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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Su Kahumbu: How we can help hungry kids, one text at a time | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

methane

- n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
- (1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions
- The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

redeem

- v.* to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation
- synonym* : rescue, save, recover
- (1) **redeem** a coupon, (2) **redeem** a government bond
- He tried to **redeem** himself by volunteering at the local charity after his mistakes.

stunt

- n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
- synonym* : feat, accomplishment, (verb) hinder
- (1) skydiving **stunt**, (2) **stunt** brain growth

The daredevil attempted a dangerous **stunt** by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.

debilitating

adj. weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success

synonym: weakening, exhausting

(1) **debilitating** virus, (2) **debilitating** effect

His **debilitating** illness made it difficult for him to leave the house.

rigor

n. strictness or severity in opinion, temper, or judgment

synonym: strictness, exactness, accuracy

(1) the **rigor** of the law, (2) academic **rigor**

When the dead body was found, **rigor** mortis had already begun.

stature

n. the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community

synonym: height, standing, prestige

(1) **stature** enhancement, (2) short **stature**

A leader needs to have a **stature** that commands respect from their followers.

synthesize

v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

synonym: incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information

The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

smallholding

n. a small farm or estate that the owner or family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit

synonym: small farm, homestead, mini ranch

(1) **smallholding** farm, (2) **smallholding** agriculture

The farmer's **smallholding** was enough to grow and sell

vegetables for their family at the local market.

endemic

adj. (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area

synonym: prevalent, widespread, native

(1) **endemic** disease, (2) cholera- **endemic** area

Malaria is **endemic** in many tropical countries.

transmissible

adj. of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another

synonym: contagious, infectious, transferable

(1) **transmissible** through contact, (2) maximum **transmissible** data size

The disease is highly **transmissible** and can be transmitted through close contact with infected individuals.

pathogen

n. a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

synonym: germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) plant **pathogen**, (2) the **pathogen** in the air

mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated **pathogens**.

nutshell

n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

synonym: summary, essence, covering

(1) move into a **nutshell**, (2) **nutshell** version

Can you explain your argument in a **nutshell**?

zoonotic

adj. relating to a zoonosis, which is a disease or infection that can be transmitted from animals to humans

synonym: infectious, contagious, transmissible

(1) **zoonotic** diseases, (2) **zoonotic** transmission

The spread of the disease was due to its **zoonotic** nature,

able to infect both humans and animals.

underestimate

v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

synonym: underrate, misjudge, miscalculate

(1) **underestimate** an enemy, (2) **underestimate** the probability

They frequently **underestimated** their abilities and felt inferior.

frontline

adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

synonym: battlefield, cutting edge

(1) **frontline** health workers, (2) at the **frontline** of the war

Within days, the new aircraft was in **frontline** service.

underpin

v. to support or strengthen the foundations of something

synonym: support, foundation, base

(1) **underpin** a structure, (2) **underpin** democratization

The research findings **underpin** the theory that human activities cause global warming.

gloomy

adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy

synonym: melancholy, dismal, dreary

(1) **gloomy** mood, (2) **gloomy** expression

The **gloomy** weather made staying motivated and happy throughout the day hard.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

retentive

adj. having the ability to retain or remember things easily; having a good memory or capacity for learning and remembering

synonym : tenacious, memory, remembering

(1) **retentive** soil, (2) **retentive** skills

His **retentive** memory allowed him to recall information from years ago easily.

drip

v. to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops

synonym : drop, drizzle, trickle

(1) **drip** liquid, (2) **drip** from the vicious wound

Water is **dripping** from the faucet.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. syn_____ze information
v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
2. gl___y expression
adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
3. short st_____e
n. the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community
4. un_____in democratization
v. to support or strengthen the foundations of something
5. und_____ate an enemy
v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
6. fr_____ne health workers
adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy
7. d__p liquid
v. to fall in drops or make it fall in drops;
(noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops
8. gl___y mood
adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
9. syn_____ze molecules
v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

ANSWERS: 1. synthesize, 2. gloomy, 3. stature, 4. underpin, 5. underestimate, 6. frontline, 7. drip, 8. gloomy, 9. synthesize

10. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
11. reduce me_____e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
12. plant pa_____en *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
13. st__t brain growth *n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
14. und_____ate the probability *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
15. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
16. zo_____ic transmission *adj.* relating to a zoonosis, which is a disease or infection that can be transmitted from animals to humans
17. tra_____ble through contact *adj.* of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another
18. re_____ve soil *adj.* having the ability to retain or remember things easily; having a good memory or capacity for learning and remembering

