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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Elizabeth Cox: What really happened to the Library of Alexandria? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

audacious

adj. showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness

synonym : bold, daring, fearless

(1) **audacious** stunt, (2) **audacious** decision

The young entrepreneur had an **audacious** plan to start his own company.

catastrophic

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

synonym : fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate change

The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

synonym : defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

headquarter

n. the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed

synonym : base, center, command

(1) administrative **headquarter**, (2) an emergency **headquarter**

The company decided to move its **headquarters** to New York City.

namesake

n. a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else

(1) the **namesake** of her mother, (2) less famous than its **namesake**

He is my **namesake**, but we're not related.

scribe

n. a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times

synonym: copyist, transcriber, writer

(1) **scribe** in ancient Egypt, (2) financial **scribe**

The **scribe's** skills were in high demand in medieval times, when many people were illiterate.

scour

v. to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically

synonym: cleanse, scrub, clean

(1) **scour** a pot, (2) **scour** the Internet

She had to **scour** the kitchen to find a clean dish to use for dinner.

quash

v. to suppress or put down forcibly, particularly a rebellion, protest, or opposition; to nullify or reject a decision, judgment, or ruling that is seen as unjust or erroneous; to silence or extinguish a rumor or controversy

synonym: subdue, annul, nullify

(1) **quash** a rumor, (2) **quash** a rebellion

The court decided to **quash** the charges against the accused due to lack of evidence.

papyrus

n. a tall plant with thick stems that grow in or near water, especially in North Africa, or a document or piece of

paper made of this plant, especially by ancient Egyptians

(1) **papyrus** fragment, (2) a document written on **papyrus**
Papers from a **papyrus** found in the Middle East prove that ancient Egypt traded with neighboring countries.

swelling

n. an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury

synonym: bulge, bump, inflammation

(1) **swelling** of the ankle, (2) hard **swelling** on the body
After intensive icing by the trainer, the **swelling** went down.

astound

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

synonym: amaze, astonish, surprise

(1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer

The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

circumference

n. the distance around the outside of a circular or curved object or area

synonym: perimeter, edge, outer boundary

(1) angle of **circumference**, (2) chest **circumference**

The **circumference** of the earth is approximately 24,901 miles.

heron

n. a long-legged wading bird with a long, slender neck and bill, typically found near water and known for its ability to stand motionless for long periods while waiting to catch prey

synonym: egret, crane

(1) **heron** migration, (2) great blue **heron**

I love watching the graceful movements of **herons** as they hunt for fish.

reinvent

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

synonym: recreate, remake, revive

(1) **reinvent** local dishes, (2) **reinvent** our life
They have tried to **reinvent** their grocery stores.

siege

n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

synonym : blockade, encirclement, barricade

(1) hostage **siege**, (2) lay **siege** to his house

People began storing up food and supplies for the **siege**.

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.

sprawl

v. to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out

synonym : drape, spread out

(1) **sprawl** out luxuriously on the sofa, (2) **sprawl** for acres

The lush vegetation **sprawls** across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym : Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

blasphemy

n. action, attitude, or language that is offensive or shows a lack of respect for sacred character or religion

synonym : desecration, impiety, heresy

(1) commit **blasphemy**, (2) **blasphemy** against the law

It is **blasphemy** to say such a thing.

grapple

v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons

synonym : brawl, scuffle, wrestle

(1) **grapple** with problem, (2) **grapple** with each other

He needed to **grapple** with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.

insidious

adj. tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way

synonym : sly, cunning, subtle

(1) **insidious** plot, (2) **insidious** behavior

The disease has an **insidious** onset, making it difficult to diagnose.

arrogant

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

synonym : haughty, supercilious, disdainful

(1) an **arrogant** attitude, (2) grow **arrogant**

He was so **arrogant** that he thought he was always right.

Session 2: Spelling

1. in_____us plot *adj.* tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way
2. chest cir_____nce *n.* the distance around the outside of a circular or curved object or area
3. less famous than its na_____ke *n.* a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else
4. sp____l for acres *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
5. teaching of Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
6. sw_____ng of the ankle *n.* an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury
7. bl_____my against the law *n.* action, attitude, or language that is offensive or shows a lack of respect for sacred character or religion
8. qu__h a rumor *v.* to suppress or put down forcibly, particularly a rebellion, protest, or opposition; to nullify or reject a decision, judgment, or ruling that is seen as unjust or erroneous; to silence or extinguish a rumor or controversy
9. financial sc____e *n.* a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times

ANSWERS: 1. insidious, 2. circumference, 3. namesake, 4. sprawl, 5. Christ, 6. swelling, 7. blasphemy, 8. quash, 9. scribe

10. re_____nt our life *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
11. gr_____e with each other *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
12. sc__r the Internet *v.* to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically
13. grow ar_____nt *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
14. he__n migration *n.* a long-legged wading bird with a long, slender neck and bill, typically found near water and known for its ability to stand motionless for long periods while waiting to catch prey
15. lay si__e to his house *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
16. re_____nt local dishes *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
17. commit bl_____my *n.* action, attitude, or language that is offensive or shows a lack of respect for sacred character or religion
18. as_____d everyone *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
19. an ar_____nt attitude *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
20. pa_____s fragment *n.* a tall plant with thick stems that grow in or near water, especially in North Africa, or a document or piece of paper made of this plant, especially by ancient Egyptians

