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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michael Metcalfe: A provocative way to finance the fight against climate change | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

recycle

v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

synonym: reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

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.

divert

- v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym: distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **divert** attention, (2) **divert** an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

mobilize

- v. to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

synonym: activate, rally, marshal

(1) **mobilize** cooperation, (2) **mobilize** a stiff joint

The military **mobilized** troops to the border.

jeopardy

- n. the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss

synonym: danger, risk, peril

(1) put his life in **jeopardy**, (2) tax in **jeopardy**

The project is in **jeopardy** of being canceled due to a lack of funding.

gloomy

- adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy

synonym: melancholy, dismal, dreary

(1) **gloomy** mood, (2) **gloomy** expression

The **gloomy** weather made staying motivated and happy throughout the day hard.

inflate

- v. to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder

synonym: blow up, expand, puff up

(1) **inflate** a tire, (2) **inflate** expense reports

She **inflated** the balloons for the party.

unconventional

adj. not following traditional or commonly accepted beliefs, practices, or customs; not conforming to established norms or standards

synonym : nontraditional, avant-garde, bizarre

(1) in an **unconventional** manner, (2) **unconventional** ideas

Her **unconventional** approach to teaching has been a hit with the students.

dismantle

v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

synonym : take apart, demolish, take down

(1) **dismantle** a machine, (2) **dismantle** a system

The old building had to be **dismantled** because it was structurally unsound.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym : conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

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.

hyperinflation

n. a condition where the price of everything in a national economy rises very quickly, causing damage to an economy

(1) the risk of **hyperinflation**, (2) fear of **hyperinflation**

The central bank has accelerated rate hikes to thwart **hyperinflation**.

manifesto

n. a public declaration or statement of policy and aims, usually issued by a political party or government; a written statement or proclamation of one's beliefs or intentions

synonym : declaration, proclamation, statement

(1) **manifesto** statement, (2) environmental **manifesto**

The political party issued a **manifesto** outlining its plans for the country's future.

Bitcoin

n. a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain

synonym : cryptocurrency, digital currency

(1) **Bitcoin** wallet, (2) **Bitcoin** transaction

Many businesses now accept **Bitcoin** as a form of payment.

swoop

v. to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon

synonym : dart, pounce

(1) **swoop** down the water slide, (2) **swoop** up the escalator

The eagle **swooped** down from the sky to catch its prey.

derail

v. to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally

synonym : crash, wreck, thwart

(1) **derail** the recovery, (2) **derail** an argument

The train **derailed** because a cow was standing on the tracks.

benign

adj. kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious

synonym : kind, gentle, harmless

(1) **benign** tumor, (2) a **benign** smile

The lump was discovered to be **benign**, and no further

treatment was needed.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

allay

v. to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion

synonym : calm, soothe, alleviate

(1) **allay** anxiety, (2) **allay** concerns about declining profits

I tried to **allay** my friend's fears by reassuring her.

greenback

n. the U.S. dollar, originally referring to the color of American banknotes issued during the American Civil War

synonym : dollar, bill, currency

(1) count the **greenbacks**, (2) a stack of **greenbacks**

He went to the bank to exchange his foreign currency for **greenbacks**.

deforest

v. to clear an area of forest or trees

synonym : clear-cut, strip, denude

(1) **deforest** a mountain, (2) **deforest** millions of acres

The company planned to **deforest** a large rainforest area to make way for a new plantation.

quibble

v. to argue or raise objections about trivial or minor matters; to find fault with something in a petty or unnecessary way; (noun) a minor or trivial objection or criticism about something

synonym : argue, nitpick, criticize

(1) **quibble** about the price, (2) **quibble** with his statement

We shouldn't **quibble** over small details and lose sight of the

bigger picture.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. mo____ze cooperation | v. | to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose |
| 2. put his life in je____dy | n. | the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss |
| 3. in____e a tire | v. | to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder |
| 4. qu____e with his statement | v. | to argue or raise objections about trivial or minor matters; to find fault with something in a petty or unnecessary way; (noun) a minor or trivial objection or criticism about something |
| 5. the risk of hyp_____ion | n. | a condition where the price of everything in a national economy rises very quickly, causing damage to an economy |
| 6. di____t attention | v. | to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose |
| 7. sw__p down the water slide | v. | to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon |
| 8. a stack of gr_____cks | n. | the U.S. dollar, originally referring to the color of American banknotes issued during the American Civil War |

ANSWERS: 1. mobilize, 2. jeopardy, 3. inflate, 4. quibble, 5. hyperinflation, 6. divert, 7. swoop, 8. greenback

9. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
10. di_____le a system *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
11. fear of hyp_____ion *n.* a condition where the price of everything in a national economy rises very quickly, causing damage to an economy
12. unc_____nal ideas *adj.* not following traditional or commonly accepted beliefs, practices, or customs; not conforming to established norms or standards
13. al__y concerns about declining profits *v.* to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion
14. de___l an argument *v.* to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally
15. sw__p up the escalator *v.* to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
16. count the gr_____cks *n.* the U.S. dollar, originally referring to the color of American banknotes issued during the American Civil War
17. di_____le a machine *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

