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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sue Klebold: My son was a Columbine shooter. This is my story | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

disfigure

v. to spoil or mar the appearance of something or someone by damaging or altering its shape, features, or proportions; to cause physical deformity or injury

synonym: mutilate, deform, mar

(1) **disfigure** my face, (2) **disfigure** the artwork

The scars from the car accident **disfigured** his left arm horribly.

enormity

n. the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent

synonym: horribleness, seriousness, immensity

(1) grasp the **enormity**, (2) the **enormity** of the task

The **enormity** of the financial fraud was uncovered after years of investigation.

quantify

v. to express or measure something in numerical terms

synonym: measure, express, determine

(1) **quantify** the results, (2) **quantify** blood flow

He tried to **quantify** the amount of product that was needed to complete the job.

blueprint

n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym : draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**

A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

atrocious

n. brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act

synonym : evil, horror, iniquity

(1) commit **atrocious**, (2) cold-blooded **atrocious**

The **atrocious** of the war left many children orphaned.

comprehend

v. to understand the nature or meaning of something fully

synonym : understand, grasp, apprehend

(1) **comprehend** English, (2) **comprehend** instructions

She struggled to **comprehend** complex math problems.

agony

n. extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense

synonym : anguish, torment, suffering

(1) severe **agony**, (2) emotional **agony**

The athlete fell to the ground in **agony** after injuring their ankle.

downplay

v. to present or represent as less important or severe; to minimize the significance of something

synonym : minimize, downsize, play down

(1) **downplay** my ability, (2) **downplay** mistakes

The company tried to **downplay** the significance of the issue.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym : misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym : despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything
After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

coworker

n. a person who works with another in the same company or organization

synonym: colleague, peer, associate

(1) **coworker** relationship, (2) argue with a **coworker**

My ex- **coworker** and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

overhear

v. to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge

synonym: catch, eavesdrop

(1) happen to **overhear** a conversation, (2) accidentally **overheard** their talk

She was inside at the time and **overheard** the conversation.

cubicle

n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting

synonym: compartment, booth, workspace

(1) **cubicle** partition, (2) camping **cubicle**

I worked in an office **cubicle** surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.

hospitalize

v. to admit someone to a hospital for medical treatment

synonym: admit, place in hospital

(1) **hospitalize** patient, (2) **hospitalize** child

She had to be **hospitalized** due to her injuries.

impair

v. to damage something or make it weaker or worse

synonym: degrade, mar, deface

(1) **impair** my health, (2) **impair** insulin sensitivity

The accident made his vision **impaired**.

distort

v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

synonym: fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

devise

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

synonym: create, concoct, invent

(1) **devise** a plan, (2) **devise** a literary plot

They had to **devise** a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

homicide

n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

synonym: murder, killing, manslaughter

(1) mass **homicide**, (2) serial **homicide**

The detective was called to investigate a **homicide** in the city.

sparse

adj. only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area

synonym: scarce, exiguous, infrequent

(1) a **sparse** population, (2) **sparse** snowfall

There is a **sparse** area between galaxies.

self-reliant

adj. able to rely on oneself or one's abilities; not needing or depending on others for support or guidance

synonym: independent, self-sufficient, autonomous

(1) **self-reliant** person, (2) **self-reliant** community

After moving to a new city, she became more **self-reliant** and learned to navigate the streets independently.

debase

v. to reduce the quality, value, or esteem of something, often by lowering its moral or ethical standard; to demean or degrade

synonym : degrade, lower, cheapen

(1) **debase** dignity, (2) **debase** the principles of justice

The company's decision to **debase** its currency led to inflation and economic instability.

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym : shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

alienation

n. the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment

synonym : estrangement, separation, detachment

(1) human **alienation**, (2) international **alienation**

His feelings of **alienation** from society led to depression.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym : agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

fragility

n. the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable

synonym : delicacy, weakness, frailty

(1) **fragility** of life, (2) emotional **fragility**

The **fragility** of the glass required careful handling during shipping.

appalling

adj. causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant

synonym : shocking, horrifying, alarming

(1) **appalling** crimes, (2) **appalling** behavior
The condition of that old house was **appalling**.

perpetual

adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

synonym : enduring, unchanging, incessant

(1) **perpetual** motion machine, (2) **perpetual** struggle
The company employs a **perpetual** inventory system.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym : unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

accost

v. to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently

synonym : approach, confront, speak to

(1) **accost** a stranger, (2) **accost** a suspect

The man **accosted** her on the street and asked for money.

disgust

n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

synonym : nauseate, hate, dislike

(1) public **disgust**, (2) show **disgust** at his actions

He was filled with **disgust** and fear for the threat of war.

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.

