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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Stacie Bosley: How to spot a pyramid scheme | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

solicit

v. to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty

synonym: request, seek, ask

(1) **solicit** advice, (2) **solicit** patronage

The company **solicited** donations from its employees for the charity event.

funnel

n. a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine

synonym: filter, chimney

(1) separatory **funnel**, (2) a **funnel-shaped** device

We have to use a **funnel** to pour petrol into the tank.

hazy

adj. not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something

synonym : blurred, clouded, foggy

(1) **hazy** dream, (2) **hazy** atmosphere

My memories of the holiday were **hazy**.

disguise

v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

synonym : mask, misinterpret, cloak

(1) **disguise** my feelings, (2) **disguise** his voice

Later it turned out that the politician **disguised** the fact from the public.

capitalize

v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

synonym : bankroll, finance, endow

(1) **capitalize** on an interest, (2) **capitalize** the 1st letter of a word

You must **capitalize** on your full of opportunities to become a professor.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym : disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

entice

v. to attract or lure someone with something desirable or tempting

synonym : lure, tempt, attract

(1) **entice** foreign investment, (2) **entice** shoppers

The salesperson tried to **entice** the customer into buying a new car.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym : authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the

same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|------|---|
| 1. di____se his voice | v. | to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others |
| 2. a w__y statesman | adj. | cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience |
| 3. en___e shoppers | v. | to attract or lure someone with something desirable or tempting |
| 4. h__y atmosphere | adj. | not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something |
| 5. em_____ss my project | v. | to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed |
| 6. em_____ss political enemy | v. | to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed |
| 7. so_____t patronage | v. | to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty |
| 8. separatory fu___l | n. | a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine |
| 9. em_____r the secretary to do the same | v. | to give someone the power or authority to do something |
| 10. cap_____ze on an interest | v. | to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something |

ANSWERS: 1. disguise, 2. wary, 3. entice, 4. hazy, 5. embarrass, 6. embarrass, 7. solicit, 8. funnel, 9. empower, 10. capitalize

11. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
12. di_____se my feelings *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
13. cap_____ze the 1st letter of a word *v.* to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something
14. so_____t advice *v.* to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty
15. a fu___l-shaped device *n.* a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
16. w__y of marriage *adj.* cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience
17. en___e foreign investment *v.* to attract or lure someone with something desirable or tempting
18. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
19. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
20. h__y dream *adj.* not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something

ANSWERS: 11. opportune, 12. disguise, 13. capitalize, 14. solicit, 15. funnel, 16. wary, 17. entice, 18. opportune, 19. empower, 20. hazy

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

2. You must _____ on your full of opportunities to become a professor.
v. to write a whole letter or the first letter of the alphabet as a capital; to provide a company, etc. with the money; to take the chance to gain advantage from something

3. The salesperson tried to _____ the customer into buying a new car.
v. to attract or lure someone with something desirable or tempting

4. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

5. My memories of the holiday were _____.
adj. not clear due to a lack of recollection, comprehension, or detail; unsure or perplexed about something

6. She was _____ of meeting new people because of past experiences.
adj. cautious or distrustful, especially because of a previous bad experience

7. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

8. Later it turned out that the politician _____ the fact from the public.
v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

ANSWERS: 1. embarrass, 2. capitalize, 3. entice, 4. opportune, 5. hazy, 6. wary, 7. empowered, 8. disguised

9. The company _____ donations from its employees for the charity event.
- v.* to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty
10. We have to use a _____ to pour petrol into the tank.
- n.* a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine

ANSWERS: 9. solicited, 10. funnel