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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Taiye Selasi: Don't ask where I'm from, ask where I'm a local | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- alas** *adv.* (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing
synonym: alack, regrettably, unluckily
(1) **alas**, we did not win the game, (2) **alas**, I cannot attend the party
Alas, I realized I had left my keys at home and couldn't enter the building.
- indignity** *n.* an affront to one's dignity or self-respect; an insult or humiliating treatment
synonym: humiliation, insult, offense
(1) **indignity** of poverty, (2) suffer an **indignity**
Being demoted at work was a great **indignity** to him.
- fluent** *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
synonym: eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken
(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone
She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.
- proclaim** *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
synonym: announce, declare, trumpet

(1) **proclaim** victory, (2) **proclaim** law

The leader **proclaimed** a state of emergency in the country.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

thanksgiving

n. an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

synonym: gratitude, appreciation, recognition

(1) **thanksgiving** traditions, (2) **thanksgiving** parade

My family gathers together every year for **thanksgiving** dinner.

ewe

n. a female sheep, especially a fully grown one

(1) a fulsome **ewe**, (2) the **ewe** lambled

One **ewe** has dropped twins.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

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.

- fez** *n.* a brimless felt hat shaped like a truncated cone, traditionally worn by men in Turkey and other parts of the Middle East
synonym: tarboosh, tassel hat, Turkish hat
(1) Moroccan **fez**, (2) wear a **fez**
The dervish's outfit was complete, with a tall, red **fez** on his head.
- shopkeeper** *n.* a person who owns or manages a shop, especially a small local business
synonym: merchant, storekeeper, retailer
(1) local **shopkeeper**, (2) general **shopkeeper**
The elderly **shopkeeper** greeted customers and helped them find what they sought.
- unfailingly** *adv.* unwaveringly or consistently; without fail; always or consistently
synonym: consistently, reliably, invariably
(1) **unfailingly** punctual, (2) **unfailingly** polite
She **unfailingly** wakes up early every morning to practice yoga.
- snowy** *adj.* characterized by or covered in snow; consisting of or producing snow; often used to describe wintry landscapes or weather conditions
synonym: wintry, frosty, icy
(1) **snowy** mountain, (2) **snowy** landscape
Children love to play outside in the **snowy** weather.
- grandparent** *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
(1) great-**grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age
She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.
- germ** *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

shorthand

n. a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something

synonym: stenography, speedwriting, tachygraphy

(1) learn **shorthand**, (2) write in **shorthand**

The secretary's **shorthand** was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.

belie

v. to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something

synonym: disprove, refute, contradict

(1) **belie** his expectations, (2) **belies** the impact of the speaker's words

The peaceful surroundings **belied** the danger lurking just around the corner.

inflexible

adj. not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding

synonym: rigid, unyielding, unadaptable

(1) **inflexible** rule, (2) take an **inflexible** stance

His **inflexible** schedule did not allow for any changes.

primacy

n. the state or quality of being first or foremost in importance, rank, or authority

synonym: supremacy, dominance, leadership

(1) military **primacy**, (2) **primacy** of economics

New competitors threatened the company's **primacy** in the market.

milieu

n. the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context

synonym: environment, surroundings, setting

(1) new urban **milieu**, (2) political **milieu**

The city's diverse cultural **milieu** contributes to its unique charm.

housekeeping

n. the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks

synonym: cleaning, housework, tidying up

(1) **housekeeping** duties, (2) daily **housekeeping**

The hotel's **housekeeping** staff does a great job keeping the rooms clean and tidy.

bespeak

v. to suggest or indicate something; to request something in advance; to suggest or indicate a particular quality or characteristic

synonym: indicate, imply, suggest

(1) **bespeak** elegance, (2) **bespeak** good manners

Your outfit **bespeaks** confidence and professionalism.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

multilayer

n. something that consists of multiple layers or levels

synonym: lamination, layering, strata

(1) **multilayer** alloy, (2) **multilayer** film

A cake with a **multilayer** filling is a delicious treat.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a__s, I cannot attend the party *adv.* (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing
2. di____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
3. mul_____er film *n.* something that consists of multiple layers or levels
4. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
5. pr_____im law *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
6. be__e his expectations *v.* to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something
7. daily hou_____ing *n.* the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks
8. in a fl____t tone *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
9. general sho_____er *n.* a person who owns or manages a shop, especially a small local business
10. a__s, we did not win the game *adv.* (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing

ANSWERS: 1. alas, 2. distract, 3. multilayer, 4. writ, 5. proclaim, 6. belie, 7. housekeeping, 8. fluent, 9. shopkeeper, 10. alas

11. pr____im victory *v.* to announce or state something publicly and forcefully
12. new urban mi___u *n.* the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context
13. inf_____le rule *adj.* not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding
14. tha_____ing parade *n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year
15. be_____k good manners *v.* to suggest or indicate something; to request something in advance; to suggest or indicate a particular quality or characteristic
16. Moroccan f_z *n.* a brimless felt hat shaped like a truncated cone, traditionally worn by men in Turkey and other parts of the Middle East
17. fl___t Chinese *adj.* able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
18. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
19. a fulsome e_e *n.* a female sheep, especially a fully grown one

ANSWERS: 11. proclaim, 12. milieu, 13. inflexible, 14. thanksgiving, 15. bespeak, 16. fez, 17. fluent, 18. onstage, 19. ewe