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**.

malfunction

v. to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

synonym : malfunction, break down, fail

(1) **malfunction** alarm, (2) **malfunction** and start moving unpredictably

The car's engine **malfunctioned** on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.

accusation

n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone

synonym : charge, indictment, imputation

(1) criminal **accusation**, (2) false **accusation**

The **accusation** of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.

eradicate

v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

synonym : destroy, eliminate, exterminate

(1) **eradicate** the deficit, (2) **eradicate** racial discrimination

We are trying to **eradicate** this disease from the world.

stubborn

adj. refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change

synonym : persistent, obstinate, determined

(1) **stubborn** attitude, (2) **stubborn** stains

He was so **stubborn** about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.

vigilant

adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties

synonym : watchful, attentive, alert

(1) **vigilant** watch, (2) **vigilant** about hand-washing

The guards had to remain **vigilant** to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.

Session 2: Spelling

1. er_____te racial discrimination *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
2. di_____re the artwork *v.* to spoil or mar the appearance of something or someone by damaging or altering its shape, features, or proportions; to cause physical deformity or injury
3. hu_____te him publicly *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
4. de___e dignity *v.* to reduce the quality, value, or esteem of something, often by lowering its moral or ethical standard; to demean or degrade
5. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
6. sel_____ant community *adj.* able to rely on oneself or one's abilities; not needing or depending on others for support or guidance
7. hos_____ze patient *v.* to admit someone to a hospital for medical treatment
8. public di_____t *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
9. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

ANSWERS: 1. eradicate, 2. disfigure, 3. humiliate, 4. debase, 5. confer, 6. self-reliant, 7. hospitalize, 8. disgust, 9. hopeless

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|--|---|
| 10. argue with a co_____er | <i>n.</i> a person who works with another in the same company or organization |
| 11. pe_____al motion machine | <i>adj.</i> continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted |
| 12. false acc_____on | <i>n.</i> a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone |
| 13. de___e the principles of justice | <i>v.</i> to reduce the quality, value, or esteem of something, often by lowering its moral or ethical standard; to demean or degrade |
| 14. accidentally ov_____ard their talk | <i>v.</i> to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge |
| 15. di_____t the economy | <i>v.</i> to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear |
| 16. co_____er relationship | <i>n.</i> a person who works with another in the same company or organization |
| 17. mis_____and each other | <i>v.</i> to interpret or understand something in the wrong way |
| 18. a sp___e population | <i>adj.</i> only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area |
| 19. architect's bl_____nt | <i>n.</i> a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine |
| 20. di_____b his sleep | <i>v.</i> to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc. |

ANSWERS: 10. coworker, 11. perpetual, 12. accusation, 13. debase, 14. overhear, 15. distort, 16. coworker, 17. misunderstand, 18. sparse, 19. blueprint, 20. disturb

21. do_____ay my ability *v.* to present or represent as less important or severe; to minimize the significance of something
22. di_____t the facts *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
23. commit at_____ty *n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
24. hu_____te the heckler in the audience *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
25. show di_____t at his actions *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
26. ho_____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
27. im_____r my health *v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
28. ac_____t a suspect *v.* to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently
29. ap_____ng behavior *adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
30. mass ho_____de *n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
31. fr_____ty of life *n.* the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable

ANSWERS: 21. downplay, 22. distort, 23. atrocity, 24. humiliate, 25. disgust, 26. hopeless, 27. impair, 28. accost, 29. appalling, 30. homicide, 31. fragility

32. severe ag__y *n.* extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
33. de___e a literary plot *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
34. st_____rn stains *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
35. emotional ag__y *n.* extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
36. er_____te the deficit *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
37. cold-blooded at_____ty *n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
38. di_____re my face *v.* to spoil or mar the appearance of something or someone by damaging or altering its shape, features, or proportions; to cause physical deformity or injury
39. de___e a plan *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
40. im___r insulin sensitivity *v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
41. mal_____on alarm *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

ANSWERS: 32. agony, 33. devise, 34. stubborn, 35. agony, 36. eradicate, 37. atrocity, 38. disfigure, 39. devise, 40. impair, 41. malfunction

42. cu____e partition *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
43. ac____t a stranger *v.* to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently
44. qu____fy the results *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
45. criminal acc____on *n.* a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
46. emotional fr____ty *n.* the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
47. st____rn attitude *adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
48. happen to ov____ar a conversation *v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
49. the threats te____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
50. international ali____on *n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
51. sp____e snowfall *adj.* only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area
52. the en____ty of the task *n.* the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent

ANSWERS: 42. cubicle, 43. accost, 44. quantify, 45. accusation, 46. fragility, 47. stubborn, 48. overhear, 49. terrify, 50. alienation, 51. sparse, 52. enormity

53. vi_____nt watch *adj.* keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
54. camping cu_____e *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
55. conduct fi_____nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
56. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
57. pe_____al struggle *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
58. di_____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
59. human ali_____on *n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
60. hear customer's voices fi_____nd *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
61. com_____nd English *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
62. qu_____fy blood flow *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
63. hos_____ze child *v.* to admit someone to a hospital for medical treatment
64. do_____ay mistakes *v.* to present or represent as less important or severe; to minimize the significance of something
65. mis_____and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

ANSWERS: 53. vigilant, 54. cubicle, 55. firsthand, 56. terrify, 57. perpetual, 58. disturb, 59. alienation, 60. firsthand, 61. comprehend, 62. quantify, 63. hospitalize, 64. downplay, 65. misunderstand

66. bl_____nt for economic reform *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
67. vi_____nt about hand-washing *adj.* keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
68. mal_____on and start moving unpredictably *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
69. sel_____ant person *adj.* able to rely on oneself or one's abilities; not needing or depending on others for support or guidance
70. serial ho_____de *n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
71. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
72. ap_____ng crimes *adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
73. com_____nd instructions *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
74. grasp the en_____ty *n.* the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent

ANSWERS: 66. blueprint, 67. vigilant, 68. malfunction, 69. self-reliant, 70. homicide, 71. confer, 72. appalling, 73. comprehend, 74. enormity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The man _____ her on the street and asked for money.
v. to approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently

2. The detective was called to investigate a _____ in the city.
n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

3. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

4. The condition of that old house was _____.
adj. causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant

5. The _____ of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.
n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone

6. She had to be _____ due to her injuries.
v. to admit someone to a hospital for medical treatment

7. She was inside at the time and _____ the conversation.
v. to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge

8. The company employs a _____ inventory system.
adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

ANSWERS: 1. accosted, 2. homicide, 3. misunderstand, 4. appalling, 5. accusation, 6. hospitalized, 7. overheard, 8. perpetual

9. The company's decision to _____ its currency led to inflation and economic instability.
- v.* to reduce the quality, value, or esteem of something, often by lowering its moral or ethical standard; to demean or degrade
10. We are trying to _____ this disease from the world.
- v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
11. My ex-_____ and I had different working styles but managed to get along.
- n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization
12. The _____ of the war left many children orphaned.
- n.* brutal act; an extremely wicked or cruel act
13. They had to _____ a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.
- v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
14. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
- v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
15. He was so _____ about his beliefs that he refused to listen to any other points of view.
- adj.* refusing to change one's mind or behavior despite persuasion or evidence to the contrary; unyielding; difficult to move or change
16. After moving to a new city, she became more _____ and learned to navigate the streets independently.
- adj.* able to rely on oneself or one's abilities; not needing or depending on others for support or guidance

ANSWERS: 9. debase, 10. eradicate, 11. coworker, 12. atrocity, 13. devise, 14. humiliated, 15. stubborn, 16. self-reliant

17. The athlete fell to the ground in _____ after injuring their ankle.
n. extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
18. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
19. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
v. to frighten someone very much
20. The manager tried to hear customers' voices _____.
adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
21. I worked in an office _____ surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.
n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
22. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
23. The accident made his vision _____.
v. to damage something or make it weaker or worse
24. The company tried to _____ the significance of the issue.
v. to present or represent as less important or severe; to minimize the significance of something
25. The guards had to remain _____ to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.
adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties

ANSWERS: 17. agony, 18. hopeless, 19. terrify, 20. firsthand, 21. cubicle, 22. disturb, 23. impaired, 24. downplay, 25. vigilant

26. 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
27. There is a _____ area between galaxies.
- adj. only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area
28. He tried to _____ the amount of product that was needed to complete the job.
- v. to express or measure something in numerical terms
29. He was filled with _____ and fear for the threat of war.
- n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
30. She struggled to _____ complex math problems.
- v. to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
31. The _____ of the glass required careful handling during shipping.
- n. the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
32. The scars from the car accident _____ his left arm horribly.
- v. to spoil or mar the appearance of something or someone by damaging or altering its shape, features, or proportions; to cause physical deformity or injury
33. A business plan is a _____ for your success.
- n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
34. Economists contend that taxes _____ consumer behavior in general.
- v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

ANSWERS: 26. confer, 27. sparse, 28. quantify, 29. disgust, 30. comprehend, 31. fragility, 32. disfigured, 33. blueprint, 34. distort

35. The car's engine _____ on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.
- v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
36. His feelings of _____ from society led to depression.
- n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
37. The _____ of the financial fraud was uncovered after years of investigation.
- n.* the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent

ANSWERS: 35. malfunctioned, 36. alienation, 37. enormity