ANSWERS: 10. opportune, 11. methane, 12. pathogen, 13. stunt, 14. underestimate, 15. institutionalize, 16. zoonotic, 17. transmissible, 18. retentive

19. sma_____ing farm *n.* a small farm or estate that the owner or family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit
20. d__p from the vicious wound *v.* to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops
21. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
22. re_____ve skills *adj.* having the ability to retain or remember things easily; having a good memory or capacity for learning and remembering
23. re___m a coupon *v.* to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation
24. en_____c disease *adj.* (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area
25. maximum tra_____ble data size *adj.* of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another
26. academic ri__r *n.* strictness or severity in opinion, temper, or judgment
27. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

ANSWERS: 19. smallholding, 20. drip, 21. opportune, 22. retentive, 23. redeem, 24. endemic, 25. transmissible, 26. rigor, 27. improvisation

28. the ri__r of the law *n.* strictness or severity in opinion, temper, or judgment
29. st____e enhancement *n.* the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community
30. move into a nu____ll *n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
31. deb____ing effect *adj.* weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success
32. cholera-en____c area *adj.* (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area
33. sma____ing agriculture *n.* a small farm or estate that the owner or family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit
34. the pa____en in the air *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
35. ins____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
36. jazz imp____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
37. zo____ic diseases *adj.* relating to a zoonosis, which is a disease or infection that can be transmitted from animals to humans

ANSWERS: 28. rigor, 29. stature, 30. nutshell, 31. debilitating, 32. endemic, 33. smallholding, 34. pathogen, 35. institutionalize, 36. improvisation, 37. zoonotic

38. nu____ll version *n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
39. un____in a structure *v.* to support or strengthen the foundations of something
40. atmospheric me____e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
41. at the fr_____ne of the war *adj.* in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy
42. skydiving st__t *n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
43. deb_____ing virus *adj.* weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success
44. re___m a government bond *v.* to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation

ANSWERS: 38. nutshell, 39. underpin, 40. methane, 41. frontline, 42. stunt, 43. debilitating, 44. redeem

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. When the dead body was found, _____ mortis had already begun.
n. strictness or severity in opinion, temper, or judgment
2. The research findings _____ the theory that human activities cause global warming.
v. to support or strengthen the foundations of something
3. The spider can _____ multiple different silk proteins.
v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
4. mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated _____.
n. a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
5. Can you explain your argument in a _____
n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. The ignition of _____ gas in the plant killed five employees.
n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

ANSWERS: 1. rigor, 2. underpin, 3. synthesize, 4. pathogens, 5. nutshell?, 6. opportune, 7. methane

8. The daredevil attempted a dangerous _____ by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.
- n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
9. The _____ weather made staying motivated and happy throughout the day hard.
- adj.* characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
10. Water is _____ from the faucet.
- v.* to fall in drops or make it fall in drops; (noun) liquid or moisture that falls in drops
11. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
12. A leader needs to have a _____ that commands respect from their followers.
- n.* the height of a human or animal body; the level of respect or reputation that a person or entity holds in a particular community
13. He tried to _____ himself by volunteering at the local charity after his mistakes.
- v.* to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; to regain possession or assume ownership of something by paying a sum of money or fulfilling a condition; to rescue or save someone from a difficult or hopeless situation

ANSWERS: 8. stunt, 9. gloomy, 10. dripping, 11. institutionalize, 12. stature, 13. redeem

14. Within days, the new aircraft was in _____ service.

adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

15. His _____ illness made it difficult for him to leave the house.

adj. weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success

16. The spread of the disease was due to its _____ nature, able to infect both humans and animals.

adj. relating to a zoonosis, which is a disease or infection that can be transmitted from animals to humans

17. Malaria is _____ in many tropical countries.

adj. (of a disease or other problem) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area

18. His _____ memory allowed him to recall information from years ago easily.

adj. having the ability to retain or remember things easily; having a good memory or capacity for learning and remembering

19. They frequently _____ their abilities and felt inferior.

v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

20. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

21. The disease is highly _____ and can be transmitted through close contact with infected individuals.

adj. of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another

ANSWERS: 14. frontline, 15. debilitating, 16. zoonotic, 17. endemic, 18. retentive, 19. underestimated, 20. improvisation, 21. transmissible

22. The farmer's _____ was enough to grow and sell vegetables for their family at the local market.

- n.* a small farm or estate that the owner or family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit

ANSWERS: 22. smallholding