20. write in sh_____nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
21. in_____ty of poverty *n.* an affront to one's dignity or self-respect; an insult or humiliating treatment
22. hou_____ing duties *n.* the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks
23. unf_____ly punctual *adv.* unwaveringly or consistently; without fail; always or consistently
24. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
25. wear a f_z *n.* a brimless felt hat shaped like a truncated cone, traditionally worn by men in Turkey and other parts of the Middle East
26. military pr_____y *n.* the state or quality of being first or foremost in importance, rank, or authority
27. sn__y mountain *adj.* characterized by or covered in snow; consisting of or producing snow; often used to describe wintry landscapes or weather conditions

ANSWERS: 20. shorthand, 21. indignity, 22. housekeeping, 23. unflinchingly, 24. germ, 25. fez, 26. primacy, 27. snowy

28. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
29. di_____ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
30. person of gra_____nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
31. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
32. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
33. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
34. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
35. be__es the impact of the speaker's words *v.* to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something
36. local sho_____er *n.* a person who owns or manages a shop, especially a small local business
37. cl___e plot *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
38. 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
39. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

ANSWERS: 28. grandparent, 29. distract, 30. grandparent, 31. confuse, 32. confuse, 33. germ, 34. writ, 35. belie, 36. shopkeeper, 37. cliché, 38. cliché, 39. onstage

40. suffer an in_____ty *n.* an affront to one's dignity or self-respect; an insult or humiliating treatment
41. mul_____er alloy *n.* something that consists of multiple layers or levels
42. political mi____u *n.* the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context
43. tha_____ing traditions *n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year
44. the e_e lambed *n.* a female sheep, especially a fully grown one
45. pr_____y of economics *n.* the state or quality of being first or foremost in importance, rank, or authority
46. learn sh_____nd *n.* a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
47. unf_____ly polite *adv.* unwaveringly or consistently; without fail; always or consistently
48. be_____k elegance *v.* to suggest or indicate something; to request something in advance; to suggest or indicate a particular quality or characteristic

ANSWERS: 40. indignity, 41. multilayer, 42. milieu, 43. thanksgiving, 44. ewe, 45. primacy, 46. shorthand, 47. unflinching, 48. bespeak

49. sn__y landscape

adj. characterized by or covered in snow; consisting of or producing snow; often used to describe wintry landscapes or weather conditions

50. take an inf_____le stance

adj. not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding

ANSWERS: 49. snowy, 50. inflexible

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
2. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
3. She learned five languages but is only _____ in two of them.
adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily
4. A cake with a _____ filling is a delicious treat.
n. something that consists of multiple layers or levels
5. The elderly _____ greeted customers and helped them find what they sought.
n. a person who owns or manages a shop, especially a small local business
6. Your outfit _____ confidence and professionalism.
v. to suggest or indicate something; to request something in advance; to suggest or indicate a particular quality or characteristic
7. _____ I realized I had left my keys at home and couldn't enter the building.
adv. (also exclamation) an expression of grief, condolence, or regret that is used to acknowledge a situation or outcome that is unfortunate or disappointing
8. His _____ schedule did not allow for any changes.
adj. not able to be changed or adapted; rigid or unyielding

ANSWERS: 1. confused, 2. germ, 3. fluent, 4. multilayer, 5. shopkeeper, 6. bespeaks, 7. Alas, 8. inflexible

9. She _____ wakes up early every morning to practice yoga.
adv. unwaveringly or consistently; without fail; always or consistently
10. Being demoted at work was a great _____ to him.
n. an affront to one's dignity or self-respect; an insult or humiliating treatment
11. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
12. The secretary's _____ was so good that she could type up meeting minutes within minutes.
n. a system of rapid handwriting or abbreviation that uses symbols, abbreviations, or other devices to represent words or phrases; a short and simple way of expressing or describing something
13. The city's diverse cultural _____ contributes to its unique charm.
n. the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context
14. The dervish's outfit was complete, with a tall, red ____ on his head.
n. a brimless felt hat shaped like a truncated cone, traditionally worn by men in Turkey and other parts of the Middle East
15. Children love to play outside in the _____ weather.
adj. characterized by or covered in snow; consisting of or producing snow; often used to describe wintry landscapes or weather conditions
16. The leader _____ a state of emergency in the country.
v. to announce or state something publicly and forcefully

ANSWERS: 9. unfailingly, 10. indignity, 11. onstage, 12. shorthand, 13. milieu, 14. fez, 15. snowy, 16. proclaimed

17. The peaceful surroundings _____ the danger lurking just around the corner.
- v.* to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something
18. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
- n.* a parent of one's father or mother
19. The hotel's _____ staff does a great job keeping the rooms clean and tidy.
- n.* the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks
20. 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
21. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
- v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
22. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
- n.* a written legal order or command
23. New competitors threatened the company's _____ in the market.
- n.* the state or quality of being first or foremost in importance, rank, or authority
24. My family gathers together every year for _____ dinner.
- n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

ANSWERS: 17. belied, 18. grandparents, 19. housekeeping, 20. cliché, 21. distract, 22. writ, 23. primacy, 24. thanksgiving

25. One ____ has dropped twins.

n. a female sheep, especially a fully grown one

ANSWERS: 25. ewe