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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mena Fombo: No. You cannot touch my hair! | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

clap

v. to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

synonym: applaud, spat, acclaim

(1) **clap** my hands, (2) **clap** a book shut

We **clapped** along with the singer's song.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

intrude

v. to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something

synonym: impose, obtrude, interlope

(1) **intrude** on his personal space, (2) **intrude** on other people's conversations

The loud music from the party next door **intruded** into my peaceful evening at home.

annoy

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

synonym: aggravate, irritate, unsettle

(1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else
Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

disproportionate

adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence

synonym : undeserved, unequal, superfluous

(1) cause **disproportionate** damage, (2) **disproportionate** amount

This big gate is **disproportionate** to the small hut.

puddle

n. a small pool of water, especially on a flat surface; a small and usually shallow accumulation of any liquid substance

synonym : pool, pond, small lake

(1) **puddle** of water, (2) step in a **puddle**

The rain had formed a large **puddle** on the sidewalk.

sibling

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

synonym : brother, sister, relative

(1) have a **sibling** quarrel, (2) play with my **siblings**

Children often copy their parents or elder **siblings**.

sponge

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

(1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500 million years.

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.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym: shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

stink

v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

synonym: reek, smell, odor

(1) **stink** up the place, (2) **stink** badly

The garbage in the alley began to **stink** after a few hot days.

mute

adj. silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated

synonym: silent, unspoken, voiceless

(1) **mute** button, (2) **mute** sound

The actor played a **mute** character and had to rely on facial expressions to portray his emotions.

rumor

n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym: gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false **rumor**, (2) **rumor** mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

headmaster

n. the chief administrator or principal of a school or educational institution, typically in charge of its daily

operation and management

synonym : principal, headmistress, director

(1) **headmaster** position, (2) former **headmaster**

The school's **headmaster** announced the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather.

knickers

n. a type of undergarment or shorts worn by women, typically covering the hips and thighs

synonym : breeches, shorts, pants

(1) **knickers** twister, (2) gym **knickers**

Students were required to wear short skirts and white **knickers** as part of the school uniform.

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.

furious

adj. extremely angry; full of rage

synonym : angry, rageful, livid

(1) **furious** anger, (2) a **furious** sea

The coach was **furious** with the players for their lack of effort during the game.

intrigue

v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone

synonym : attract, captivate, charm

(1) **intrigue** him, (2) **intrigue** against his rival

The artist's innovative style of work **intrigues** me.

plaster

n. a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements

synonym :

cement, adhesive, mortar

(1) daub the ceiling with **plaster**, (2) cracks in the **plaster**
Patience is the **plaster** of all sores.

fascination

n. the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

synonym: allure, attraction, charm

(1) rapt in **fascination**, (2) the **fascination** with classical music

I looked at the painting in **fascination**.

lad

n. a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way

synonym: boy, youth, youngster

(1) working-class **lad**, (2) local **lad**

The older man gave the young **lad** some helpful life advice.

chant

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

synonym: hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

straighten

v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned

synonym: even up, align, untangle

(1) **straighten** out a problem, (2) **straighten** a crooked picture

I need to **straighten** my hair before I go to the party.

relentless

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting

(1) **relentless** attack, (2) face **relentless** pressure

The athlete's **relentless** training paid off in the end.

braid

n. a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

synonym: plait, twist, weave

(1) **braid** hair, (2) elastic cord **braid**

She always wore her hair in a single **braid** down her back.

unequal

adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair

synonym: unfair, uneven, imbalanced

(1) **unequal** distribution, (2) **unequal** opportunity

The income inequality in the country is becoming increasingly **unequal**.

microaggression

n. a subtle or indirect form of discrimination or bias, often unintentional, that reinforces stereotypes or perpetuates prejudice; a seemingly minor comment or action that can harm someone's mental health or emotional well-being

(1) **microaggression** towards minorities,

(2) **microaggression** in the workplace

The expectation that women should do all the housework is a form of **microaggression**.

complacent

adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes

synonym: content, satisfied, self-satisfied

(1) **complacent** attitude, (2) **complacent** with past successes

He became **complacent** in his job and stopped trying to improve.

reaffirm

v. to state something again strongly to emphasize that it is still true

synonym: declare, acknowledge, advocate

(1) **reaffirm** a relationship, (2) **reaffirm** the basic points

The board member of the pharmaceutical company

reaffirmed the commitment to public health.

Session 2: Spelling

1. m__e sound *adj.* silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated
2. in____ue him *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
3. working-class l_d *n.* a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way
4. cause dis_____ate damage *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
5. com_____nt with past successes *adj.* satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes
6. hu_____te the heckler in the audience *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
7. re_____rm the basic points *v.* to state something again strongly to emphasize that it is still true
8. gym kn_____rs *n.* a type of undergarment or shorts worn by women, typically covering the hips and thighs
9. an__y everyone else *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
10. mic_____ion in the workplace *n.* a subtle or indirect form of discrimination or bias, often unintentional, that reinforces stereotypes or perpetuates prejudice; a seemingly minor comment or action that can harm someone's mental health or emotional well-being

ANSWERS: 1. mute, 2. intrigue, 3. lad, 4. disproportionate, 5. complacent, 6. humiliate, 7. reaffirm, 8. knickers, 9. annoy, 10. microaggression

11. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
12. str_____en a crooked picture *v.* to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
13. metallic sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
14. cracks in the pl_____r *n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
15. j__n denim *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
16. sea sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
17. str_____en out a problem *v.* to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
18. c__p my hands *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
19. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

