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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alastair Gray: How fake handbags fund terrorism and organized crime | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

polo

n. a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets

(1) **polo** shirt, (2) **polo** championship

I watched a thrilling **polo** match at the club over the weekend.

cliche

n. a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

synonym: truism, platitude, stereotype

(1) **cliche** plot, (2) age-old **cliche**

Using the same **cliche** phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.

padlock

n. a portable lock used to fasten or secure something, typically with a U-shaped metal bar hinged at one end and secured by a detachable part, usually a key or combination

synonym: lock, pad

(1) heavy-duty **padlock**, (2) secure with a **padlock**

I need to find the key to the **padlock** before I can open the storage unit.

spar

v. to engage in boxing or other combat sports with a partner for practice or training purposes; to practice fighting or defending oneself using light blows or drills

synonym : fight, wrestle

(1) **spar** with a partner, (2) **spar** over ideas

The kayakers had to **spar** with the strong winds and waves to reach the shore.

tread

v. to step or walk on something

synonym : step, walk, pace

(1) **tread** water, (2) **tread** a similar path

He **treads** carefully on the slippery ice.

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.

telltale

adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

synonym : revealing, indicative, suggestive

(1) **telltale** evidence, (2) **telltale** heart

The **telltale** signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.

seize

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

synonym : grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per

minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

pawn

n. a piece in the game of chess that can be moved only forward and captured only diagonally; (verb) leave as a guarantee in return for money

synonym : collateral, pledge, security

(1) **pawn** checkmate, (2) **pawn** my jewelry

He used his watch as a **pawn** in the game of chess.

unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

synonym : separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

prostitute

n. a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment

synonym : hooker, harlot, whore

(1) **prostitute** street, (2) a male **prostitute**

She turned to **prostitute** to make ends meet.

scorpion

n. a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting

synonym : arachnid, stinger

(1) **scorpion** fish, (2) poisonous **scorpion**

The **scorpion's** venom can be lethal to humans.

cling

v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

synonym : stick, adhere, attach

(1) **cling** onto power, (2) **cling** tightly to the skin

He **clings** to the hope that he will find a job soon.

canary

n. a small, typically yellow songbird that is often kept as a pet or used to denote the presence of gas or other hazards in a mine

(1) **canary** bird, (2) **canary** yellow

The **canary** in the coal mine was used as an early warning system for miners about dangerous gases.

cryptic

adj. having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

synonym: enigmatic, mysterious, obscure

(1) **cryptic** language, (2) **cryptic** crossword

The message was so **cryptic** that I had no idea what it meant.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

groom

v. to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat

synonym: brush, comb, neaten

(1) **groom** duties, (2) **groom** a horse

I need to **groom** my dog before his fur gets too long.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

falsify

v. to alter or manipulate information, data, or evidence to deceive or mislead; to prove to be false or incorrect

synonym : fudge, distort, manipulate

(1) **falsify** data, (2) **falsify** documents

The scientist was caught attempting to **falsify** the results of the study.

bribe

v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements

synonym : graft, corrupt

(1) **bribe** a politician, (2) **bribe** him with food

He tries to **bribe** the ship's captain to export illegal products.

thug

n. a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang

synonym : gangster, hooligan, criminal

(1) local **thug**, (2) notorious **thug**

The police arrested the **thug** who robbed the convenience store.

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym : scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

extremism

n. the holding of extreme political or religious views; actions or beliefs that fall outside of what is considered acceptable or reasonable

synonym : fanaticism, radicalism, zealotry

(1) violent **extremism**, (2) political **extremism**

The rise of far-right **extremism** has sparked concern among many civil rights organizations.

petty

adj. of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or

spiteful in trivial matters

synonym: minor, insignificant, trivial

(1) **petty** crime, (2) **petty** cash

The **petty** arguments between coworkers were causing a toxic work environment.

faraway

adj. located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible

synonym: distant, remote, far-off

(1) **faraway** land, (2) **faraway** dream

The view from the **faraway** hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.

commuter

n. a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car

synonym: traveler, passenger

(1) **commuter** shuttle, (2) daily **commuter**

The **commuter** train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.

helpless

adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

synonym: defenseless, powerless, susceptible

(1) **helpless** baby, (2) **helpless** victims

I feel so **helpless** without you.

cripple

v. to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine

synonym: disable, impair, paralyze

(1) **cripple** economy, (2) **cripple** opposition

The injury was severe enough to **cripple** the athlete's chances of playing again this season.

overrun

v. to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers; (noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone

synonym : invade, conquer, occupy

(1) **overrun** an area, (2) garden **overrun** with weeds

The invading army quickly may **overrun** the small country and took control of its capital city.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

afoot

adj. in progress; happening or being planned; on foot

synonym : underway, ongoing, proceeding

(1) plans are **afoot**, (2) go to the village **afoot**

His secretive plan to propose is **afoot**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. p__n my jewelry
n. a piece in the game of chess that can be moved only forward and captured only diagonally; (verb) leave as a guarantee in return for money
2. cou_____it money
adj. made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
3. te_____le evidence
adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
4. heavy-duty pa_____k
n. a portable lock used to fasten or secure something, typically with a U-shaped metal bar hinged at one end and secured by a detachable part, usually a key or combination
5. fa_____y land
adj. located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
6. poisonous sc_____on
n. a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
7. fri_____ng experience
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
8. fa_____y documents
v. to alter or manipulate information, data, or evidence to deceive or mislead; to prove to be false or incorrect

ANSWERS: 1. pawn, 2. counterfeit, 3. telltale, 4. padlock, 5. faraway, 6. scorpion, 7. frightening, 8. falsify

9. a male pro_____te *n.* a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment
10. tr__d water *v.* to step or walk on something
11. fa_____y dream *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
12. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
13. p__n checkmate *n.* a piece in the game of chess that can be moved only forward and captured only diagonally; (verb) leave as a guarantee in return for money
14. te_____le heart *adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
15. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
16. garden ov_____n with weeds *v.* to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers; (noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone
17. cr_____c crossword *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

ANSWERS: 9. prostitute, 10. tread, 11. faraway, 12. rev, 13. pawn, 14. telltale, 15. intellect, 16. overrun, 17. cryptic

18. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
19. fa____y data *v.* to alter or manipulate information, data, or evidence to deceive or mislead; to prove to be false or incorrect
20. go to the village af__t *adj.* in progress; happening or being planned; on foot
21. se__e the day *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
22. he____ss baby *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
23. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
24. pro____te street *n.* a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment
25. cl__g tightly to the skin *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
26. p__o shirt *n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
27. age-old cl____e *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

ANSWERS: 18. rev, 19. falsify, 20. afoot, 21. seize, 22. helpless, 23. creditor, 24. prostitute, 25. cling, 26. polo, 27. cliché

28. pe__y cash *adj.* of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or spiteful in trivial matters
29. br__e him with food *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
30. ca___y bird *n.* a small, typically yellow songbird that is often kept as a pet or used to denote the presence of gas or other hazards in a mine
31. gr__m a horse *v.* to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat
32. se__e a person's property *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
33. co_____er shuttle *n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
34. cr_____c language *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
35. gr__m duties *v.* to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat

ANSWERS: 28. petty, 29. bribe, 30. canary, 31. groom, 32. seize, 33. commuter, 34. cryptic, 35. groom

36. un_____l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
37. secure with a pa_____k *n.* a portable lock used to fasten or secure something, typically with a U-shaped metal bar hinged at one end and secured by a detachable part, usually a key or combination
38. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
39. notorious t__g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
40. cou_____it document *adj.* made in imitation of something else to deceive or defraud; not genuine or authentic
41. sc_____on fish *n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
42. cl__g onto power *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
43. br__e a politician *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
44. violent ex_____sm *n.* the holding of extreme political or religious views; actions or beliefs that fall outside of what is considered acceptable or reasonable

ANSWERS: 36. unravel, 37. padlock, 38. rot, 39. thug, 40. counterfeit, 41. scorpion, 42. cling, 43. bribe, 44. extremism

