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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jennifer Lu: Can you solve the counterfeit coin riddle?

| TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

realm

n. a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge

synonym: domain, empire, kingdom

(1) public **realm**, (2) beyond the **realm** of possibility

Her passions are in the **realm** of real-world political affairs.

mathematics

n. the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement

synonym: arithmetic, calculation, calculus

(1) a good grounding in **mathematics**, (2) **mathematics** competition

He has a flair for **mathematics**.

critic

n. someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.

synonym: pundit, analyst, attacker

(1) art **critic**, (2) severe **critic**

Advocates for legal reform hear less harsh words from their **critics**.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym: ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

dungeon

n. a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground

synonym: prison, cell, lockup

(1) medieval **dungeon**, (2) a murky **dungeon**

The prisoner has been languishing for years in the castle **dungeon**.

suddenly

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

synonym: abruptly, unexpectedly, unawares

(1) **suddenly** attacked by an enemy, (2) die **suddenly**

Who answers **suddenly** knows little.

governor

n. the person who holds the highest executive office in a state or province

synonym: administrator, executive, leader

(1) **governor** general, (2) a prefectural **governor**

The state **governor** visited the affected areas and promised to aid the victims.

convict

v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime;
(noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison

synonym: condemn, sentence, judge

(1) **convict** him of manslaughter, (2) **convict** in a jail

He was **convicted** on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.

counterfeit

adj. made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic

synonym: fake, false, imitation

(1) **counterfeit** document, (2) **counterfeit** money

The company hired a team of experts to identify **counterfeit** products in their supply chain.

treasury

n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual

synonym : coffer, exchequer, bank

(1) **treasury** bonds, (2) **treasury** money

The protracted war nearly depleted the country's **treasury**.

kingdom

n. the country ruled by a king or queen

synonym : empire, realm, land

(1) establish his **kingdom**, (2) a subordinate **kingdom**

By remaining neutral, this **kingdom** continued to exist.

grant

v. to agree to give or allow somebody

synonym : allocate, authorize, give

(1) **grant** a new license, (2) **grant** a land

The chairperson **granted** him the right to speak.

identify

v. to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are

synonym : determine, specify, recognize

(1) **identify** handwriting, (2) **identify** gene sequences

I will introduce you to how to **identify** the leading causes of the malfunction.

fake

adj. not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit

synonym : affected, bogus, counterfeit

(1) **fake** police officer, (2) spread of **fake** news

The prime minister was not well prepared for the debate and **faked** it

identical

adj. being the exact same one

synonym : duplicate, exact, analogous

(1) pair of **identical** twins, (2) an **identical** equation

Infant formulas are nutritionally almost **identical** to a mother's breast milk.

balance

n. a condition in which everything has the same weight or force; something left after other parts have been taken away

synonym: equilibrium, counterpoise, remainder

(1) the **balance** of power, (2) asset on the company's **balance** sheet

Try to keep a **balance** between work and off.

slightly

adv. in a small degree or extent; a little

synonym: barely, narrowly, scarcely

(1) increase **slightly**, (2) **slightly** alkaline soils

He moved his body **slightly** to the left.

patient

n. a person who is receiving medical treatment, care, or attention from a healthcare professional, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist; a personal quality or characteristic

synonym: client, recipient, subject

(1) **patient** in the hospital, (2) **patient** with weight loss

The doctor carefully examined the **patient's** medical history.

pause

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

synonym: halt, break, intermit

(1) **pause** a moment, (2) **pause** for a reaction

The man **paused** before opening the door.

obvious

adj. easy to see, discover or understand

synonym: apparent, conspicuous, evident

(1) **obvious** reasons, (2) his conclusion was **obvious**

There are **obvious** differences between the two wine-producing regions.

weigh

v. to have a particular weight; to carefully evaluate things before making a conclusion

synonym: consider, cogitate, count

(1) **weigh** heavily on stock prices, (2) **weigh** a cargo

The baby **weighs** 1 pound 3 oz.

split

v. to divide, or to make something divide into two or more parts, especially along a particular line

synonym: break, divide, break apart

(1) **split** a bill, (2) **split** a reward equally

Companies often **split** their shares to lower the stock price and encourage investors to buy.

stack

n. a pile of something arranged or laid one on top of another; a large tall chimney through which combustion gases and smoke can be evacuated

synonym: accumulation, heap, pile

(1) high **stack**, (2) a large **stack** of paper

The earthquake caused a **stack** of lumber to crumble noisily.

pile

n. a collection of objects positioned one on top of another; a large sum of something, such as money

synonym: accumulation, heap, stack

(1) a sand **pile**, (2) the height of a **pile**

After the party, they had to clean up **piles** of dirty dishes.

