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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Devita Davison: How urban agriculture is transforming Detroit | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

disinvestment

n. the act of reducing or withdrawing the amount of money you have provided in a particular area or sector

synonym: divestment, withdrawal, pullout

(1) **disinvestment** strategy, (2) **disinvestment** plan

The company's decision to engage in **disinvestment** led to a reduction in its overall portfolio.

scarcity

n. the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount

synonym: lack, absence, dearth

(1) fuel **scarcity**, (2) **scarcity** of capital

Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor **scarcity**.

obese

adj. excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more

synonym: overweight, corpulent, plump

(1) **obese** individuals, (2) **obese** children

The doctor warned him that his **obese** condition put him at risk for numerous health problems.

entrepreneurship

n. the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one

synonym : self-employment, risk-taking

(1) **entrepreneurship** culture, (2) embody

entrepreneurship

The government is investing in programs to support **entrepreneurship** and small business development.

borough

n. a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city

synonym : town, municipality, city

(1) family **borough**, (2) **borough** boundaries

The **borough** council manages local services such as waste collection and street cleaning.

fertile

adj. capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive

synonym : fruitful, productive, rich

(1) **fertile** ground, (2) **fertile** market

Herbs require **fertile** soil in a sunny, sheltered location.

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.

agrarian

adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

synonym : agricultural, farming, rural

(1) **agrarian** society, (2) **agrarian** reform

Most of the people in the **agrarian** community work in agriculture.

exemplar

n. a person or thing that is regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality or type; a model or ideal to be

emulated

synonym : model, paradigm, archetype

(1) **exemplar** of leadership, (2) scientific **exemplar**

The lawyer cited the famous civil rights leader as an **exemplar** of courage and perseverance.

convivial

adj. friendly, lively, and enjoyable in a social gathering or atmosphere; characterized by good company and cheerful sociability

synonym : festive, sociable, jovial

(1) **convivial** personality, (2) **convivial** gathering

The **convivial** atmosphere of the dinner party made everyone feel comfortable and relaxed.

cohesion

n. the act or state of keeping or sticking together

synonym : coherence, coherency, cohesiveness

(1) social **cohesion**, (2) the **cohesion** of a team

We gain higher levels of social **cohesion** and stability.

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.

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.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym : welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

underserved

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

(1) **underserved** market, (2) traditionally **underserved**

This area is medically **underserved**.

disrepair

n. a state of decay, damage, or neglect that results in the deterioration of the quality, function, or appearance of something, particularly a structure or object

synonym: dilapidation, decay, deterioration

(1) building in **disrepair**, (2) equipment in **disrepair**

The abandoned building fell into **disrepair** after years of neglect.

bulletproof

adj. intended to resist bullet penetration

synonym: unassailable, impregnable

(1) **bulletproof** armor, (2) **bulletproof** vehicle

Because of the **bulletproof** vest he was wearing, the officer could escape injury.

vegan

n. a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons

(1) raw food **vegan**, (2) **vegan** lifestyle

The **vegan** diet is based on plant-based foods.

burgeon

v. to grow or develop rapidly, especially in a healthy or vigorous way

synonym: flourish, bloom, thrive

(1) **burgeon** rapidly, (2) **burgeon** from every corner.

The city's art scene has been **burgeoning** recently, with new galleries and exhibitions popping up regularly.

incubate

v. to keep warm and protected, especially to hatch eggs; to develop and nurture

synonym : hatch, breed, gestate

(1) **incubate** terrorism in developing countries, (2) **incubate** an idea

The scientists decided to **incubate** the eggs for further study.

hands-on

adj. actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something

synonym : practical, involved, hands-in

(1) **hands-on** activity, (2) take a **hands-on** approach

The **hands-on** workshop allowed attendees to work with tools and materials, developing their skills in a hands-on environment.

prosper

v. to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish

synonym : thrive, flourish, succeed

(1) **prosper** in the long run, (2) **prosper** as a trading hub

With careful planning and hard work, she was able to **prosper** in her new business venture.