ANSWERS: 9. industrious, 10. dismantle, 11. hyperinflation, 12. unconventional, 13. allay, 14. derail, 15. swoop, 16. greenback, 17. dismantle

18. a be___n smile *adj.* kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious
19. be___n tumor *adj.* kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious
20. re_____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
21. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
22. de_____st a mountain *v.* to clear an area of forest or trees
23. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
24. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
25. gl___y expression *adj.* characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
26. in_____e expense reports *v.* to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder
27. ho_____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
28. Bi_____n wallet *n.* a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain

ANSWERS: 18. benign, 19. benign, 20. recycle, 21. hopeless, 22. deforest, 23. overwhelm, 24. sect, 25. gloomy, 26. inflate, 27. hopeless, 28. Bitcoin

29. de____st millions of acres *v.* to clear an area of forest or trees
30. mo____ze a stiff joint *v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
31. computer-con_____ble *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
32. di____t an assault *v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
33. ma_____to statement *n.* a public declaration or statement of policy and aims, usually issued by a political party or government; a written statement or proclamation of one's beliefs or intentions
34. environmental ma_____to *n.* a public declaration or statement of policy and aims, usually issued by a political party or government; a written statement or proclamation of one's beliefs or intentions
35. re_____e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
36. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

ANSWERS: 29. deforest, 30. mobilize, 31. controllable, 32. divert, 33. manifesto, 34. manifesto, 35. recycle, 36. sect

37. gl___y mood *adj.* characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
38. de___l the recovery *v.* to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally
39. Bi_____n transaction *n.* a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain
40. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
41. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
42. tax in je_____dy *n.* the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss
43. con_____ble aircraft *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
44. in an unc_____nal manner *adj.* not following traditional or commonly accepted beliefs, practices, or customs; not conforming to established norms or standards
45. al__y anxiety *v.* to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion

ANSWERS: 37. gloomy, 38. derail, 39. Bitcoin, 40. overwhelm, 41. industrious, 42. jeopardy, 43. controllable, 44. unconventional, 45. allay

46. qu____e about the price

v. to argue or raise objections about trivial or minor matters; to find fault with something in a petty or unnecessary way; (noun) a minor or trivial objection or criticism about something

ANSWERS: 46. quibble

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We largely _____ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.
 - v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

2. Her _____ approach to teaching has been a hit with the students.
 - adj. not following traditional or commonly accepted beliefs, practices, or customs; not conforming to established norms or standards

3. We shouldn't _____ over small details and lose sight of the bigger picture.
 - v. to argue or raise objections about trivial or minor matters; to find fault with something in a petty or unnecessary way; (noun) a minor or trivial objection or criticism about something

4. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.
 - v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

5. Many businesses now accept _____ as a form of payment.
 - n. a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for secure financial transactions, control of additional unit creation, and verification of asset transfers, which operates independently of centralized banking systems and is based on a decentralized ledger technology called blockchain

6. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
 - adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

7. The company planned to _____ a large rainforest area to make way for a new plantation.
 - v. to clear an area of forest or trees

ANSWERS: 1. recycle, 2. unconventional, 3. quibble, 4. overwhelm, 5. Bitcoin, 6. industrious, 7. deforest

8. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
9. The _____ weather made staying motivated and happy throughout the day hard.
adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
10. The train _____ because a cow was standing on the tracks.
v. to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally
11. The central bank has accelerated rate hikes to thwart _____.
n. a condition where the price of everything in a national economy rises very quickly, causing damage to an economy
12. The project is in _____ of being canceled due to a lack of funding.
n. the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss
13. The lump was discovered to be _____ and no further treatment was needed.
adj. kind and gentle; not harmful or malicious
14. She _____ the balloons for the party.
v. to fill something with air or gas so that it becomes bigger and rounder
15. The political party issued a _____ outlining its plans for the country's future.
n. a public declaration or statement of policy and aims, usually issued by a political party or government; a written statement or proclamation of one's beliefs or intentions

ANSWERS: 8. sect, 9. gloomy, 10. derailed, 11. hyperinflation, 12. jeopardy, 13. benign, 14. inflated, 15. manifesto

16. The old building had to be _____ because it was structurally unsound.
- v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
17. Due to the road construction, we had to _____ our course to get to the restaurant.
- v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
18. I tried to _____ my friend's fears by reassuring her.
- v. to lessen or reduce fears, doubts, or concerns; to soothe or alleviate pain, suffering, or emotion
19. The eagle _____ down from the sky to catch its prey.
- v. to rapidly or forcefully descend upon something or someone from a great height or distance; to rush or pounce upon
20. The military _____ troops to the border.
- v. to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
21. The new software is much more _____ and user-friendly.
- adj. able to be controlled or directed
22. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
- adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
23. He went to the bank to exchange his foreign currency for _____.
- n. the U.S. dollar, originally referring to the color of American banknotes issued during the American Civil War

ANSWERS: 16. dismantled, 17. divert, 18. allay, 19. swooped, 20. mobilized, 21. controllable, 22. hopeless, 23. greenbacks

ANSWERS: