled** her hair absentmindedly as she listened to the conversation.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
2. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
3. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
4. give an imp_____ed defense *adj.* having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal
5. tu_____ke interchange *n.* a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access
6. un_____h a hound *v.* to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
7. st_____le a fence *v.* to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

ANSWERS: 1. pretension, 2. pretension, 3. confuse, 4. impassioned, 5. turnpike, 6. unleash, 7. straddle

8. ch____en the baby at the baptism *v.* to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church
9. ask in di_____ef *n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
10. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
11. fo_____ll trail *n.* a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area
12. cl__g onto power *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
13. cl__g tightly to the skin *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
14. st_____le a motorcycle *v.* to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests
15. the house was a wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
16. su_____te decision *adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose

ANSWERS: 8. christen, 9. disbelief, 10. confuse, 11. foothill, 12. cling, 13. cling, 14. straddle, 15. wreck, 16. surrogate

17. su_____e an argument *v.* to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level
18. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
19. un_____h her anger *v.* to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
20. wilted le_____e *n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
21. su_____te pregnancy *adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
22. dec_____ss an archive file *v.* to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone
23. j__n denim *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
24. liv_____od assistance *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
25. fo_____ll region *n.* a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area
26. jeo_____ze reputation *v.* to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone
27. be___y confidence *v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

ANSWERS: 17. subside, 18. grandchild, 19. unleash, 20. lettuce, 21. surrogate, 22. decompress, 23. jean, 24. livelihood, 25. foothill, 26. jeopardize, 27. betray

28. imp_____ed plea *adj.* having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal
29. pi___e a cucumber *n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
30. pl_____ok strategy *n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
31. pi___e barrel *n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
32. tw__l a hula hoop *v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
33. gra_____ld development *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
34. tw__l a ribbon *v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
35. freshly baked ba__l *n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices
36. mo_____ng period *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

ANSWERS: 28. impassioned, 29. pickle, 30. playbook, 31. pickle, 32. twirl, 33. grandchild, 34. twirl, 35. bagel, 36. mourning

37. act con_____ly *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
38. a j__n skirt *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
39. be___y a friend *v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally
40. dec_____ss data *v.* to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone
41. a means of liv_____od *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
42. political pl_____ok *n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
43. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
44. crisp le_____e *n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor
45. co_____er relationship *n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization
46. su_____e after a short time *v.* to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level
47. 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: 37. consciously, 38. jean, 39. betray, 40. decompress, 41. livelihood, 42. playbook, 43. determinant, 44. lettuce, 45. coworker, 46. subside, 47. determinant

48. jeo_____ze safety *v.* to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone
49. a worthless wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
50. argue with a co_____er *n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization
51. ch_____en a child *v.* to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church
52. con_____ly aware of a problem *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
53. tra_____er person *adj.* relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth
54. est_____ent from family *n.* the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends
55. di_____ef in the authority *n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
56. ba__l with cream cheese *n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices
57. ab__e a crisis *v.* to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time
58. mo_____ng ritual *n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving

ANSWERS: 48. jeopardize, 49. wreck, 50. coworker, 51. christen, 52. consciously, 53. transgender, 54. estrangement, 55. disbelief, 56. bagel, 57. abate, 58. mourning

59. tu____ke exit *n.* a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access
60. ab__e a storm *v.* to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time
61. tra_____er rights *adj.* relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth
62. emotional est_____ent *n.* the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends

ANSWERS: 59. turnpike, 60. abate, 61. transgender, 62. estrangement

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I could no longer earn my own _____.
n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

2. She _____ her hair absentmindedly as she listened to the conversation.
v. to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion

3. She _____ after a long day at work with a yoga class.
v. to reduce the pressure or tension on something or someone

4. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

5. She wore her favorite pair of _____ to the party.
n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

6. The coach's _____ helped the team win the championship.
n. a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action

7. The newborn baby was _____ in a ceremony at the church.
v. to give a name to a baby at a Christian ceremony to welcome them into the Christian Church

8. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 1. livelihood, 2. twirled, 3. decompressed, 4. confused, 5. jeans, 6. playbook, 7. christened, 8. pretensions

9. The toll booth on the _____ caused a traffic backup.
- n.* a high-speed, limited-access highway, often with toll booths; a barrier across a road with a rotating spindle used to control access
10. She wore black clothing as a symbol of _____ for her grandmother.
- n.* the act or expression of sorrow or grief for someone who has died; a period of time set aside for such grieving
11. The _____ mother gave birth to a healthy baby for the couple who couldn't conceive independently.
- adj.* acting as a substitute or replacement for someone or something else; having a similar function or purpose
12. The _____ must have an acidity level high enough to inhibit the growth of bacteria.
- n.* vegetables or fruit preserved in salty water or vinegar served cold with meat, salads, etc.; informal terms for a difficult situation
13. He _____ criticizes her in the publicity.
- adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
14. His reaction was one of complete _____.
- n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
15. Many _____ individuals face discrimination and marginalization in society.
- adj.* relating to or denoting a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth
16. He felt _____ when his best friend revealed their secret to the enemy.
- v.* to reveal or deliver to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; to reveal something unintentionally

ANSWERS: 9. turnpike, 10. mourning, 11. surrogate, 12. pickle, 13. consciously, 14. disbelief, 15. transgender, 16. betrayed

17. He _____ to the hope that he will find a job soon.
- v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
18. The settlers built their homes in the _____ near the river.
- n.* a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range, typically found at the beginning of a slope or ascent and can have a significant impact on the local climate and ecology of an area
19. 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
20. The _____ between the two friends lasted for years.
- n.* the state of being separated or distant, especially in a relationship or between family members or friends
21. 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
22. He tried to _____ his anger by taking deep breaths and counting to ten.
- v.* to lessen, reduce, or diminish in intensity or severity; to decline or wane in amount or strength over time
23. The storm _____ leaving the town in peace.
- v.* to become less intense or widespread; to sink to a lower level
24. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
- n.* a child of someone's son or daughter

ANSWERS: 17. clings, 18. foothills, 19. determinant, 20. estrangement, 21. unleash, 22. abate, 23. subsided, 24. grandchild

25. I want a sandwich with extra _____ please.

- n.* a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor

26. He spoke with _____ conviction about the need for change.

- adj.* having or showing strong feelings, enthusiasm, or dedication or making a strong emotional appeal

27. His reckless behavior could _____ his chances of getting hired for the job.

- v.* to put something at risk or in danger; to threaten or endanger something or someone

28. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.

- n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

29. We had to _____ the fallen tree to cross the river.

- v.* to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

30. My ex-_____ and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

- n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization

31. I prefer a toasty _____ with bacon and eggs for weekend brunch.

- n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

ANSWERS: 25. lettuce, 26. impassioned, 27. jeopardize, 28. wreck, 29. straddle, 30. coworker, 31. bagel