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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: The myth of Sisyphus | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

inflict

v. to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something

synonym: impose, levy, administer

(1) **inflict** a heavier tax, (2) **inflict** a hard blow

The storm **inflicted** significant damage on the town.

gruesome

adj. causing horror or disgust

synonym: appalling, horrific, terrible

(1) hear **gruesome** details, (2) **gruesome** accident

The **gruesome** crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym: agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

prosperous

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

synonym: successful, thriving, affluent

(1) **prosperous** weather, (2) **prosperous** nation

The company decided to invest in a **prosperous** industry.

devious

adj. cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
synonym: cunning, deceitful, tricky

(1) **devious** plot, (2) use **devious** methods

The **devious** plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.

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.

seduce

v. to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship

synonym: tempt, lure, entice

(1) **seduce** him into crime, (2) **seduce** her mind

He tried to **seduce** her with his charm and good looks.

niece

n. a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law

(1) a bouncing **niece**, (2) play with her **niece**

My **niece** is a talented artist who has won several awards for her drawings.

reckless

adj. marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions

synonym: impetuous, irresponsible, thoughtless

(1) **reckless** driving, (2) in a **reckless** manner

Reckless youth makes rueful age.

kidnapping

n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

synonym: abduction, snatch, kidnap

(1) **kidnapping** attempt, (2) mass **kidnapping**

She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated **kidnapping**.

nymph

n. (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform

synonym : sprite, fairy, pixie

(1) **nymph** of the woods, (2) water **nymph**

The sea **nymphs** were said to lure sailors with their seductive voices.

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.

underworld

n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

synonym : hell, netherworld, underworld

(1) god of the **underworld**, (2) criminal **underworld**

The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the **underworld**, where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.

crafty

adj. skilled in deception or trickery; sly or cunning in the ways of achieving a goal

synonym : sly, cunning, wily

(1) **crafty** plan, (2) **crafty** manipulation

The **crafty** fox could outsmart the birds and catch them for his dinner.

imprison

v. to confine a person to a prison, a detention facility, or a place of involuntary confinement

synonym : incarcerate, detain, confine

(1) **imprison** illegal immigrant, (2) **imprison** myself within the room

He was **imprisoned** for embezzlement.

reckon

v. to think or believe something
synonym : regard, imagine, suppose

(1) hard to **reckon**, (2) **reckon** the company as a rival
He **reckons** that corruption was rampant in the regime.

disrespect

n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something

synonym : impoliteness, rudeness, insult

(1) mean no **disrespect**, (2) **disrespect** for a customer
His **disrespectful** behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym : joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**
The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

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.

condemn

v. to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
synonym : criticize, denounce, censure

(1) **condemn** violence, (2) **condemn** crime
The government was **condemned** for its handling of the crisis.

endlessly

adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

synonym : ceaselessly, interminably, unceasingly

(1) repeat **endlessly**, (2) worry **endlessly** about our future

The procession of demonstrators was **endlessly** continuing.

futile

adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

synonym : useless, worthless, ineffective

(1) **futile** talk, (2) make a **futile** protest

It was **futile** to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym : echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

allegory

n. a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals

synonym : fable, apologue, parable

(1) political **allegory**, (2) subtle, multivalent **allegory**

By using this **allegory**, we can teach moral lessons.

meaningless

adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

synonym : pointless, absurd, senseless

(1) a **meaningless** endeavor, (2) do a **meaningless** task

This experiment's results are **meaningless** because the other conditions are not identical.

indifferent

adj. having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral

synonym : apathetic, disinterested, unmoved

(1) an **indifferent** glance, (2) emotionally **indifferent**

Despite the good news, she remained **indifferent** to the situation.

defiant

adj. showing bold resistance or disobedience to authority, rules, or norms

synonym :

rebellious, disobedient, insubordinate

(1) a **defiant** attitude, (2) **defiant** eye

The **defiant** student refused to follow the teacher's instructions and continued to talk during class.

Session 2: Spelling

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. mass kid_____ng | <i>n.</i> the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive |
| 2. di_____b the peace | <i>v.</i> to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc. |
| 3. silly p_n | <i>n.</i> a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay |
| 4. play with her ni__e | <i>n.</i> a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law |
| 5. political al_____ry | <i>n.</i> a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals |
| 6. emotionally ind_____nt | <i>adj.</i> having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral |
| 7. cr____y manipulation | <i>adj.</i> skilled in deception or trickery; sly or cunning in the ways of achieving a goal |
| 8. an ind_____nt glance | <i>adj.</i> having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral |
| 9. pro_____us nation | <i>adj.</i> successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune |
| 10. in_____t a hard blow | <i>v.</i> to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something |

ANSWERS: 1. kidnapping, 2. disturb, 3. pun, 4. niece, 5. allegory, 6. indifferent, 7. crafty, 8. indifferent, 9. prosperous, 10. inflict

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. a domestic ty___t | <i>n.</i> a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person |
| 12. de____s plot | <i>adj.</i> cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky |
| 13. bo____r field | <i>n.</i> a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion |
| 14. deeply re____te with the consumers | <i>v.</i> to be filled with a deep echoing sound |
| 15. a mea____ss endeavor | <i>adj.</i> having no meaning, direction, or purpose |
| 16. hear gr____me details | <i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust |
| 17. subtle, multivalent al____ry | <i>n.</i> a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals |
| 18. a fu____s sea | <i>adj.</i> extremely angry; full of rage |
| 19. kid____ng attempt | <i>n.</i> the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive |
| 20. fu____s anger | <i>adj.</i> extremely angry; full of rage |
| 21. se___e him into crime | <i>v.</i> to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship |
| 22. dis____ct for a customer | <i>n.</i> an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something |
| 23. re___n the company as a rival | <i>v.</i> to think or believe something |

ANSWERS: 11. tyrant, 12. devious, 13. boulder, 14. resonate, 15. meaningless, 16. gruesome, 17. allegory, 18. furious, 19. kidnapping, 20. furious, 21. seduce, 22. disrespect, 23. reckon

24. gr____me accident *adj.* causing horror or disgust
25. se____e her mind *v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
26. hard to re____n *v.* to think or believe something
27. make a fu____e protest *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
28. in a re____ss manner *adj.* marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
29. a de____t attitude *adj.* showing bold resistance or disobedience to authority, rules, or norms
30. ny__h of the woods *n.* (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform
31. de____t eye *adj.* showing bold resistance or disobedience to authority, rules, or norms
32. repeat en____ly *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
33. use de____s methods *adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
34. co____n violence *v.* to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
35. god of the und____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

ANSWERS: 24. gruesome, 25. seduce, 26. reckon, 27. futile, 28. reckless, 29. defiant, 30. nymph, 31. defiant, 32. endlessly, 33. devious, 34. condemn, 35. underworld

36. mean no dis_____ct *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
37. do a mea_____ss task *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
38. water ny__h *n.* (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform
39. in_____t a heavier tax *v.* to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something
40. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
41. worry en_____ly about our future *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
42. im_____on myself within the room *v.* to confine a person to a prison, a detention facility, or a place of involuntary confinement
43. co_____n crime *v.* to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
44. criminal und_____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
45. pro_____us weather *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
46. fu___e talk *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
47. di_____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

ANSWERS: 36. disrespect, 37. meaningless, 38. nymph, 39. inflict, 40. pun, 41. endlessly, 42. imprison, 43. condemn, 44. underworld, 45. prosperous, 46. futile, 47. disturb

48. im____on illegal immigrant *v.* to confine a person to a prison, a detention facility, or a place of involuntary confinement
49. cr____y plan *adj.* skilled in deception or trickery; sly or cunning in the ways of achieving a goal
50. ty____t regime *n.* a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person
51. re____ss driving *adj.* marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
52. a bouncing ni__e *n.* a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
53. lava bo____r *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
54. re____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound

ANSWERS: 48. imprison, 49. crafty, 50. tyrant, 51. reckless, 52. niece, 53. boulder, 54. resonate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ fox could outsmart the birds and catch them for his dinner.
adj. skilled in deception or trickery; sly or cunning in the ways of achieving a goal
2. The sound _____ well in this theater.
v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
3. The sea _____ were said to lure sailors with their seductive voices.
n. (in Greek and Roman mythology) a minor female nature deity typically associated with a particular location or landform
4. She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated _____.
n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
5. He tried to _____ her with his charm and good looks.
v. to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
6. He was _____ for embezzlement.
v. to confine a person to a prison, a detention facility, or a place of involuntary confinement
7. The procession of demonstrators was _____ continuing.
adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
8. The coach was _____ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.
adj. extremely angry; full of rage

ANSWERS: 1. crafty, 2. resonates, 3. nymphs, 4. kidnapping, 5. seduce, 6. imprisoned, 7. endlessly, 8. furious

9. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
10. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
11. Despite the good news, she remained _____ to the situation.
adj. having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral
12. He _____ that corruption was rampant in the regime.
v. to think or believe something
13. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.
adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose
14. It was _____ to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.
adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
15. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.
adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
16. The _____ rule was marked by oppression and fear.
n. a ruler who uses their power cruelly and oppressively; a cruel and oppressive person
17. _____ youth makes rueful age.
adj. marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions

ANSWERS: 9. disturb, 10. pun, 11. indifferent, 12. reckons, 13. meaningless, 14. futile, 15. prosperous, 16. tyrant's, 17. Reckless

18. My _____ is a talented artist who has won several awards for her drawings.
n. a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
19. The government was _____ for its handling of the crisis.
v. to express strong disapproval or criticism of something
20. The _____ crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.
adj. causing horror or disgust
21. The _____ student refused to follow the teacher's instructions and continued to talk during class.
adj. showing bold resistance or disobedience to authority, rules, or norms
22. 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
23. His _____ behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.
n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
24. By using this _____ we can teach moral lessons.
n. a story, play, picture, etc. in which the characters and events represent religious or political values, concepts, or morals
25. The _____ plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.
adj. cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
26. The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the _____ where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.
n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

ANSWERS: 18. niece, 19. condemned, 20. gruesome, 21. defiant, 22. boulder, 23. disrespectful, 24. allegory, 25. devious, 26. underworld,

27. The storm _____ significant damage on the town.

v. to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something

ANSWERS: 27. inflicted