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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

descend

v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood

synonym: dip, drop, come down

(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator

She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.

mantra

n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation

synonym: hymn, chant, phrase

(1) campaign **mantra**, (2) chant the **mantra** of structural reform

She repeated her personal **mantra** to herself to stay motivated.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

glamorous

adj. highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people

synonym: alluring, bewitching, enchanting

(1) **glamorous** movie stars, (2) cast **glamorous** eyes

The south coast is less **glamorous** yet has many clean and appealing hotels.

horrify

v. to shock or disgust greatly

synonym: shock, dismay, terrify

(1) **horrify** audience, (2) **horrify** victims

The series of terrorist attacks **horrify** the entire nation.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

impediment

n. a hindrance or obstruction in doing something

synonym: obstacle, hindrance, barrier

(1) have a speech **impediment**, (2) biological **impediment**

The language barrier was an **impediment** to their communication.

pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

synonym: articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name

She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

jumble

v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things

synonym: mix, scramble, mess up

(1) **jumble** in some herbs and spices, (2) **jumble** together different colors

The children **jumbled** up the puzzle pieces and had to start over.

stumble

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
synonym: bumble, struggle, misstep

(1) **stumble** financially, (2) **stumble** through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

mumble

v. to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately

synonym: murmur, mutter, whisper

(1) **mumble** a reply, (2) **mumble** under your breath

She tended to **mumble** when she was nervous or unsure of herself.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

irritate

v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore

synonym: annoy, vex, bother

(1) **irritate** skin, (2) **irritate** my partner

The sound of his chewing loudly **irritates** me during dinner.

rectangle

n. a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length

synonym: oblong, square, quadrangle

(1) orthogonal **rectangle**, (2) **rectangle** box

The living room had a **rectangle-shaped** coffee table in the center of it.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym: in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over

the schedule.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

preoccupied

adj. having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy

synonym: absorbed, engrossed, occupied

(1) **preoccupied** idea, (2) **preoccupied** with other things

He was **preoccupied** with work and didn't notice me.

tyrant

n. a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person

synonym: despot, dictator, autocrat

(1) a domestic **tyrant**, (2) **tyrant** regime

The **tyrant's** rule was marked by oppression and fear.

phenomenal

adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding

synonym: extraordinary, remarkable, impressive

(1) **phenomenal** success, (2) **phenomenal** growth

The athlete's **phenomenal** performance broke all previous records.

polity

n. a form or system of government or administration; a political organization or entity

synonym: government, regime, state

(1) national **polity**, (2) civic **polity**

A local council governs the **polity** of the small town.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

hew v. to chop or cut something, particularly wood, with an ax or other tool; to shape, carve, or form something using a sharp tool
synonym : cut, chop, carve
(1) **hew** my way through effort, (2) **hew** out a cave
He used a chisel to **hew** the wood into the shape of a bird.

sonnet n. a 14-line poem, typically with a formal rhyme scheme
synonym : poetic form, 14-line verse
(1) **sonnet** poetry, (2) Shakespeare's **sonnets**
The poet wrote a **sonnet** to express his love for his wife.

huddle v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
synonym : cluster, crowd, group
(1) **huddle** in a temporary shelter, (2) **huddle** around the open fire
The children **huddled** together for warmth in the cold winter storm.

yearn v. to strongly desire or long for something
synonym : long, desire, crave
(1) **yearn** after my old days, (2) **yearn** for love
She **yearned** for the days when things were simpler.

poetic *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
synonym : literary, verse-like, rhythmic
(1) **poetic** genius, (2) **poetic** justice
The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a **poetic** scene from a movie.

daring *adj.* brave and taking risks
synonym : audacious, bold, venturesome
(1) **daring** escape, (2) make a **daring** face
Her choices become increasingly **daring** and creative.

boulder

n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

synonym: rock, stone, clump

(1) **boulder** field, (2) lava **boulder**

The hikers had to climb over a **boulder** that was blocking their path.

strum

v. to play a stringed instrument, typically a guitar or banjo by sweeping or plucking the strings with one's fingers; to sound or produce a musical note or chord by doing so

synonym: pluck, pick, play

(1) **strum** a ukulele, (2) **strum** chords

He loved to **strum** his guitar while singing his favorite songs.

rhyme

n. a word or phrase that has the same last sound as another word or phrase, often used in poetry and songwriting

synonym: verse, poetry, meter

(1) **rhyme** poem, (2) write in **rhyme**

The poem had a consistent **rhyme** scheme throughout.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ter_____ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
2. st_____e through life *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
3. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
4. pr_____ce a name *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
5. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
6. ho_____y victims *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
7. the threats te_____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
8. pr_____ce a judgment *v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
9. orthogonal re_____le *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
10. mu_____e a reply *v.* to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately
11. st__m a ukulele *v.* to play a stringed instrument, typically a guitar or banjo by sweeping or plucking the strings with one's fingers; to sound or produce a musical note or chord by doing so
12. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 1. terrifying, 2. stumble, 3. bury, 4. pronounce, 5. terrifying, 6. horrify, 7. terrify, 8. pronounce, 9. rectangle, 10. mumble, 11. strum, 12. ancestor

13. pre_____ed with other things *adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy
14. lava bo_____r *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
15. de_____d by elevator *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
16. pre_____ed idea *adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy
17. ye__n after my old days *v.* to strongly desire or long for something
18. po____c genius *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
19. st_____e financially *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
20. Shakespeare's so____ts *n.* a 14-line poem, typically with a formal rhyme scheme
21. have a speech imp_____nt *n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
22. bo_____r field *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
23. make a da____g face *adj.* brave and taking risks
24. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
25. st__m chords *v.* to play a stringed instrument, typically a guitar or banjo by sweeping or plucking the strings with one's fingers; to sound or produce a musical note or chord by doing so

ANSWERS: 13. preoccupied, 14. boulder, 15. descend, 16. preoccupied, 17. yearn, 18. poetic, 19. stumble, 20. sonnet, 21. impediment, 22. boulder, 23. daring, 24. storytelling, 25. strum

26. da___g escape *adj.* brave and taking risks
27. rh__e poem *n.* a word or phrase that has the same last sound as another word or phrase, often used in poetry and songwriting
28. cast gl_____us eyes *adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
29. campaign ma___a *n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
30. phe_____al success *adj.* extremely good or impressive; outstanding
31. ju___e in some herbs and spices *v.* to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
32. gl_____us movie stars *adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
33. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
34. po___c justice *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
35. mu___e under your breath *v.* to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately
36. hu___e around the open fire *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle

ANSWERS: 26. daring, 27. rhyme, 28. glamorous, 29. mantra, 30. phenomenal, 31. jumble, 32. glamorous, 33. storytelling, 34. poetic, 35. mumble, 36. huddle

37. ju___e together different colors *v.* to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
38. re_____le box *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
39. national po___y *n.* a form or system of government or administration; a political organization or entity
40. se_____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
41. so___t poetry *n.* a 14-line poem, typically with a formal rhyme scheme
42. ty___t regime *n.* a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person
43. ir_____te skin *v.* to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
44. ir_____te my partner *v.* to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
45. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
46. a domestic ty___t *n.* a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person

ANSWERS: 37. jumble, 38. rectangle, 39. polity, 40. secondly, 41. sonnet, 42. tyrant, 43. irritate, 44. irritate, 45. ancestor, 46. tyrant

47. h_w out a cave *v.* to chop or cut something, particularly wood, with an ax or other tool; to shape, carve, or form something using a sharp tool
48. write in rh__e *n.* a word or phrase that has the same last sound as another word or phrase, often used in poetry and songwriting
49. h_w my way through effort *v.* to chop or cut something, particularly wood, with an ax or other tool; to shape, carve, or form something using a sharp tool
50. chant the ma___a of structural reform *n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
51. de____d a steep hill *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
52. hu___e in a temporary shelter *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
53. se____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
54. ho____y audience *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
55. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
56. ye__n for love *v.* to strongly desire or long for something
57. biological imp____nt *n.* a hindrance or obstruction in doing something

ANSWERS: 47. hew, 48. rhyme, 49. hew, 50. mantra, 51. descend, 52. huddle, 53. secondly, 54. horrify, 55. bury, 56. yearn, 57. impediment

58. te____y people

v. to frighten someone very much

59. phe_____al growth

adj. extremely good or impressive;
outstanding

60. civic po____y

n. a form or system of government or
administration; a political organization
or entity

ANSWERS: 58. terrify, 59. phenomenal, 60. polity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The series of terrorist attacks _____ the entire nation.
v. to shock or disgust greatly
2. He loved to _____ his guitar while singing his favorite songs.
v. to play a stringed instrument, typically a guitar or banjo by sweeping or plucking the strings with one's fingers; to sound or produce a musical note or chord by doing so
3. A local council governs the _____ of the small town.
n. a form or system of government or administration; a political organization or entity
4. She _____ over the tree root.
v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
5. He was _____ with work and didn't notice me.
adj. having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy
6. She was _____ from an old Italian noble family.
v. to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
7. The _____ rule was marked by oppression and fear.
n. a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person
8. She struggled to _____ the word in a foreign language.
v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

ANSWERS: 1. horrify, 2. strum, 3. polity, 4. stumbled, 5. preoccupied, 6. descended, 7. tyrant's, 8. pronounce

9. The children _____ together for warmth in the cold winter storm.
v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
10. She repeated her personal _____ to herself to stay motivated.
n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
11. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
v. to frighten someone very much
12. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.
adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
13. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
14. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories
15. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
adj. very frightening or intimidating
16. He used a chisel to ____ the wood into the shape of a bird.
v. to chop or cut something, particularly wood, with an ax or other tool; to shape, carve, or form something using a sharp tool
17. The poem had a consistent _____ scheme throughout.
n. a word or phrase that has the same last sound as another word or phrase, often used in poetry and songwriting

ANSWERS: 9. huddled, 10. mantra, 11. terrify, 12. secondly, 13. ancestor, 14. storytelling, 15. terrifying, 16. hew, 17. rhyme

18. The language barrier was an _____ to their communication.
n. a hindrance or obstruction in doing something
19. The south coast is less _____ yet has many clean and appealing hotels.
adj. highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
20. The poet wrote a _____ to express his love for his wife.
n. a 14-line poem, typically with a formal rhyme scheme
21. The children _____ up the puzzle pieces and had to start over.
v. to mix or mingle various items, objects, or ideas together in a disordered or confused way, often resulting in a messy or chaotic situation; to create a disorderly or confusing arrangement of things
22. Her choices become increasingly _____ and creative.
adj. brave and taking risks
23. The sound of his chewing loudly _____ me during dinner.
v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
24. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
25. The athlete's _____ performance broke all previous records.
adj. extremely good or impressive; outstanding
26. She _____ for the days when things were simpler.
v. to strongly desire or long for something

ANSWERS: 18. impediment, 19. glamorous, 20. sonnet, 21. jumbled, 22. daring, 23. irritates, 24. bury, 25. phenomenal, 26. yearned

27. The hikers had to climb over a _____ that was blocking their path.
- n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
28. She tended to _____ when she was nervous or unsure of herself.
- v.* to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately
29. The living room had a _____ coffee table in the center of it.
- n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
30. The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a _____ scene from a movie.
- adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

ANSWERS: 27. boulder, 28. mumble, 29. rectangle-shaped, 30. poetic