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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kate Wagner: I hate McMansions -- and you should too | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

inbox

n. an electronic folder on a computer or phone where new emails, text messages, etc., that are sent to you are kept

(1) **inbox** full of emails, (2) **inbox** folder

After you register, you will receive an email with a coupon shortly in your **inbox**.

oversize

adj. larger than the normal or standard size

synonym: large, big, excessive

(1) **oversize** tire, (2) **oversize** bag

The **oversize** jacket was too big for her, but she still wore it because she liked the style.

chandelier

n. a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls

(1) twinkling **chandelier**, (2) **chandelier-lit** room

This room had a **chandelier** glittering with crystals

kaleidoscope

n. a toy or optical instrument made up of mirrors and pieces of colored glass or plastic, which produce changing patterns and images when rotated; a constantly changing succession of different things or events

(1) **kaleidoscope** of cultures, (2) **kaleidoscope** pattern

The **kaleidoscope** of colors in the sunset was breathtaking.

cheaply

adv. in a stingy or inexpensive manner

synonym : inexpensively, tattily, stingily

(1) **cheaply** available, (2) buy stock **cheaply**

You can live very **cheaply** in Southeast Asia.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym : wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

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.

impeccable

adj. without flaw or fault; perfect or flawless; incapable of doing wrong or making mistakes; of the highest quality or standards

synonym : flawless, perfect, ideal

(1) **impeccable** reputation, (2) **impeccable** taste

His **impeccable** manners and appearance made him stand out from the rest of the guests.

gatekeeper

n. a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

synonym : guardian, watchman, custodian

(1) **gatekeeper** role, (2) information **gatekeeper**

The company's **gatekeeper screened** all incoming phone calls and emails to ensure only important ones reached the

boss.

deregulation

n. the process of reducing or removing government regulations and restrictions in a particular industry or sector, often to promote competition and reduce costs
synonym : liberalization

(1) **deregulation** of the economy, (2) aviation **deregulation**
The government's **deregulation** of the telecommunications industry led to increased competition.

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**.

cathedral

n. the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
synonym : church, basilica, temple

(1) **cathedral** school, (2) **cathedral** choir
The **cathedral's** stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.

interweave

v. to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle
synonym : intertwine, intertwist, interlace

(1) **interweave** threads, (2) **interweave** ideas
The author expertly tried to **interweave** the story's plot and characters.

recession

n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
synonym : downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**
The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

postmodern

adj. relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation

synonym : contemporary, poststructural, relativistic

(1) **postmodern** art, (2) **postmodern** anthropology

The **postmodern** architecture of the building was a contrast to the traditional designs in the neighborhood.

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.

acoustics

n. a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound

(1) specialize in **acoustics**, (2) the engineer of **acoustics**

The physicist specializes in **acoustics**.

snark

n. sarcastic or cutting remarks or comments intended to ridicule or undermine someone, often with a tone of superiority or disdain

synonym : criticism, sarcasm, irony

(1) media **snark**, (2) political **snark**

She couldn't resist adding a little **snark** to her online comment.

ginormous

adj. (combination of "gigantic" and "enormous") extremely large

synonym : huge, gigantic, mammoth

(1) **ginormous** elephant, (2) **ginormous** skyscraper

The construction site was filled with **ginormous** pieces of heavy machinery.

perpetuate

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time
synonym: eternalize, preserve, maintain

(1) **perpetuate** a myth, (2) **perpetuate** chronic pain

That work **perpetuates** his fame.

shove

v. to push someone or something in a rough way
synonym: push, jab, elbow

(1) **shove** a person aside, (2) **shove** hamburger into my mouth

He forcibly **shoved** the flyer into my bag.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. per_____te chronic pain *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
2. sh__e a person aside *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
3. imp_____le taste *adj.* without flaw or fault; perfect or flawless; incapable of doing wrong or making mistakes; of the highest quality or standards
4. pos_____rn art *adj.* relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation
5. gi_____us elephant *adj.* (combination of "gigantic" and "enormous") extremely large
6. re_____on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
7. technical ma____l *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
8. play with my si_____gs *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
9. int_____ve threads *v.* to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle

ANSWERS: 1. perpetuate, 2. shove, 3. impeccable, 4. postmodern, 5. ginormous, 6. recession, 7. marvel, 8. sibling, 9. interweave

10. per_____te a myth *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
11. ov_____ze bag *adj.* larger than the normal or standard size
12. gat_____er role *n.* a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest
13. media sn__k *n.* sarcastic or cutting remarks or comments intended to ridicule or undermine someone, often with a tone of superiority or disdain
14. have a si_____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
15. der_____ion of the economy *n.* the process of reducing or removing government regulations and restrictions in a particular industry or sector, often to promote competition and reduce costs
16. ov_____ze tire *adj.* larger than the normal or standard size
17. political sn__k *n.* sarcastic or cutting remarks or comments intended to ridicule or undermine someone, often with a tone of superiority or disdain
18. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
19. dis_____ct for a customer *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something

ANSWERS: 10. perpetuate, 11. oversize, 12. gatekeeper, 13. snark, 14. sibling, 15. deregulation, 16. oversize, 17. snark, 18. empower, 19. disrespect

20. specialize in ac_____cs *n.* a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound
21. gi_____us skyscraper *adj.* (combination of "gigantic" and "enormous") extremely large
22. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
23. sh__e hamburger into my mouth *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
24. the engineer of ac_____cs *n.* a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound
25. ch_____y available *adv.* in a stingy or inexpensive manner
26. imp_____le reputation *adj.* without flaw or fault; perfect or flawless; incapable of doing wrong or making mistakes; of the highest quality or standards
27. cha_____er-lit room *n.* a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls
28. mean no dis_____ct *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
29. aviation der_____ion *n.* the process of reducing or removing government regulations and restrictions in a particular industry or sector, often to promote competition and reduce costs

ANSWERS: 20. acoustics, 21. ginormous, 22. opportune, 23. shove, 24. acoustics, 25. cheaply, 26. impeccable, 27. chandelier, 28. disrespect, 29. deregulation

30. kal_____ope of cultures *n.* a toy or optical instrument made up of mirrors and pieces of colored glass or plastic, which produce changing patterns and images when rotated; a constantly changing succession of different things or events
31. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
32. a ma___l of beauty *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
33. in__x full of emails *n.* an electronic folder on a computer or phone where new emails, text messages, etc., that are sent to you are kept
34. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
35. kal_____ope pattern *n.* a toy or optical instrument made up of mirrors and pieces of colored glass or plastic, which produce changing patterns and images when rotated; a constantly changing succession of different things or events
36. information gat_____er *n.* a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

ANSWERS: 30. kaleidoscope, 31. opportune, 32. marvel, 33. inbox, 34. empower, 35. kaleidoscope, 36. gatekeeper

37. pos_____rn anthropology *adj.* relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation
38. twinkling cha_____er *n.* a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls
39. int_____ve ideas *v.* to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle
40. ca_____al choir *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
41. recover from a re_____on *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
42. ca_____al school *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
43. buy stock ch_____y *adv.* in a stingy or inexpensive manner
44. in__x folder *n.* an electronic folder on a computer or phone where new emails, text messages, etc., that are sent to you are kept

ANSWERS: 37. postmodern, 38. chandelier, 39. interweave, 40. cathedral, 41. recession, 42. cathedral, 43. cheaply, 44. inbox

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of colors in the sunset was breathtaking.
n. a toy or optical instrument made up of mirrors and pieces of colored glass or plastic, which produce changing patterns and images when rotated; a constantly changing succession of different things or events
2. She couldn't resist adding a little _____ to her online comment.
n. sarcastic or cutting remarks or comments intended to ridicule or undermine someone, often with a tone of superiority or disdain
3. That work _____ his fame.
v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time
4. He forcibly _____ the flyer into my bag.
v. to push someone or something in a rough way
5. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
6. 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
7. After you register, you will receive an email with a coupon shortly in your _____.
n. an electronic folder on a computer or phone where new emails, text messages, etc., that are sent to you are kept
8. 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

ANSWERS: 1. kaleidoscope, 2. snark, 3. perpetuates, 4. shoved, 5. siblings, 6. disrespectful, 7. inbox, 8. empowered

9. The country is facing a _____ with high unemployment and low GDP.
n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
10. The physicist specializes in _____.
n. a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound
11. The construction site was filled with _____ pieces of heavy machinery.
adj. (combination of "gigantic" and "enormous") extremely large
12. The government's _____ of the telecommunications industry led to increased competition.
n. the process of reducing or removing government regulations and restrictions in a particular industry or sector, often to promote competition and reduce costs
13. The author expertly tried to _____ the story's plot and characters.
v. to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle
14. The _____ architecture of the building was a contrast to the traditional designs in the neighborhood.
adj. relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation
15. His _____ manners and appearance made him stand out from the rest of the guests.
adj. without flaw or fault; perfect or flawless; incapable of doing wrong or making mistakes; of the highest quality or standards

ANSWERS: 9. recession, 10. acoustics, 11. ginormous, 12. deregulation, 13. interweave, 14. postmodern, 15. impeccable

16. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.
- n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
17. The _____ jacket was too big for her, but she still wore it because she liked the style.
- adj.* larger than the normal or standard size
18. The _____ stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.
- n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
19. You can live very _____ in Southeast Asia.
- adv.* in a stingy or inexpensive manner
20. This room had a _____ glittering with crystals
- n.* a branched decorative light fixture designed to be mounted on ceilings or walls
21. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
22. The company's _____ all incoming phone calls and emails to ensure only important ones reached the boss.
- n.* a person, organization, or system that controls or monitors access to something, often a website, database, or institution; a person or group that controls or regulates access to information, especially for a particular perspective or interest

ANSWERS: 16. marvel, 17. oversize, 18. cathedral's, 19. cheaply, 20. chandelier, 21. opportune, 22. gatekeeper screened