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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Silk Road Ensemble + Rhiannon Giddens: "St. James Infirmary Blues" | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

infirmary

n. a place where people who are ill or injured receive medical treatment; a small hospital or clinic

synonym : hospital, clinic, medical center

(1) **infirmary** bed, (2) school **infirmary**

The injured soldier was taken to the military **infirmary** for treatment.

bloodshot

adj. referring to eyes that are reddened or suffused with blood, often due to irritation, fatigue, or the dilation of blood vessels

synonym : red, inflamed

(1) **bloodshot** gaze, (2) **bloodshot** appearance

After a sleepless night, his eyes were **bloodshot** and tired.

bless

v. to make or pronounce holy; to hallow; to consecrate; to sanctify

synonym : sanctify, consecrate, hallow

(1) **bless** him in my heart, (2) **bless** you

The priest **blessed** the couple as they knelt before him.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

chain

n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle

synonym: series, string, link

(1) **chain** reaction, (2) supply **chain**

The **chain** on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.

pat

v. to touch or tap something lightly and usually in a friendly or encouraging manner; to apply or rub lightly and repetitively

synonym: tap, stroke, caress

(1) **pat** on the back, (2) **pat** a dog

She **patted** the puppy on the head and gave it a treat.

gamble

v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

synonym: bet, venture, wager

(1) **gamble** \$100 on the race, (2) **gamble** away my fortune

Will you **gamble** on the result of the fight?

coffin

n. a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin

synonym: casket, box, chest

(1) **coffin** lid, (2) wooden **coffin**

The priest prayed over the **coffin** before it was lowered into the ground.

choir

n. a group of singers, especially one that sings in a church or cathedral

synonym: chorus, ensemble, club

(1) quintet **choir**, (2) **choir** performance

The gospel **choir** sang beautifully at the church service.

stick

v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other

material

synonym : pierce, adhere, stay

(1) **stick** a key in a lock, (2) fire **stick**

You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

jazz

n. a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression

synonym : swing, blues, bebop

(1) **jazz** club, (2) a school **jazz** band

He listened to **jazz** music to relax after a long day at work.

hearse

n. a vehicle used to transport a coffin or casket during a funeral procession; a carriage or wagon used in medieval times to transport a nobleman's body to the burial

synonym : funeral car, carriage, cortege

(1) **hearse** procession, (2) **hearse** driver

The funeral home provided a black **hearse** for the occasion.

wagon

n. a four-wheeled vehicle used for transporting goods or people, often pulled by horses, oxen, or other animals; a compartment or container used for storage or transportation, such as a shopping cart or trolley

synonym : cart, buggy, chariot

(1) **wagon** wheel, (2) station **wagon**

The circus **wagon** was brightly painted with pictures of the animals inside.

hell

n. the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place

synonym : inferno, agony, misery

(1) run like **hell**, (2) **hell** broke loose

The battlefield became **hell** on earth.

booze

n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits

synonym: alcohol, liquor, spirits

(1) cheap **booze**, (2) drown your sorrows in **booze**

The partygoers were advised to drink moderately and avoid excessive **booze** consumption.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a school j__z band
n. a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression
2. co___n lid
n. a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
3. bl_____ot appearance
adj. referring to eyes that are reddened or suffused with blood, often due to irritation, fatigue, or the dilation of blood vessels
4. wooden co___n
n. a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
5. bl__s you
v. to make or pronounce holy; to hallow; to consecrate; to sanctify
6. cheap bo___e
n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
7. ga___e \$100 on the race
v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
8. p_t a dog
v. to touch or tap something lightly and usually in a friendly or encouraging manner; to apply or rub lightly and repetitively

ANSWERS: 1. jazz, 2. coffin, 3. bloodshot, 4. coffin, 5. bless, 6. booze, 7. gamble, 8. pat