disintegration

n. the process of something breaking down or falling apart physically or metaphorically; the state of being weakened or destroyed

synonym : decay, collapse, decomposition

(1) **disintegration** process, (2) cultural **disintegration**

The **disintegration** of the old bridge was a warning sign of its impending collapse.

devastation

n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

synonym : destruction, ruin, havoc

(1) financial **devastation**, (2) **devastation** to life
The economic recession caused **devastation** in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.

prosperous

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

synonym: successful, thriving, affluent

(1) **prosperous** weather, (2) **prosperous** nation
The company decided to invest in a **prosperous** industry.

Session 2: Spelling

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| 1. dev_____on to life | <i>n.</i> the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale |
| 2. cultural dis_____ion | <i>n.</i> the process of something breaking down or falling apart physically or metaphorically; the state of being weakened or destroyed |
| 3. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 4. dis_____ion process | <i>n.</i> the process of something breaking down or falling apart physically or metaphorically; the state of being weakened or destroyed |
| 5. ex_____ar of leadership | <i>n.</i> a person or thing that is regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality or type; a model or ideal to be emulated |
| 6. em_____r the secretary to do the same | <i>v.</i> to give someone the power or authority to do something |
| 7. sc_____ty of capital | <i>n.</i> the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount |
| 8. bu_____n rapidly | <i>v.</i> to grow or develop rapidly, especially in a healthy or vigorous way |
| 9. scientific ex_____ar | <i>n.</i> a person or thing that is regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality or type; a model or ideal to be emulated |
| 10. pr_____r as a trading hub | <i>v.</i> to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish |

ANSWERS: 1. devastation, 2. disintegration, 3. opportune, 4. disintegration, 5. exemplar, 6. empower, 7. scarcity, 8. burgeon, 9. exemplar, 10. prosper

11. ent_____hip culture *n.* the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one
12. ag_____an society *adj.* relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance
13. raw food ve__n *n.* a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons
14. in_____te terrorism in developing countries *v.* to keep warm and protected, especially to hatch eggs; to develop and nurture
15. ob__e children *adj.* excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more
16. pro_____us weather *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
17. co_____al gathering *adj.* friendly, lively, and enjoyable in a social gathering or atmosphere; characterized by good company and cheerful sociability
18. co_____al personality *adj.* friendly, lively, and enjoyable in a social gathering or atmosphere; characterized by good company and cheerful sociability
19. ag_____an reform *adj.* relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

ANSWERS: 11. entrepreneurship, 12. agrarian, 13. vegan, 14. incubate, 15. obese, 16. prosperous, 17. convivial, 18. convivial, 19. agrarian

20. dis_____ent plan *n.* the act of reducing or withdrawing the amount of money you have provided in a particular area or sector
21. bul_____of armor *adj.* intended to resist bullet penetration
22. gr__t a customer *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
23. gr__t an idea *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
24. ha_____on activity *adj.* actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something
25. fuel sc_____ty *n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
26. bu_____n from every corner. *v.* to grow or develop rapidly, especially in a healthy or vigorous way
27. und_____ed market *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
28. ob__e individuals *adj.* excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more
29. dis_____ent strategy *n.* the act of reducing or withdrawing the amount of money you have provided in a particular area or sector
30. traditionally und_____ed *adj.* inadequately or insufficiently provided with help, products, or services
31. family bo_____h *n.* a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city

ANSWERS: 20. disinvestment, 21. bulletproof, 22. greet, 23. greet, 24. hands-on, 25. scarcity, 26. burgeon, 27. underserved, 28. obese, 29. disinvestment, 30. underserved, 31. borough

32. take a ha_____on approach *adj.* actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something
33. bul_____of vehicle *adj.* intended to resist bullet penetration
34. financial dev_____on *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
35. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
36. social co_____on *n.* the act or state of keeping or sticking together
37. pr_____r in the long run *v.* to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish
38. embody ent_____hip *n.* the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one
39. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
40. in_____te an idea *v.* to keep warm and protected, especially to hatch eggs; to develop and nurture
41. bo_____h boundaries *n.* a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city
42. fe_____e market *adj.* capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive
43. fe_____e ground *adj.* capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive

ANSWERS: 32. hands-on, 33. bulletproof, 34. devastation, 35. industrious, 36. cohesion, 37. prosper, 38. entrepreneurship, 39. empower, 40. incubate, 41. borough, 42. fertile, 43. fertile

44. ve__n lifestyle *n.* a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons
45. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
46. equipment in di_____ir *n.* a state of decay, damage, or neglect that results in the deterioration of the quality, function, or appearance of something, particularly a structure or object
47. pro_____us nation *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
48. the co_____on of a team *n.* the act or state of keeping or sticking together
49. building in di_____ir *n.* a state of decay, damage, or neglect that results in the deterioration of the quality, function, or appearance of something, particularly a structure or object
50. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
51. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
52. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned

ANSWERS: 44. vegan, 45. afterward, 46. disrepair, 47. prosperous, 48. cohesion, 49. disrepair, 50. opportune, 51. industrious, 52. afterward

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company's decision to engage in _____ led to a reduction in its overall portfolio.
n. the act of reducing or withdrawing the amount of money you have provided in a particular area or sector
2. The _____ atmosphere of the dinner party made everyone feel comfortable and relaxed.
adj. friendly, lively, and enjoyable in a social gathering or atmosphere; characterized by good company and cheerful sociability
3. The _____ of the old bridge was a warning sign of its impending collapse.
n. the process of something breaking down or falling apart physically or metaphorically; the state of being weakened or destroyed
4. Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor _____.
n. the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
5. The doctor warned him that his _____ condition put him at risk for numerous health problems.
adj. excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more
6. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
7. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. disinvestment, 2. convivial, 3. disintegration, 4. scarcity, 5. obese, 6. industrious, 7. opportune

8. The abandoned building fell into _____ after years of neglect.
n. a state of decay, damage, or neglect that results in the deterioration of the quality, function, or appearance of something, particularly a structure or object
9. Because of the _____ vest he was wearing, the officer could escape injury.
adj. intended to resist bullet penetration
10. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
11. The economic recession caused _____ in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.
n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
12. The city's art scene has been _____ recently, with new galleries and exhibitions popping up regularly.
v. to grow or develop rapidly, especially in a healthy or vigorous way
13. The government is investing in programs to support _____ and small business development.
n. the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one
14. Most of the people in the _____ community work in agriculture.
adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance
15. Herbs require _____ soil in a sunny, sheltered location.
adj. capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive

ANSWERS: 8. disrepair, 9. bulletproof, 10. greeted, 11. devastation, 12. burgeoning, 13. entrepreneurship, 14. agrarian, 15. fertile

16. The _____ diet is based on plant-based foods.

n. a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons

17. This area is medically _____.

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

18. We gain higher levels of social _____ and stability.

n. the act or state of keeping or sticking together

19. The scientists decided to _____ the eggs for further study.

v. to keep warm and protected, especially to hatch eggs; to develop and nurture

20. The _____ workshop allowed attendees to work with tools and materials, developing their skills in a hands-on environment.

adj. actively involved, practical; having hands involved in the doing or making of something

21. The lawyer cited the famous civil rights leader as an _____ of courage and perseverance.

n. a person or thing that is regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality or type; a model or ideal to be emulated

22. The _____ council manages local services such as waste collection and street cleaning.

n. a town, city, or district that is an administrative unit, typically smaller than a city

23. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

ANSWERS: 16. vegan, 17. underserved, 18. cohesion, 19. incubate, 20. hands-on, 21. exemplar, 22. borough, 23. prosperous

24. With careful planning and hard work, she was able to _____ in her new business venture.

- v. to be successful or thriving, especially financially; to grow and develop well; to flourish

25. 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

26. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.

- adv.* after the time mentioned

ANSWERS: 24. prosper, 25. empowered, 26. afterward