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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Gene Luen Yang: Comics belong in the classroom |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

voracious

adj. having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

synonym: ravenous, insatiable, greedy

(1) **voracious** thirst, (2) **voracious** reader

The **voracious** appetite of the teenager was legendary.

instinctively

adv. as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training

synonym: inherently, intuitively, naturally

(1) **instinctively** grabbed the knife, (2) **instinctively** bad with children

Some researchers claim that even humans can **instinctively** sense earthquakes.

cachet

n. a mark or emblem that signifies prestige, quality, or value; a seal or stamp used to guarantee the authenticity

synonym: prestige, seal, stamp

(1) **cachet** of luxury, (2) social **cachet**

The prestigious university had a **cachet** attracting top students and faculty worldwide.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

yang

n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

synonym: masculine, positive, active

(1) the **yang** principle, (2) embody **yang** energy

He saw the balance between the yin and **yang** as crucial for a harmonious life.

hulk

n. a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility

synonym: wreck, ruins, giant

(1) **hulk** of a warehouse, (2) **hulk-like** strength

The shipwreck's **hulk** lay scattered along the shore.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym: intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**

When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

firsthand

adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

synonym: direct

(1) hear customer's voices **firsthand**, (2) conduct **firsthand** research

The manager tried to hear customers' voices **firsthand**.

videotape

n. a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape

synonym : videocassette, tape, recording

(1) **videotape** evidence, (2) rewind **videotape**

We watched a **videotape** of our family vacation from years ago.

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.

unbearable

adj. not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable

synonym : intolerable, insufferable, unendurable

(1) **unbearable** heat, (2) **unbearable** pain

The loss of his wife was an **unbearable** sorrow that he found hard to overcome.

sharpie

n. a type of hard-chined sailboat with a flat bottom, extremely shallow draft, centerboards, and straight, flaring sides; a brand name for a type of permanent marker pen with a pointed tip, typically known for its ability to create bold and long-lasting markings on various surfaces

synonym : boat, marker, pen

(1) **sharpie** marker, (2) **sharpie-style** sailboat

He spent the summer restoring an old **sharpie** boat in his grandfather's barn.

permanence

n. the quality of being permanent, lasting, or enduring; the state or condition of being permanent

synonym : durability, continuity, stability

(1) **permanence** factor, (2) long-term **permanence**

The **permanence** of a tattoo is something to consider before getting one.

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.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

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.

delinquency

n. a failure to fulfill one's duties or obligations, especially those imposed by law or societal norms; a tendency to engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior

synonym: misbehavior, negligence, offense

(1) **delinquency** rate, (2) **delinquency** in payment

The increase in juvenile **delinquency** is a growing concern for the community.

delinquent

n. a person who regularly engages in minor criminal or antisocial activities, especially a young person; a person who has failed to neglect one's duty

synonym: offender, lawbreaker, criminal

(1) a juvenile **delinquent**, (2) **delinquent** payments

The high rate of **delinquents** in the community has led to

increased crime.

dubious

adj. having doubts or reservations; uncertain

synonym : uncertain, questionable, skeptical

(1) **dubious** credibility, (2) direct a **dubious** look

The evidence presented in court had a **dubious** origin, raising questions about its authenticity.

Senate

n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

synonym : upper house, council, assembly

(1) **Senate** hearing, (2) **Senate** Finance Committee

The **Senate** majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

inconclusive

adj. without any significant results or proof or decision

synonym : ambiguous, unsettled, uncertain

(1) **inconclusive** debate, (2) **inconclusive** evidence

Climate behavior models are frequently **inconclusive**.

blacksmith

n. a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil

(1) **blacksmith** welding, (2) **blacksmith** shop

The **blacksmith** shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.

uncharted

adj. not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action

synonym : unknown, unexplored, undiscovered

(1) **uncharted** wilderness, (2) **uncharted** waters

The explorer ventured into **uncharted** territory, not knowing what to expect.

toolkit

n. a set of tools, materials, or resources that are designed to be used together for a specific purpose or task; a collection of information or techniques that can be used to address a problem or achieve a goal

synonym : tool set, equipment, utility kit

(1) handy **toolkit**, (2) digital **toolkit**

The DIY **toolkit** includes a variety of power and hand tools for home repair.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. se___e her mind | <i>v.</i> to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship |
| 2. c__p my hands | <i>v.</i> to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise |
| 3. Se___e hearing | <i>n.</i> a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament |
| 4. the y__g principle | <i>n.</i> in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat |
| 5. rewind vi_____pe | <i>n.</i> a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape |
| 6. bla_____th welding | <i>n.</i> a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil |
| 7. inc_____ive evidence | <i>adj.</i> without any significant results or proof or decision |
| 8. bla_____th shop | <i>n.</i> a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil |
| 9. ca___t of luxury | <i>n.</i> a mark or emblem that signifies prestige, quality, or value; a seal or stamp used to guarantee the authenticity |
| 10. social ca___t | <i>n.</i> a mark or emblem that signifies prestige, quality, or value; a seal or stamp used to guarantee the authenticity |

ANSWERS: 1. seduce, 2. clap, 3. Senate, 4. yang, 5. videotape, 6. blacksmith, 7. inconclusive, 8. blacksmith, 9. cachet, 10. cachet

11. del_____cy rate *n.* a failure to fulfill one's duties or obligations, especially those imposed by law or societal norms; a tendency to engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior
12. se___e him into crime *v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
13. inc_____ive debate *adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision
14. unb_____le pain *adj.* not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
15. aggressive in_____ct *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
16. 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
17. unb_____le heat *adj.* not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
18. h__k of a warehouse *n.* a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility

ANSWERS: 11. delinquency, 12. seduce, 13. inconclusive, 14. unbearable, 15. instinct, 16. intrigue, 17. unbearable, 18. hulk

19. sh_____e-style sailboat *n.* a type of hard-chined sailboat with a flat bottom, extremely shallow draft, centerboards, and straight, flaring sides; a brand name for a type of permanent marker pen with a pointed tip, typically known for its ability to create bold and long-lasting markings on various surfaces
20. vo_____us reader *adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something
21. long-term per_____ce *n.* the quality of being permanent, lasting, or enduring; the state or condition of being permanent
22. per_____ce factor *n.* the quality of being permanent, lasting, or enduring; the state or condition of being permanent
23. direct a du_____s look *adj.* having doubts or reservations; uncertain
24. ins_____ely grabbed the knife *adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
25. de___e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
26. un_____ed waters *adj.* not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action
27. handy to_____t *n.* a set of tools, materials, or resources that are designed to be used together for a specific purpose or task; a collection of information or techniques that can be used to address a problem or achieve a goal

ANSWERS: 19. sharpie, 20. voracious, 21. permanence, 22. permanence, 23. dubious, 24. instinctively, 25. devote, 26. uncharted, 27. toolkit

28. sh_____e marker *n.* a type of hard-chined sailboat with a flat bottom, extremely shallow draft, centerboards, and straight, flaring sides; a brand name for a type of permanent marker pen with a pointed tip, typically known for its ability to create bold and long-lasting markings on various surfaces
29. del_____nt payments *n.* a person who regularly engages in minor criminal or antisocial activities, especially a young person; a person who has failed to neglect one's duty
30. hear customer's voices fi_____nd *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
31. Se____e Finance Committee *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
32. in_____ct for self-preservation *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
33. di_____ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
34. un_____ed wilderness *adj.* not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action
35. de____e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
36. embody y__g energy *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

ANSWERS: 28. sharpie, 29. delinquent, 30. firsthand, 31. Senate, 32. instinct, 33. distract, 34. uncharted, 35. devote, 36. yang

37. du____s credibility *adj.* having doubts or reservations; uncertain
38. a juvenile del_____nt *n.* a person who regularly engages in minor criminal or antisocial activities, especially a young person; a person who has failed to neglect one's duty
39. h__k-like strength *n.* a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility
40. del_____cy in payment *n.* a failure to fulfill one's duties or obligations, especially those imposed by law or societal norms; a tendency to engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior
41. ins_____ely bad with children *adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
42. digital to_____t *n.* a set of tools, materials, or resources that are designed to be used together for a specific purpose or task; a collection of information or techniques that can be used to address a problem or achieve a goal
43. 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
44. conduct fi_____nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

ANSWERS: 37. dubious, 38. delinquent, 39. hulk, 40. delinquency, 41. instinctively, 42. toolkit, 43. clap, 44. firsthand

45. 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
46. vi_____pe evidence *n.* a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape
47. di_____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
48. vo_____us thirst *adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

ANSWERS: 45. intrigue, 46. videotape, 47. distract, 48. voracious

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The manager tried to hear customers' voices _____.
adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
2. The evidence presented in court had a _____ origin, raising questions about its authenticity.
adj. having doubts or reservations; uncertain
3. The shipwreck's _____ lay scattered along the shore.
n. a large, abandoned, and decaying structure or object, often referring to a ship or building; a person or animal who is large and clumsy or who appears physically imposing but lacks strength or agility
4. The high rate of _____ in the community has led to increased crime.
n. a person who regularly engages in minor criminal or antisocial activities, especially a young person; a person who has failed to neglect one's duty
5. He saw the balance between the yin and _____ as crucial for a harmonious life.
n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
6. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. firsthand, 2. dubious, 3. hulk, 4. delinquents, 5. yang, 6. distract, 7. intrigues

8. We watched a _____ of our family vacation from years ago.
n. a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape
9. The _____ of a tattoo is something to consider before getting one.
n. the quality of being permanent, lasting, or enduring; the state or condition of being permanent
10. 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
11. The _____ majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.
n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
12. The loss of his wife was an _____ sorrow that he found hard to overcome.
adj. not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
13. Climate behavior models are frequently _____.
adj. without any significant results or proof or decision
14. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
15. The explorer ventured into _____ territory, not knowing what to expect.
adj. not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action

ANSWERS: 8. videotape, 9. permanence, 10. seduce, 11. Senate, 12. unbearable, 13. inconclusive, 14. devoted, 15. uncharted

16. The prestigious university had a _____ attracting top students and faculty worldwide.
- n.* a mark or emblem that signifies prestige, quality, or value; a seal or stamp used to guarantee the authenticity
17. 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
18. The DIY _____ includes a variety of power and hand tools for home repair.
- n.* a set of tools, materials, or resources that are designed to be used together for a specific purpose or task; a collection of information or techniques that can be used to address a problem or achieve a goal
19. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
- n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
20. The increase in juvenile _____ is a growing concern for the community.
- n.* a failure to fulfill one's duties or obligations, especially those imposed by law or societal norms; a tendency to engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior
21. Some researchers claim that even humans can _____ sense earthquakes.
- adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
22. The _____ appetite of the teenager was legendary.
- adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

ANSWERS: 16. cachet, 17. clapped, 18. toolkit, 19. instinct, 20. delinquency, 21. instinctively, 22. voracious

23. The _____ shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.

n. a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil

24. He spent the summer restoring an old _____ boat in his grandfather's barn.

n. a type of hard-chined sailboat with a flat bottom, extremely shallow draft, centerboards, and straight, flaring sides; a brand name for a type of permanent marker pen with a pointed tip, typically known for its ability to create bold and long-lasting markings on various surfaces

ANSWERS: 23. blacksmith, 24. sharpie