9. ga___e away my fortune *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
10. bl_____ot gaze *adj.* referring to eyes that are reddened or suffused with blood, often due to irritation, fatigue, or the dilation of blood vessels
11. fire st__k *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
12. station wa__n *n.* a four-wheeled vehicle used for transporting goods or people, often pulled by horses, oxen, or other animals; a compartment or container used for storage or transportation, such as a shopping cart or trolley
13. he___e procession *n.* a vehicle used to transport a coffin or casket during a funeral procession; a carriage or wagon used in medieval times to transport a nobleman's body to the burial
14. drown your sorrows in bo__e *n.* an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
15. in_____ry bed *n.* a place where people who are ill or injured receive medical treatment; a small hospital or clinic
16. school in_____ry *n.* a place where people who are ill or injured receive medical treatment; a small hospital or clinic

ANSWERS: 9. gamble, 10. bloodshot, 11. stick, 12. wagon, 13. hearse, 14. booze, 15. infirmary, 16. infirmary

17. quintet ch__r *n.* a group of singers, especially one that sings in a church or cathedral
18. j__z club *n.* a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression
19. he___e driver *n.* a vehicle used to transport a coffin or casket during a funeral procession; a carriage or wagon used in medieval times to transport a nobleman's body to the burial
20. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
21. ch__n reaction *n.* a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
22. p_t on the back *v.* to touch or tap something lightly and usually in a friendly or encouraging manner; to apply or rub lightly and repetitively
23. h__l broke loose *n.* the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place
24. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
25. st__k a key in a lock *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

ANSWERS: 17. choir, 18. jazz, 19. hearse, 20. bury, 21. chain, 22. pat, 23. hell, 24. bury, 25. stick

26. run like h__l *n.* the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place
27. ch__r performance *n.* a group of singers, especially one that sings in a church or cathedral
28. bl__s him in my heart *v.* to make or pronounce holy; to hallow; to consecrate; to sanctify
29. wa__n wheel *n.* a four-wheeled vehicle used for transporting goods or people, often pulled by horses, oxen, or other animals; a compartment or container used for storage or transportation, such as a shopping cart or trolley
30. supply ch__n *n.* a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle

ANSWERS: 26. hell, 27. choir, 28. bless, 29. wagon, 30. chain

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The injured soldier was taken to the military _____ for treatment.
n. a place where people who are ill or injured receive medical treatment; a small hospital or clinic

2. The partygoers were advised to drink moderately and avoid excessive _____ consumption.
n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits

3. The priest _____ the couple as they knelt before him.
v. to make or pronounce holy; to hallow; to consecrate; to sanctify

4. Will you _____ on the result of the fight?
v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

5. She _____ the puppy on the head and gave it a treat.
v. to touch or tap something lightly and usually in a friendly or encouraging manner; to apply or rub lightly and repetitively

6. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

7. He listened to _____ music to relax after a long day at work.
n. a type of music that originated in the African-American community in the United States and that is characterized by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, and a strong emphasis on self-expression

ANSWERS: 1. infirmary, 2. booze, 3. blessed, 4. gamble, 5. patted, 6. bury, 7. jazz

8. The _____ on my bike broke, leaving me stranded.
n. a series of connected links or objects; a system or group of interconnected elements; a restraint or shackle
9. The gospel _____ sang beautifully at the church service.
n. a group of singers, especially one that sings in a church or cathedral
10. After a sleepless night, his eyes were _____ and tired.
adj. referring to eyes that are reddened or suffused with blood, often due to irritation, fatigue, or the dilation of blood vessels
11. The funeral home provided a black _____ for the occasion.
n. a vehicle used to transport a coffin or casket during a funeral procession; a carriage or wagon used in medieval times to transport a nobleman's body to the burial
12. You _____ a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.
v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
13. The priest prayed over the _____ before it was lowered into the ground.
n. a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
14. The circus _____ was brightly painted with pictures of the animals inside.
n. a four-wheeled vehicle used for transporting goods or people, often pulled by horses, oxen, or other animals; a compartment or container used for storage or transportation, such as a shopping cart or trolley

ANSWERS: 8. chain, 9. choir, 10. bloodshot, 11. hearse, 12. stick, 13. coffin, 14. wagon

15. The battlefield became _____ on earth.

- n.* the place thought to be where bad people go and are punished after death, often depicted as being located beneath the earth; an extraordinarily unpleasant or difficult place

ANSWERS: 15. hell