divide

v. to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups

synonym: separate, disconnect, split

(1) **divide** the cake into two pieces, (2) **divide** money equally

Can you **divide** 123321 by eleven?

outcome

n. the result or effect of an action, event, etc.

synonym: result, consequence, effect

(1) improved student **outcomes**, (2) a desirable **outcome**

They awaited news of the **outcome** of the election.

authentic

adj. known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy

synonym: genuine, bona fide, original

(1) an **authentic** signature, (2) the sets were meticulously **authentic**

The stages of the play were meticulously **authentic**

marked

adj. having a noticeable feature or distinctive quality; easily noticeable or obvious

synonym: distinct, prominent, striking

(1) a **marked** difference, (2) **marked** decline

Her **marked** improvement in her grades resulted from her increased focus and effort.

minus

adj. subtracting or taking away; having a value less than zero

synonym: without, lacking, negative

(1) **minus** sign, (2) **minus** temperature

The recipe calls for four cups of flour **minus** one tablespoon.

impostor

n. someone who pretends to be someone or something else to deceive others; a fraud

synonym: fraud, phony, charlatan

(1) **impostor** syndrome, (2) detect an **impostor**

The online marketplace warned customers to beware of **impostor** sellers trying to scam them.

strategy

n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

synonym: approach, procedure, scenario

(1) military **strategy**, (2) develop a **strategy**

Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing **strategy**.

ambiguity

n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

synonym: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing

The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

assemble

v. to collect in one place as a single group

synonym: gather, congregate, collect

(1) **assemble** your colleagues, (2) **assemble** a jigsaw puzzle

The president began to **assemble** an army.

replace

v. to take the place of something

synonym: substitute, supersede, displace

(1) **replace** one word with another, (2) **replace** a phone
Eventually, the new design will **replace** all older models.

possibility

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

synonym: chance, prospect, likelihood

(1) **possibility** for growth, (2) **possibility** of a major earthquake

The **possibility** of getting the disease will drastically increase.

similarly

adv. in almost the same way

synonym: also, likewise, ditto

(1) **similarly** situated, (2) have **similarly** great abilities

We argue that wages for temporary workers should **similarly** rise.

balanced

adj. taking all sides or opinions into account equally; being in a state of proper equilibrium

synonym: equitable, congruous, flat

(1) a **balanced** diet, (2) a well- **balanced** mind

We conducted a **balanced** assessment of intellectual and cultural history.

substitute

n. a person or thing acting or serving instead of another one; (verb) to act as a something or someone instead of another one

synonym: alternate, replacement, reserve

(1) **substitute** coffee, (2) **substitute** teacher

I **substitute** skim milk for regular milk because we are on a strict diet.

nod v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

approvingly *adv.* in a manner indicating agreement or satisfaction; with an affirmative or positive attitude or response

synonym: favorably

(1) respond **approvingly**, (2) smile **approvingly**

He nodded **approvingly** at his friend's impressive performance on stage.

lord *n.* a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office

synonym: master, noble, peer

(1) a young **lord**, (2) **lord** of castle

The feudal **lord** had ruled the land for many years.

Session 2: Spelling

1. art cr___c *n.* someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.
2. sp__t a reward equally *v.* to divide, or to make something divide into two or more parts, especially along a particular line
3. pa_____t in the hospital *n.* a person who is receiving medical treatment, care, or attention from a healthcare professional, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist; a personal quality or characteristic
4. respond app_____ly *adv.* in a manner indicating agreement or satisfaction; with an affirmative or positive attitude or response
5. sl_____ly alkaline soils *adv.* in a small degree or extent; a little
6. a large st__k of paper *n.* a pile of something arranged or laid one on top of another; a large tall chimney through which combustion gases and smoke can be evacuated
7. sub_____te teacher *n.* a person or thing acting or serving instead of another one; (verb) to act as a something or someone instead of another one
8. a good grounding in mat_____cs *n.* the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement
9. the sets were meticulously au_____ic *adj.* known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy

ANSWERS: 1. critic, 2. split, 3. patient, 4. approvingly, 5. slightly, 6. stack, 7. substitute, 8. mathematics, 9. authentic

10. mi__s sign *adj.* subtracting or taking away; having a value less than zero
11. have si_____ly great abilities *adv.* in almost the same way
12. as_____le a jigsaw puzzle *v.* to collect in one place as a single group
13. asset on the company's ba_____e sheet *n.* a condition in which everything has the same weight or force; something left after other parts have been taken away
14. pa__e for a reaction *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
15. a desirable ou_____e *n.* the result or effect of an action, event, etc.
16. public re__m *n.* a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge
17. a ba_____ed diet *adj.* taking all sides or opinions into account equally; being in a state of proper equilibrium
18. si_____ly situated *adv.* in almost the same way
19. medieval du_____n *n.* a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground
20. su_____ly attacked by an enemy *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
21. pos_____ty for growth *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
22. pair of id_____al twins *adj.* being the exact same one
23. a young l__d *n.* a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office