ANSWERS: 10. reinvent, 11. grapple, 12. scour, 13. arrogant, 14. heron, 15. siege, 16. reinvent, 17. blasphemy, 18. astound, 19. arrogant, 20. papyrus

21. co____r fatal disease *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
22. hostage si__e *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
23. the na____ke of her mother *n.* a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else
24. sc___e in ancient Egypt *n.* a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times
25. great blue he__n *n.* a long-legged wading bird with a long, slender neck and bill, typically found near water and known for its ability to stand motionless for long periods while waiting to catch prey
26. bl__e a trail *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously
27. sc__r a pot *v.* to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically
28. an emergency hea____er *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
29. cat____hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
30. gr____e with problem *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons

ANSWERS: 21. conquer, 22. siege, 23. namesake, 24. scribe, 25. heron, 26. blaze, 27. scour, 28. headquarter, 29. catastrophic, 30. grapple

31. administrative hea_____er *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
32. au_____us decision *adj.* showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
33. hard sw_____ng on the body *n.* an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury
34. in_____us behavior *adj.* tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way
35. sp___l out luxuriously on the sofa *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
36. as_____d the viewer *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
37. au_____us stunt *adj.* showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
38. qu__h a rebellion *v.* to suppress or put down forcibly, particularly a rebellion, protest, or opposition; to nullify or reject a decision, judgment, or ruling that is seen as unjust or erroneous; to silence or extinguish a rumor or controversy
39. bl__e with fury *v.* to burst into flame or light up intensely; to move in a trailblazing manner; to shine brightly or conspicuously

ANSWERS: 31. headquarter, 32. audacious, 33. swelling, 34. insidious, 35. sprawl, 36. astound, 37. audacious, 38. quash, 39. blaze

40. co_____r the world *v.* to bring under control by force or authority
41. angle of cir_____nce *n.* the distance around the outside of a circular or curved object or area
42. a document written on pa_____s *n.* a tall plant with thick stems that grow in or near water, especially in North Africa, or a document or piece of paper made of this plant, especially by ancient Egyptians
43. before Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
44. victim of cat_____hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

ANSWERS: 40. conquer, 41. circumference, 42. papyrus, 43. Christ, 44. catastrophic

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I love watching the graceful movements of _____ as they hunt for fish.
n. a long-legged wading bird with a long, slender neck and bill, typically found near water and known for its ability to stand motionless for long periods while waiting to catch prey
2. The lush vegetation _____ across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.
v. to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
3. Papers from a _____ found in the Middle East prove that ancient Egypt traded with neighboring countries.
n. a tall plant with thick stems that grow in or near water, especially in North Africa, or a document or piece of paper made of this plant, especially by ancient Egyptians
4. The young entrepreneur had an _____ plan to start his own company.
adj. showing a willingness to take bold risks or to do something that is considered unconventional or daring; marked by originality, creativity, or boldness
5. The company decided to move its _____ to New York City.
n. the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
6. He was so _____ that he thought he was always right.
adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
7. It is _____ to say such a thing.
n. action, attitude, or language that is offensive or shows a lack of respect for sacred character or religion

ANSWERS: 1. herons, 2. sprawls, 3. papyrus, 4. audacious, 5. headquarters, 6. arrogant, 7. blasphemy

8. The _____ of the earth is approximately 24,901 miles.
n. the distance around the outside of a circular or curved object or area
9. The final result was nothing short of _____.
v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
10. He needed to _____ with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.
v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
11. You must _____ your anxiety about driving.
v. to bring under control by force or authority
12. 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
13. People began storing up food and supplies for the _____.
n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
14. The _____ skills were in high demand in medieval times, when many people were illiterate.
n. a person who writes out copies of documents or manuscripts, especially in ancient times
15. The court decided to _____ the charges against the accused due to lack of evidence.
v. to suppress or put down forcibly, particularly a rebellion, protest, or opposition; to nullify or reject a decision, judgment, or ruling that is seen as unjust or erroneous; to silence or extinguish a rumor or controversy

ANSWERS: 8. circumference, 9. astounding, 10. grapple, 11. conquer, 12. blaze, 13. siege, 14. scribe's, 15. quash

16. He is my _____ but we're not related.

n. a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else

17. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was _____.

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

18. They have tried to _____ their grocery stores.

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

19. She had to _____ the kitchen to find a clean dish to use for dinner.

v. to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically

20. After intensive icing by the trainer, the _____ went down.

n. an abnormal local enlargement of a part of your body, mainly because of illness or injury

21. The disease has an _____ onset, making it difficult to diagnose.

adj. tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way

22. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

ANSWERS: 16. namesake, 17. catastrophic, 18. reinvent, 19. scour, 20. swelling, 21. insidious, 22. Christmas