54. tr__d a similar path v. to step or walk on something
55. un____l a plot v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
56. ov____n an area v. to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers; (noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone
57. s__r over ideas v. to engage in boxing or other combat sports with a partner for practice or training purposes; to practice fighting or defending oneself using light blows or drills
58. p__o championship n. a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
59. cr____e opposition v. to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine
60. cr____e economy v. to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine
61. ca____y yellow n. a small, typically yellow songbird that is often kept as a pet or used to denote the presence of gas or other hazards in a mine
62. local t__g n. a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang

ANSWERS: 54. tread, 55. unravel, 56. overrun, 57. spar, 58. polo, 59. cripple, 60. cripple, 61. canary, 62. thug

63. he____ss victims

adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

64. bankrupt cr____or

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 63. helpless, 64. creditor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.
n. a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
2. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
3. The message was so _____ that I had no idea what it meant.
adj. having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
4. Using the same _____ phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.
n. a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
5. The police arrested the _____ who robbed the convenience store.
n. a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
6. The invading army quickly may _____ the small country and took control of its capital city.
v. to invade or occupy a place or territory by force, especially in large numbers;
(noun) the act of taking control or overwhelming something or someone
7. The _____ signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.
adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

ANSWERS: 1. commuter, 2. unravel, 3. cryptic, 4. cliché, 5. thug, 6. overrun, 7. telltale

8. The injury was severe enough to _____ the athlete's chances of playing again this season.
- v.* to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine
9. The rise of far-right _____ has sparked concern among many civil rights organizations.
- n.* the holding of extreme political or religious views; actions or beliefs that fall outside of what is considered acceptable or reasonable
10. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
11. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
- adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
12. The view from the _____ hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.
- adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
13. The _____ arguments between coworkers were causing a toxic work environment.
- adj.* of little importance, trivial or insignificant; characterized by an undue concern for small details or rules; mean or spiteful in trivial matters
14. I need to find the key to the _____ before I can open the storage unit.
- n.* a portable lock used to fasten or secure something, typically with a U-shaped metal bar hinged at one end and secured by a detachable part, usually a key or combination

ANSWERS: 8. cripple, 9. extremism, 10. intellect, 11. frightening, 12. faraway, 13. petty, 14. padlock

15. I need to _____ my dog before his fur gets too long.

- v.* to clean, brush, and care for the fur or feathers of an animal; to prepare oneself or someone else for a special event or occasion; to make something neat

16. The _____ in the coal mine was used as an early warning system for miners about dangerous gases.

- n.* a small, typically yellow songbird that is often kept as a pet or used to denote the presence of gas or other hazards in a mine

17. The kayakers had to _____ with the strong winds and waves to reach the shore.

- v.* to engage in boxing or other combat sports with a partner for practice or training purposes; to practice fighting or defending oneself using light blows or drills

18. He _____ carefully on the slippery ice.

- v.* to step or walk on something

19. I feel so _____ without you.

- adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

20. He used his watch as a _____ in the game of chess.

- n.* a piece in the game of chess that can be moved only forward and captured only diagonally; (verb) leave as a guarantee in return for money

21. The _____ venom can be lethal to humans.

- n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting

22. 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

ANSWERS: 15. groom, 16. canary, 17. spar, 18. treads, 19. helpless, 20. pawn, 21. scorpion's, 22. counterfeit

23. His secretive plan to propose is _____.
- adj.* in progress; happening or being planned; on foot
24. I watched a thrilling _____ match at the club over the weekend.
- n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
25. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
- v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
26. He has the superpower to _____ a business opportunity.
- v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
27. He tries to _____ the ship's captain to export illegal products.
- v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
28. The scientist was caught attempting to _____ the results of the study.
- v.* to alter or manipulate information, data, or evidence to deceive or mislead; to prove to be false or incorrect
29. He _____ to the hope that he will find a job soon.
- v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
30. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
31. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 23. afoot, 24. polo, 25. rot, 26. seize, 27. bribe, 28. falsify, 29. clings, 30. creditor, 31. rev

32. She turned to _____ to make ends meet.

- n.* a person, typically a woman, who engages in sexual activity in exchange for payment

ANSWERS: 32. prostitute