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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Naomi McDougall Jones: What it's like to be a woman in Hollywood | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

forlorn

adj. appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute

synonym: despondent, hopeless, abandoned

(1) **forlorn** hope, (2) **forlorn** state

She wandered through the empty city streets with a **forlorn** expression.

flirt

v. to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman

who uses her sex appeal to exploit men

synonym : tease

(1) **flirt** with him, (2) **flirt** like a schoolgirl

My husband never **flirts** with other women.

tasteful

adj. having aesthetic or decorative qualities that are appealing, elegant, and refined, often associated with good judgment and good taste in art, fashion, or design

synonym : appealing, attractive, elegant

(1) **tasteful** decor, (2) **tasteful** clothing

The interior design of the hotel was very **tasteful** and luxurious.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

relegate

v. to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote

synonym : demote, assign, transfer

(1) **relegate** a matter to another authority, (2) **relegate** task

The underperforming team was **relegated** to a lower division.

onboard

v. to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device

synonym : embark, aboard, on-load

(1) **onboard** the new employees, (2) **onboard** computer

The passengers were instructed to **onboard** the aircraft as quickly as possible so that the flight could depart on time.

scrape

v. to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

synonym : scratch, graze, rub

(1) **scrape** meat off a bone, (2) **scrape** a hole in the ground
He **scraped** the mud off his boots before entering the house.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

archery

n. the sport or practice of using a bow and arrows to shoot at a target

synonym: bow and arrow, marksmanship

(1) practice **archery**, (2) **archery** equipment

The **archery** tournament attracted contestants from all over the country.

scanty

adj. insufficient in quantity or extent; meager, limited, or inadequate; lacking in amount or supply

synonym: meager, insufficient, limited

(1) **scanty** resources, (2) **scanty** information

The party's budget was cut, resulting in a **scanty** amount of food and drinks for the guests.

clad

adj. dressed or covered in a particular way; provided or protected with a particular material or substance

synonym: dressed, covered, attired

(1) **clad** completely in black, (2) **clad** in armor

The athlete was **clad** in a tight-fitting suit designed to reduce drag and improve performance.

frivolous

adj. not serious or sensible; silly or unimportant

synonym : silly, foolish, unimportant

(1) **frivolous** lawsuits, (2) engage in **frivolous** conversation

He was accused of being **frivolous** and not taking his responsibilities seriously.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym : compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

funnel

n. a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine

synonym : filter, chimney

(1) separatory **funnel**, (2) a **funnel-shaped** device

We have to use a **funnel** to pour petrol into the tank.

prism

n. a three-dimensional object with a triangular base and parallel sides, which refracts (= to bend something) light that passes through it, resulting in the separation and display of the colors of the visible spectrum; a metaphorical term used to describe a situation that reveals or illuminates various aspects or perspectives of a particular phenomenon or topic

synonym : crystal, polyhedron

(1) **prism** spectrometer, (2) a **prism** of viewpoints

The scientist used an optical **prism** to analyze the dispersion of light in the laboratory experiment.

yell

v. to shout in a sudden and loud way

synonym : shout, scream, cry

(1) **yell** for help, (2) **yell** as loud as we can

When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and **yelled** at me.

paramount

adj. more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

synonym : central, major, crucial

(1) the lord **paramount**, (2) **paramount** to all the others

This country became a country of **paramount** geostrategic importance to us.

filmmaker

n. a person who makes films, typically as a profession

synonym : director, producer, cinematographer

(1) non-fiction **filmmaker**, (2) a successful **filmmaker**

The renowned **filmmaker** won several awards for his latest film.

meritocratic

adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements

synonym : merit-based, fair, unbiased

(1) **meritocratic** society, (2) **meritocratic** evaluation

The company prides itself on being **meritocratic** in its hiring and promotion practices.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym : course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

untapped

adj. not yet used or exploited

synonym : unexplored, untouched, untried

(1) **untapped** market, (2) **untapped** potential

The forest held many **untapped** resources that could be used for commercial purposes.

screenwriter

n. a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media

synonym : scriptwriter, playwright

(1) aspiring **screenwriter**, (2) experienced **screenwriter**
The movie's success was largely attributed to the **screenwriter's** cleverly written script.

underserved

adj. inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services

(1) **underserved** market, (2) traditionally **underserved**
This area is medically **underserved**.

disenfranchise

v. to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote

synonym: deny, exclude, marginalize

(1) **disenfranchise** voters, (2) **disenfranchise** citizens
The new citizenship laws will **disenfranchise** many immigrants.

sizable

adj. large in size or amount

synonym: large, significant, considerable

(1) **sizable** portion, (2) **sizable** audience

He has a **sizable** fortune and is one of the wealthiest people in the city.

eccentric

adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

synonym: bizarre, abnormal, curious

(1) display **eccentric** behavior, (2) **eccentric** characters

He was **eccentric**, but he was also a genius.

hurdle

n. a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome

synonym: obstacle, barrier, challenge

(1) overcome **hurdles**, (2) **hurdle** race

The company faced several **hurdles** in the development of its new product.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym:

interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

enact

v. to make a law; to put something into practice
synonym: legislate, pass, decree

(1) **enact** new legislation, (2) **enact** the smoking ban
The government **enacted** this law in 1925.

crumble

v. to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
synonym: disintegrate, collapse, deteriorate

(1) **crumble** to dust, (2) began to **crumble** under financial pressure

The old building was starting to **crumble** due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance.

doable

adj. possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
synonym: realizable, accomplishable, achievable

(1) make a **doable** plan, (2) **doable** in daily life

This project is **doable** despite the tight schedule.

entrenched

adj. established firmly and securely
synonym: deep-rooted, confirmed, ingrained

(1) **entrenched** ideas, (2) **entrenched** positions

The monarch exploited the peasants using its **entrenched** power.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
2. engage in fr_____us conversation *adj.* not serious or sensible; silly or unimportant
3. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
4. sc___y resources *adj.* insufficient in quantity or extent; meager, limited, or inadequate; lacking in amount or supply
5. overcome hu___es *n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
6. c__d in armor *adj.* dressed or covered in a particular way; provided or protected with a particular material or substance
7. traditionally und_____ed *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
8. fl__t with him *v.* to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men
9. c__d completely in black *adj.* dressed or covered in a particular way; provided or protected with a particular material or substance
10. make a do___e plan *adj.* possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
11. dis_____ise voters *v.* to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote

ANSWERS: 1. obsess, 2. frivolous, 3. storytelling, 4. scanty, 5. hurdle, 6. clad, 7. underserved, 8. flirt, 9. clad, 10. doable, 11. disenfranchise

12. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
13. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
14. re_____te a matter to another authority *v.* to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
15. mer_____tic evaluation *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
16. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
17. sc_____e meat off a bone *v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
18. a fu_____l-shaped device *n.* a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
19. en__t the smoking ban *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
20. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
21. fo_____n hope *adj.* appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute
22. si_____e audience *adj.* large in size or amount

ANSWERS: 12. industrious, 13. empathy, 14. relegate, 15. meritocratic, 16. trajectory, 17. scrape, 18. funnel, 19. enact, 20. trajectory, 21. forlorn, 22. sizable

23. ex___e the crowd
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
24. ent_____ed positions
adj. established firmly and securely
25. sc___y information
adj. insufficient in quantity or extent; meager, limited, or inadequate; lacking in amount or supply
26. ex___e rebellion
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
27. display ec_____ic behavior
adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
28. on_____d computer
v. to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device
29. non-fiction fi_____er
n. a person who makes films, typically as a profession
30. si_____e portion
adj. large in size or amount
31. a successful fi_____er
n. a person who makes films, typically as a profession
32. sc___e a hole in the ground
v. to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
33. ec_____ic characters
adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
34. y___l as loud as we can
v. to shout in a sudden and loud way

ANSWERS: 23. excite, 24. entrenched, 25. scanty, 26. excite, 27. eccentric, 28. onboard, 29. filmmaker, 30. sizable, 31. filmmaker, 32. scrape, 33. eccentric, 34. yell

35. em____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
36. a pr__m of viewpoints *n.* a three-dimensional object with a triangular base and parallel sides, which refracts (= to bend something) light that passes through it, resulting in the separation and display of the colors of the visible spectrum; a metaphorical term used to describe a situation that reveals or illuminates various aspects or perspectives of a particular phenomenon or topic
37. dis_____ise citizens *v.* to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote
38. ar____y equipment *n.* the sport or practice of using a bow and arrows to shoot at a target
39. pa_____nt to all the others *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
40. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
41. pr__m spectrometer *n.* a three-dimensional object with a triangular base and parallel sides, which refracts (= to bend something) light that passes through it, resulting in the separation and display of the colors of the visible spectrum; a metaphorical term used to describe a situation that reveals or illuminates various aspects or perspectives of a particular phenomenon or topic

ANSWERS: 35. empathy, 36. prism, 37. disenfranchise, 38. archery, 39. paramount, 40. confer, 41. prism

42. ta____ul clothing *adj.* having aesthetic or decorative qualities that are appealing, elegant, and refined, often associated with good judgment and good taste in art, fashion, or design
43. aspiring scr____ter *n.* a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media
44. mer____tic society *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
45. un____ed market *adj.* not yet used or exploited
46. di____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
47. separatory fu____l *n.* a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
48. fr____us lawsuits *adj.* not serious or sensible; silly or unimportant
49. sto____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
50. ind____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
51. re____te task *v.* to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
52. practice ar____y *n.* the sport or practice of using a bow and arrows to shoot at a target

ANSWERS: 42. tasteful, 43. screenwriter, 44. meritocratic, 45. untapped, 46. disrupt, 47. funnel, 48. frivolous, 49. storytelling, 50. industrious, 51. relegate, 52. archery

53. fl__t like a schoolgirl *v.* to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men
54. ent_____ed ideas *adj.* established firmly and securely
55. do___e in daily life *adj.* possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
56. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
57. began to cr_____e under financial pressure *v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
58. y__l for help *v.* to shout in a sudden and loud way
59. cr_____e to dust *v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
60. experienced scr_____ter *n.* a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media
61. hu___e race *n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
62. on_____d the new employees *v.* to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device

ANSWERS: 53. flirt, 54. entrenched, 55. doable, 56. disrupt, 57. crumble, 58. yell, 59. crumble, 60. screenwriter, 61. hurdle, 62. onboard

63. un____ed potential *adj.* not yet used or exploited
64. en__t new legislation *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
65. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
66. the lord pa_____nt *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
67. fo_____n state *adj.* appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute
68. und_____ed market *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
69. ta_____ul decor *adj.* having aesthetic or decorative qualities that are appealing, elegant, and refined, often associated with good judgment and good taste in art, fashion, or design
70. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 63. untapped, 64. enact, 65. confer, 66. paramount, 67. forlorn, 68. underserved, 69. tasteful, 70. obsess

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He was _____ but he was also a genius.
adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
2. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
3. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
4. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
5. This area is medically _____.
adj. inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
6. The new citizenship laws will _____ many immigrants.
v. to prevent someone from having the right to vote or from having an equal opportunity to vote
7. He has a _____ fortune and is one of the wealthiest people in the city.
adj. large in size or amount
8. This project is _____ despite the tight schedule.
adj. possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true

ANSWERS: 1. eccentric, 2. confer, 3. obsessed, 4. Empathy, 5. underserved, 6. disenfranchise, 7. sizable, 8. doable

9. The government _____ this law in 1925.

v. to make a law; to put something into practice

10. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

11. The party's budget was cut, resulting in a _____ amount of food and drinks for the guests.

adj. insufficient in quantity or extent; meager, limited, or inadequate; lacking in amount or supply

12. The old building was starting to _____ due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance.

v. to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support

13. My husband never _____ with other women.

v. to talk or behave as if sexually attracted to someone, without serious intentions; (noun) a seductive woman who uses her sex appeal to exploit men

14. This country became a country of _____ geostrategic importance to us.

adj. more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

15. The company faced several _____ in the development of its new product.

n. a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome

16. She wandered through the empty city streets with a _____ expression.

adj. appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute

ANSWERS: 9. enacted, 10. industrious, 11. scanty, 12. crumble, 13. flirts, 14. paramount, 15. hurdles, 16. forlorn

17. The underperforming team was _____ to a lower division.
v. to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
18. When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and _____ at me.
v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
19. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
20. The company prides itself on being _____ in its hiring and promotion practices.
adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
21. The movie's success was largely attributed to the _____ cleverly written script.
n. a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media
22. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
23. The monarch exploited the peasants using its _____ power.
adj. established firmly and securely
24. The renowned _____ won several awards for his latest film.
n. a person who makes films, typically as a profession

ANSWERS: 17. relegated, 18. yelled, 19. disrupt, 20. meritocratic, 21. screenwriter's, 22. excited, 23. entrenched, 24. filmmaker

25. The scientist used an optical _____ to analyze the dispersion of light in the laboratory experiment.
- n.* a three-dimensional object with a triangular base and parallel sides, which refracts (= to bend something) light that passes through it, resulting in the separation and display of the colors of the visible spectrum; a metaphorical term used to describe a situation that reveals or illuminates various aspects or perspectives of a particular phenomenon or topic
26. The athlete was _____ in a tight-fitting suit designed to reduce drag and improve performance.
- adj.* dressed or covered in a particular way; provided or protected with a particular material or substance
27. He was accused of being _____ and not taking his responsibilities seriously.
- adj.* not serious or sensible; silly or unimportant
28. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
- n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
29. The interior design of the hotel was very _____ and luxurious.
- adj.* having aesthetic or decorative qualities that are appealing, elegant, and refined, often associated with good judgment and good taste in art, fashion, or design
30. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
- n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
31. The forest held many _____ resources that could be used for commercial purposes.
- adj.* not yet used or exploited

ANSWERS: 25. prism, 26. clad, 27. frivolous, 28. trajectory, 29. tasteful, 30. storytelling, 31. untapped

32. The _____ tournament attracted contestants from all over the country.
- n.* the sport or practice of using a bow and arrows to shoot at a target
33. The passengers were instructed to _____ the aircraft as quickly as possible so that the flight could depart on time.
- v.* to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device
34. We have to use a _____ to pour petrol into the tank.
- n.* a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
35. He _____ the mud off his boots before entering the house.
- v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

ANSWERS: 32. archery, 33. onboard, 34. funnel, 35. scraped