ANSWERS: 10. minus, 11. similarly, 12. assemble, 13. balance, 14. pause, 15. outcome, 16. realm, 17. balanced, 18. similarly, 19. dungeon, 20. suddenly, 21. possibility, 22. identical, 23. lord

24. go_____or general *n.* the person who holds the highest executive office in a state or province
25. l__d of castle *n.* a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office
26. pos_____ty of a major earthquake *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
27. ob_____s reasons *adj.* easy to see, discover or understand
28. re_____e a phone *v.* to take the place of something
29. co_____t in a jail *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
30. an id_____al equation *adj.* being the exact same one
31. beyond the re__m of possibility *n.* a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge
32. cou_____it money *adj.* made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
33. a prefectural go_____or *n.* the person who holds the highest executive office in a state or province
34. spread of f__e news *adj.* not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit
35. former em_____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
36. di___e money equally *v.* to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups
37. detect an im_____or *n.* someone who pretends to be someone or something else to deceive others; a fraud

ANSWERS: 24. governor, 25. lord, 26. possibility, 27. obvious, 28. replace, 29. convict, 30. identical, 31. realm, 32. counterfeit, 33. governor, 34. fake, 35. emperor, 36. divide, 37. impostor

38. sp__t a bill *v.* to divide, or to make something divide into two or more parts, especially along a particular line
39. free from am_____ty *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
40. f__e police officer *adj.* not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit
41. id_____fy gene sequences *v.* to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are
42. gr__t a land *v.* to agree to give or allow somebody
43. we__h heavily on stock prices *v.* to have a particular weight; to carefully evaluate things before making a conclusion
44. gr__t a new license *v.* to agree to give or allow somebody
45. re_____e one word with another *v.* to take the place of something
46. tr_____ry bonds *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
47. a murky du_____n *n.* a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground
48. di___e the cake into two pieces *v.* to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups
49. the ba_____e of power *n.* a condition in which everything has the same weight or force; something left after other parts have been taken away
50. develop a st_____gy *n.* a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

ANSWERS: 38. split, 39. ambiguity, 40. fake, 41. identify, 42. grant, 43. weigh, 44. grant, 45. replace, 46. treasury, 47. dungeon, 48. divide, 49. balance, 50. strategy

51. as____le your colleagues *v.* to collect in one place as a single group
52. a ma____d difference *adj.* having a noticeable feature or distinctive quality; easily noticeable or obvious
53. improved student ou____es *n.* the result or effect of an action, event, etc.
54. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
55. co____t him of manslaughter *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
56. smile app____ly *adv.* in a manner indicating agreement or satisfaction; with an affirmative or positive attitude or response
57. establish his ki____m *n.* the country ruled by a king or queen
58. ma____d decline *adj.* having a noticeable feature or distinctive quality; easily noticeable or obvious
59. a well-ba____ed mind *adj.* taking all sides or opinions into account equally; being in a state of proper equilibrium
60. em____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
61. his conclusion was ob____s *adj.* easy to see, discover or understand
62. die su____ly *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
63. id____fy handwriting *v.* to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are

ANSWERS: 51. assemble, 52. marked, 53. outcome, 54. pause, 55. convict, 56. approvingly, 57. kingdom, 58. marked, 59. balanced, 60. emperor, 61. obvious, 62. suddenly, 63. identify

64. we__h a cargo *v.* to have a particular weight; to carefully evaluate things before making a conclusion
65. mi__s temperature *adj.* subtracting or taking away; having a value less than zero
66. high st__k *n.* a pile of something arranged or laid one on top of another; a large tall chimney through which combustion gases and smoke can be evacuated
67. an au_____ic signature *adj.* known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy
68. a subordinate ki_____m *n.* the country ruled by a king or queen
69. the height of a p__e *n.* a collection of objects positioned one on top of another; a large sum of something, such as money
70. pa_____t with weight loss *n.* a person who is receiving medical treatment, care, or attention from a healthcare professional, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist; a personal quality or characteristic
71. sub_____te coffee *n.* a person or thing acting or serving instead of another one; (verb) to act as a something or someone instead of another one
72. tr_____ry money *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
73. military st_____gy *n.* a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

ANSWERS: 64. weigh, 65. minus, 66. stack, 67. authentic, 68. kingdom, 69. pile, 70. patient, 71. substitute, 72. treasury, 73. strategy

74. a sand p__e *n.* a collection of objects positioned one on top of another; a large sum of something, such as money
75. cou_____it document *adj.* made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
76. im_____or syndrome *n.* someone who pretends to be someone or something else to deceive others; a fraud
77. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
78. mat_____cs competition *n.* the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement
79. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
80. severe cr___c *n.* someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.
81. avoid am_____ty in writing *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
82. increase sl_____ly *adv.* in a small degree or extent; a little