ANSWERS: 11. confer, 12. straighten, 13. sponge, 14. plaster, 15. jean, 16. sponge, 17. straighten, 18. clap, 19. rumor

20. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
21. re_____rm a relationship *v.* to state something again strongly to emphasize that it is still true
22. ch__t in the chapel *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
23. un_____l distribution *adj.* different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
24. in_____e on his personal space *v.* to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something
25. c__p a book shut *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
26. face rel_____ss pressure *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
27. in_____ue against his rival *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
28. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
29. have a si_____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
30. daub the ceiling with pl_____r *n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements

ANSWERS: 20. embarrass, 21. reaffirm, 22. chant, 23. unequal, 24. intrude, 25. clap, 26. relentless, 27. intrigue, 28. fascinate, 29. sibling, 30. plaster

31. st__k badly *v.* to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
32. ru__r mill *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
33. m__e button *adj.* silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated
34. local l_d *n.* a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way
35. dis_____ate amount *adj.* too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
36. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
37. st__k up the place *v.* to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
38. kn_____rs twister *n.* a type of undergarment or shorts worn by women, typically covering the hips and thighs
39. a fu_____s sea *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
40. pu___e of water *n.* a small pool of water, especially on a flat surface; a small and usually shallow accumulation of any liquid substance
41. step in a pu___e *n.* a small pool of water, especially on a flat surface; a small and usually shallow accumulation of any liquid substance

ANSWERS: 31. stink, 32. rumor, 33. mute, 34. lad, 35. disproportionate, 36. fascinate, 37. stink, 38. knickers, 39. furious, 40. puddle, 41. puddle

42. elastic cord br__d *n.* a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration
43. rapt in fas_____on *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
44. un_____l opportunity *adj.* different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
45. mic_____ion towards minorities *n.* a subtle or indirect form of discrimination or bias, often unintentional, that reinforces stereotypes or perpetuates prejudice; a seemingly minor comment or action that can harm someone's mental health or emotional well-being
46. br__d hair *n.* a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration
47. fu_____s anger *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
48. the fas_____on with classical music *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

ANSWERS: 42. braid, 43. fascination, 44. unequal, 45. microaggression, 46. braid, 47. furious, 48. fascination

49. hu_____te him publicly *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
50. rel_____ss attack *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
51. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
52. com_____nt attitude *adj.* satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes
53. hea_____er position *n.* the chief administrator or principal of a school or educational institution, typically in charge of its daily operation and management
54. ch__t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
55. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
56. a j__n skirt *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
57. an__y at the time *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
58. former hea_____er *n.* the chief administrator or principal of a school or educational institution, typically in charge of its daily operation and management

ANSWERS: 49. humiliate, 50. relentless, 51. embarrass, 52. complacent, 53. headmaster, 54. chant, 55. confer, 56. jean, 57. annoy, 58. headmaster

59. play with my si____gs

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

60. in____e on other people's conversations

v. to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something

ANSWERS: 59. sibling, 60. intrude

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The board member of the pharmaceutical company _____ the commitment to public health.
v. to state something again strongly to emphasize that it is still true
2. She wore her favorite pair of _____ to the party.
n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
3. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
4. This big gate is _____ to the small hut.
adj. too large or too small when compared with something else, or not deserving its importance or influence
5. The artist's innovative style of work _____ me.
v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
6. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
7. The income inequality in the country is becoming increasingly _____.
adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
8. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

ANSWERS: 1. reaffirmed, 2. jeans, 3. siblings, 4. disproportionate, 5. intrigues, 6. fascinated, 7. unequal, 8. humiliated

9. The actor played a _____ character and had to rely on facial expressions to portray his emotions.

adj. silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated

10. She always wore her hair in a single _____ down her back.

n. a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

11. He became _____ in his job and stopped trying to improve.

adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes

12. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

13. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

14. The soccer game crowd broke into a _____ of "Go, team, go!"

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

15. The athlete's _____ training paid off in the end.

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

16. Students were required to wear short skirts and white _____ as part of the school uniform.

n. a type of undergarment or shorts worn by women, typically covering the hips and thighs

ANSWERS: 9. mute, 10. braid, 11. complacent, 12. annoy, 13. confer, 14. chant, 15. relentless, 16. knickers

17. There was a baseless _____ that the company was going bankrupt.
n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
18. Patience is the _____ of all sores.
n. a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
19. The coach was _____ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.
adj. extremely angry; full of rage
20. The school's _____ announced the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather.
n. the chief administrator or principal of a school or educational institution, typically in charge of its daily operation and management
21. The rain had formed a large _____ on the sidewalk.
n. a small pool of water, especially on a flat surface; a small and usually shallow accumulation of any liquid substance
22. The older man gave the young ____ some helpful life advice.
n. a young boy or man, often used in an informal or affectionate way
23. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
24. I looked at the painting in _____.
n. the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

ANSWERS: 17. rumor, 18. plaster, 19. furious, 20. headmaster, 21. puddle, 22. lad, 23. embarrass, 24. fascination

25. The loud music from the party next door _____ into my peaceful evening at home.

- v. to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something

26. The garbage in the alley began to _____ after a few hot days.

- v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

27. We _____ along with the singer's song.

- v. to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

28. The tiny marine _____ has existed for more than 500 million years.

- n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

29. The expectation that women should do all the housework is a form of _____.

- n. a subtle or indirect form of discrimination or bias, often unintentional, that reinforces stereotypes or perpetuates prejudice; a seemingly minor comment or action that can harm someone's mental health or emotional well-being

30. I need to _____ my hair before I go to the party.

- v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned

ANSWERS: 25. intruded, 26. stink, 27. clapped, 28. sponge, 29. microaggression, 30. straighten