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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alyssa Monks: How loss helped one artist find beauty in imperfection | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

figurative

adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal

synonym: metaphorical, symbolic, allegorical

(1) in a **figurative** sense, (2) **figurative** painting

When he said he was starving to death, it was a **figurative** way of saying he was very hungry.

waitress

n. a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe

synonym: server, attendant, waitperson

(1) **waitress** at a restaurant, (2) tip the **waitress**

The friendly **waitress** brought the food to the table and asked if they needed anything else.

believable

adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible

synonym: plausible, credible, convincing

(1) **believable** story, (2) **believable** excuse

The novel's plot was so well-written that it seemed **believable** and realistic.

enclose

v. to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include

synonym : surround, encase, contain

(1) **enclose** a check with a letter, (2) **enclose** area

The walls were **enclosed** to create a private outdoor space.

impulsive

adj. acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have

synonym : abrupt, hasty, capricious

(1) an **impulsive** force, (2) do **impulsive** buying

He regrets the **impulsive** behavior he took in his drunken state.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym : slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym : curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

acupuncture

n. a traditional Chinese medical practice that involves inserting thin needles into specific points on the body to stimulate energy flow and promote healing; a form of alternative medicine

synonym : stylostixis, needling, reflexology

(1) **acupuncture** for anxiety, (2) **acupuncture** treatment

The **acupuncture** needles are very thin and are not painful to insert.

controllable

adj. able to be controlled or directed

synonym : manageable, governable, submissive

(1) computer- **controllable**, (2) **controllable** aircraft

The new software is much more **controllable** and user-friendly.

indulgent

adj. given to yielding to the desires or whims of oneself or others, especially by being generous or lavish

synonym : lavish, self-indulgent, excessive

(1) an **indulgent** father, (2) **indulgent** lifestyle

The rich and **indulgent** dessert was worth every calorie.

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.

reckless

adj. marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions

synonym : impetuous, irresponsible, thoughtless

(1) **reckless** driving, (2) in a **reckless** manner

Reckless youth makes rueful age.

lacquer

n. a clear or colored liquid coating composed of a resinous substance typically applied to wood, metal, or other surfaces as a protective or decorative finish; the hard, glossy finish that results from the application of such coating

synonym : varnish, polish, coating

(1) black **lacquer**, (2) **lacquer** craft

The wooden furniture was coated with a layer of glossy **lacquer** for a polished finish.

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.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate

This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

imperfectly

adv. in a faulty or incomplete way

synonym: amiss, insufficiently, clumsily

(1) **imperfectly** developed, (2) **imperfectly** known disease

He created an **imperfectly** shaped torso.

caveat

n. a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing

synonym: warning, caution, admonition

(1) a **caveat** against unfair practices, (2) general **caveat**

We often ignore important **caveats** from nature.

chaotic

adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

synonym: disorderly, cluttered, topsy-turvy

(1) the **chaotic** economic situation, (2) **chaotic** theory

Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of **chaotic** reform.

turbulent

adj. marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation

synonym: chaotic, stormy, tumultuous

(1) **turbulent** waves, (2) **turbulent** age

The stock market has been **turbulent** lately, with prices fluctuating rapidly.

nauseous

adj. causing a feeling of nausea or sickness, often due to an unpleasant taste or smell; affected by a feeling of nausea or discomfort

synonym: sickening, queasy, abhorrent

(1) become **nauseous**, (2) **nauseous** stomach

The smell of the fish made me feel **nauseous**.

dizzy

adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

synonym : addled, confounded, unsteady

(1) feel **dizzy**, (2) had a **dizzy** spell

Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting **dizzy**.

adrenaline

n. (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger

synonym : epinephrine

(1) **adrenaline** receptor, (2) **adrenaline** addiction

The band has released a lot of **adrenaline-pumping** rock music.

expansive

adj. large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk

synonym : large, extensive, vast

(1) with an **expansive** spirit, (2) **expansive** ocean views

The company has an **expansive** network of offices and locations around the world.

bathtub

n. a large container, typically made of porcelain or acrylic, for holding water in which a person can bathe

synonym : tub, bath, basin

(1) **bathtub** curve, (2) **bathtub** drain

I filled the **bathtub** with hot water and a bubble bath for a relaxing soak.

loosen

v. to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax

synonym : relax, slacken, untie

(1) **loosen** grip, (2) **loosen** knot

Please **loosen** the screws on the back panel so we can

access the inside of the machine.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. lo___n knot *v.* to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax
2. wa_____ss at a restaurant *n.* a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
3. con_____ble aircraft *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
4. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
5. with an ex_____ve spirit *adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
6. a ca___t against unfair practices *n.* a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing
7. ca__e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
8. la_____r craft *n.* a clear or colored liquid coating composed of a resinous substance typically applied to wood, metal, or other surfaces as a protective or decorative finish; the hard, glossy finish that results from the application of such coating
9. black la_____r *n.* a clear or colored liquid coating composed of a resinous substance typically applied to wood, metal, or other surfaces as a protective or decorative finish; the hard, glossy finish that results from the application of such coating

ANSWERS: 1. loosen, 2. waitress, 3. controllable, 4. opportune, 5. expansive, 6. caveat, 7. carve, 8. lacquer, 9. lacquer

10. in_____nt lifestyle *adj.* given to yielding to the desires or whims of oneself or others, especially by being generous or lavish
11. tu_____nt age *adj.* marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation
12. na_____us stomach *adj.* causing a feeling of nausea or sickness, often due to an unpleasant taste or smell; affected by a feeling of nausea or discomfort
13. had a di__y spell *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
14. acu_____re for anxiety *n.* a traditional Chinese medical practice that involves inserting thin needles into specific points on the body to stimulate energy flow and promote healing; a form of alternative medicine
15. feel di__y *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
16. general ca____t *n.* a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing
17. the ch_____c economic situation *adj.* without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
18. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
19. sc____e meat off a bone *v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

ANSWERS: 10. indulgent, 11. turbulent, 12. nauseous, 13. dizzy, 14. acupuncture, 15. dizzy, 16. caveat, 17. chaotic, 18. motto, 19. scrape

20. bel_____le story *adj.* able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
21. imp_____ly known disease *adv.* in a faulty or incomplete way
22. an im_____ve force *adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
23. un_____l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
24. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
25. tu_____nt waves *adj.* marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation
26. lo___n grip *v.* to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax
27. adr_____ne receptor *n.* (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
28. ba_____b curve *n.* a large container, typically made of porcelain or acrylic, for holding water in which a person can bathe
29. bel_____le excuse *adj.* able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
30. en_____e a check with a letter *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include

ANSWERS: 20. believable, 21. imperfectly, 22. impulsive, 23. unravel, 24. motto, 25. turbulent, 26. loosen, 27. adrenaline, 28. bathtub, 29. believable, 30. enclose

31. do im_____ve buying *adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
32. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
33. acu_____re treatment *n.* a traditional Chinese medical practice that involves inserting thin needles into specific points on the body to stimulate energy flow and promote healing; a form of alternative medicine
34. en_____e area *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
35. sc___e a hole in the ground *v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
36. computer-con_____ble *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
37. ex_____ve ocean views *adj.* large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk
38. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
39. in a re_____ss manner *adj.* marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
40. in a fig_____ve sense *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
41. adr_____ne addiction *n.* (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger

ANSWERS: 31. impulsive, 32. opportune, 33. acupuncture, 34. enclose, 35. scrape, 36. controllable, 37. expansive, 38. medicinal, 39. reckless, 40. figurative, 41. adrenaline

42. un_____l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
43. fig_____ve painting *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
44. ca__e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
45. ba_____b drain *n.* a large container, typically made of porcelain or acrylic, for holding water in which a person can bathe
46. tip the wa_____ss *n.* a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
47. an in_____nt father *adj.* given to yielding to the desires or whims of oneself or others, especially by being generous or lavish
48. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
49. re_____ss driving *adj.* marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
50. become na_____us *adj.* causing a feeling of nausea or sickness, often due to an unpleasant taste or smell; affected by a feeling of nausea or discomfort
51. imp_____ly developed *adv.* in a faulty or incomplete way
52. ch_____c theory *adj.* without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

ANSWERS: 42. unravel, 43. figurative, 44. carve, 45. bathtub, 46. waitress, 47. indulgent, 48. medicinal, 49. reckless, 50. nauseous, 51. imperfectly, 52. chaotic

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
2. The walls were _____ to create a private outdoor space.
v. to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
3. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
4. We often ignore important _____ from nature.
n. a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing
5. The friendly _____ brought the food to the table and asked if they needed anything else.
n. a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
6. 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
7. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
8. Please _____ the screws on the back panel so we can access the inside of the machine.
v. to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax

ANSWERS: 1. unravel, 2. enclosed, 3. motto, 4. caveats, 5. waitress, 6. scraped, 7. medicinal, 8. loosen

9. The stock market has been _____ lately, with prices fluctuating rapidly.
adj. marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation
10. He regrets the _____ behavior he took in his drunken state.
adj. acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
11. _____ youth makes rueful age.
adj. marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
12. The band has released a lot of _____ rock music.
n. (also "epinephrine") a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
13. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
15. The new software is much more _____ and user-friendly.
adj. able to be controlled or directed
16. When he said he was starving to death, it was a _____ way of saying he was very hungry.
adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal

ANSWERS: 9. turbulent, 10. impulsive, 11. Reckless, 12. adrenaline-pumping, 13. opportune, 14. carved, 15. controllable, 16. figurative

17. Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of _____ reform.

adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

18. The novel's plot was so well-written that it seemed _____ and realistic.

adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible

19. The _____ needles are very thin and are not painful to insert.

n. a traditional Chinese medical practice that involves inserting thin needles into specific points on the body to stimulate energy flow and promote healing; a form of alternative medicine

20. The company has an _____ network of offices and locations around the world.

adj. large or wide in extent or scope; friendly and open and willing to talk

21. Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting _____.

adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

22. The rich and _____ dessert was worth every calorie.

adj. given to yielding to the desires or whims of oneself or others, especially by being generous or lavish

23. The smell of the fish made me feel _____.

adj. causing a feeling of nausea or sickness, often due to an unpleasant taste or smell; affected by a feeling of nausea or discomfort

24. The wooden furniture was coated with a layer of glossy _____ for a polished finish.

n. a clear or colored liquid coating composed of a resinous substance typically applied to wood, metal, or other surfaces as a protective or decorative finish; the hard, glossy finish that results from the application of such coating

ANSWERS: 17. chaotic, 18. believable, 19. acupuncture, 20. expansive, 21. dizzy, 22. indulgent, 23. nauseous, 24. lacquer

25. He created an _____ shaped torso.

adv. in a faulty or incomplete way

26. I filled the _____ with hot water and a bubble bath for a relaxing soak.

n. a large container, typically made of porcelain or acrylic, for holding water in which a person can bathe

ANSWERS: 25. imperfectly, 26. bathtub