ANSWERS: 74. pile, 75. counterfeit, 76. impostor, 77. nod, 78. mathematics, 79. nod, 80. critic, 81. ambiguity, 82. slightly

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He moved his body _____ to the left.
adv. in a small degree or extent; a little
2. They awaited news of the _____ of the election.
n. the result or effect of an action, event, etc.
3. The company hired a team of experts to identify _____ products in their supply chain.
adj. made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
4. He nodded _____ at his friend's impressive performance on stage.
adv. in a manner indicating agreement or satisfaction; with an affirmative or positive attitude or response
5. The prime minister was not well prepared for the debate and _____ it
adj. not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit
6. By remaining neutral, this _____ continued to exist.
n. the country ruled by a king or queen
7. We conducted a _____ assessment of intellectual and cultural history.
adj. taking all sides or opinions into account equally; being in a state of proper equilibrium
8. The doctor carefully examined the _____ medical history.
n. a person who is receiving medical treatment, care, or attention from a healthcare professional, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist; a personal quality or characteristic

ANSWERS: 1. slightly, 2. outcome, 3. counterfeit, 4. approvingly, 5. faked, 6. kingdom, 7. balanced, 8. patient's

9. The online marketplace warned customers to beware of _____ sellers trying to scam them.
- n.* someone who pretends to be someone or something else to deceive others; a fraud
10. The state _____ visited the affected areas and promised to aid the victims.
- n.* the person who holds the highest executive office in a state or province
11. Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing _____.
- n.* a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
12. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
- v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
13. Try to keep a _____ between work and off.
- n.* a condition in which everything has the same weight or force; something left after other parts have been taken away
14. The _____ of getting the disease will drastically increase.
- n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
15. The chairperson _____ him the right to speak.
- v.* to agree to give or allow somebody
16. I will introduce you to how to _____ the leading causes of the malfunction.
- v.* to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are
17. After the party, they had to clean up _____ of dirty dishes.
- n.* a collection of objects positioned one on top of another; a large sum of something, such as money

ANSWERS: 9. impostor, 10. governor, 11. strategy, 12. nodded, 13. balance, 14. possibility, 15. granted, 16. identify, 17. piles

18. He was _____ on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.
v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
19. Advocates for legal reform hear less harsh words from their _____.
n. someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.
20. Can you _____ 123321 by eleven?
v. to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups
21. There are _____ differences between the two wine-producing regions.
adj. easy to see, discover or understand
22. The earthquake caused a _____ of lumber to crumble noisily.
n. a pile of something arranged or laid one on top of another; a large tall chimney through which combustion gases and smoke can be evacuated
23. The protracted war nearly depleted the country's _____.
n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
24. Her _____ improvement in her grades resulted from her increased focus and effort.
adj. having a noticeable feature or distinctive quality; easily noticeable or obvious
25. The feudal _____ had ruled the land for many years.
n. a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office

ANSWERS: 18. convicted, 19. critics, 20. divide, 21. obvious, 22. stack, 23. treasury, 24. marked, 25. lord

26. We argue that wages for temporary workers should _____ rise.
adv. in almost the same way
27. Eventually, the new design will _____ all older models.
v. to take the place of something
28. The stages of the play were meticulously _____.
adj. known to be real and what people say it is; not a fake or copy
29. Who answers _____ knows little.
adv. quickly and unexpectedly
30. The man _____ before opening the door.
v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
31. The president began to _____ an army.
v. to collect in one place as a single group
32. He has a flair for _____.
n. the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement
33. Her passions are in the _____ of real-world political affairs.
n. a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge
34. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.
n. the male ruler of an empire
35. Companies often _____ their shares to lower the stock price and encourage investors to buy.
v. to divide, or to make something divide into two or more parts, especially along a particular line

ANSWERS: 26. similarly, 27. replace, 28. authentic, 29. suddenly, 30. paused, 31. assemble, 32. mathematics, 33. realm, 34. Emperor, 35. split

36. Infant formulas are nutritionally almost _____ to a mother's breast milk.
adj. being the exact same one
37. I _____ skim milk for regular milk because we are on a strict diet.
n. a person or thing acting or serving instead of another one; (verb) to act as a something or someone instead of another one
38. The _____ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
39. The baby _____ 1 pound 3 oz.
v. to have a particular weight; to carefully evaluate things before making a conclusion
40. The recipe calls for four cups of flour _____ one tablespoon.
adj. subtracting or taking away; having a value less than zero
41. The prisoner has been languishing for years in the castle _____.
n. a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground

ANSWERS: 36. identical, 37. substitute, 38. ambiguity, 39. weighs, 40. minus, 41. dungeon