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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Stephanie Honchell Smith: The merciless mercenaries of the Italian Renaissance | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/stephanie_honchell_smith_the_merciless_mercenaries_of_the_italian_renaissance

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

mercenary

n. a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment

synonym: soldier of fortune, financially-motivated

(1) **mercenary** killers, (2) a **mercenary** enterprise

It would be best if you did your work without any **mercenary** spirit.

counterattack

n. an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it

synonym: retaliation, reprisal, response

(1) gear up for a **counterattack**, (2) launch a **counterattack**

The company launched a **counterattack** against its rivals with a new marketing campaign.

cowardice

n. the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty

synonym: fearfulness, dastardliness, timidity

(1) **cowardice** in battle, (2) politics of **cowardice**

People who show **cowardice** in the face of danger are not always weak but may lack experience.

conquest

n. the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation

synonym: subjugation, domination, mastery

(1) imperial **conquest**, (2) make a **conquest**

He continued to grow his empire through **conquest**.

rivalry

n. competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

synonym: competition, contest, struggle

(1) fierce **rivalry**, (2) **rivalry** among airlines

The **rivalry** between the two teams was intense and heated.

Catholic

adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

(1) **catholic** in his tastes, (2) the **Catholic** Church

Sociologists are now interested in **catholic** world peace.

prestige

n. respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality

synonym: honor, distinction, reputation

(1) national **prestige**, (2) **prestige** company

The university has great **prestige** in the academic community.

Renaissance

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

synonym: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

hail

v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

synonym: greet, salute, welcome

(1) **hail** the victorious team with cheers, (2) **hail** forecast
People in the area were forced to **hail** a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.

truce

n. a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement

synonym: ceasefire, armistice, peace

(1) temporary **truce**, (2) break a **truce**

The two sides agreed to a **truce** and set down their weapons.

pillage

n. the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way

synonym: looting, plunder, raid

(1) violent **pillage**, (2) **pillage** gold and other treasures

The army's village **pillage** left the residents without food or shelter.

bandit

n. a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others

synonym: robber, thief, outlaw

(1) wilderness **bandit**, (2) notorious **bandit**

A group of armed **bandits** attacked the villagers during the night.

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.

leash

n. a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

synonym : tether, lead, restraint

(1) dog **leash**, (2) walk on a **leash**

Make sure to put the **leash** on your dog before walking.

synonymous

adj. having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase

synonym : equivalent, interchangeable, similar

(1) **synonymous** terms, (2) non- **synonymous** mutation

The phrase "big shot" and "important person" are **synonymous**.

plunder

v. to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

synonym : pillage, loot, despoil

(1) **plunder** the enemy's stronghold, (2) **plunder** his reputation

The pirates could **plunder** the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.

inconclusive

adj. without any significant results or proof or decision

synonym : ambiguous, unsettled, uncertain

(1) **inconclusive** debate, (2) **inconclusive** evidence

Climate behavior models are frequently **inconclusive**.

ruthless

adj. lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

synonym : heartless, pitiless, merciless

(1) show **ruthless** behavior, (2) **ruthless** brutality

The dictator was known for his **ruthless** tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

massacre

n. the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals

synonym : slaughter, bloodbath, butchery

(1) **massacre** in the village, (2) animal **massacre**

The **massacre** of innocent civilians in the war zone was a tragic event.

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

revolt

n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

synonym: rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

dynasty

n. a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country

(1) **dynasty** of China, (2) during the Ming **dynasty**

During the Habsburg **dynasty**, colonization began.

outclass

v. to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance

synonym: surpass, excel, overshadow

(1) **outclass** by technology, (2) **outclass** her peers

The new sports car **outclasses** all its competitors regarding speed and performance.

gunpowder

n. a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive

synonym: ammunition, explosive, bullet

(1) **gunpowder** paper, (2) smokeless **gunpowder**

The invention of **gunpowder** revolutionized warfare.

weaponry

n. a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country

synonym : arms, munition, artillery

(1) **weaponry** development, (2) advanced **weaponry**

The army used various **weaponry** to defend the country from attack.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. pr____ge company | <i>n.</i> respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality |
| 2. a me_____ry enterprise | <i>n.</i> a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment |
| 3. coal fa___e | <i>n.</i> a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons |
| 4. fierce ri_____y | <i>n.</i> competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business |
| 5. dy_____y of China | <i>n.</i> a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country |
| 6. imperial co_____st | <i>n.</i> the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation |
| 7. dog le__h | <i>n.</i> a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions |
| 8. syn_____us terms | <i>adj.</i> having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase |
| 9. make a co_____st | <i>n.</i> the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation |

ANSWERS: 1. prestige, 2. mercenary, 3. famine, 4. rivalry, 5. dynasty, 6. conquest, 7. leash, 8. synonymous, 9. conquest

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| 10. pl_____r the enemy's stronghold | v. | to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property |
| 11. re___t against existing ways of thinking | n. | to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler |
| 12. ma_____re in the village | n. | the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals |
| 13. animal ma_____re | n. | the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals |
| 14. break a tr___e | n. | a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement |
| 15. h___l forecast | v. | to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky |
| 16. national pr_____ge | n. | respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality |
| 17. during the Ming dy_____y | n. | a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country |

ANSWERS: 10. plunder, 11. revolt, 12. massacre, 13. massacre, 14. truce, 15. hail, 16. prestige, 17. dynasty

18. we_____ry development *n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
19. inc_____ive debate *adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision
20. co_____ce in battle *n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty
21. non-syn_____us mutation *adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase
22. violent pi_____e *n.* the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way
23. launch a cou_____ack *n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it
24. re___t against the dictator *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
25. temporary tr___e *n.* a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement
26. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 18. weaponry, 19. inconclusive, 20. cowardice, 21. synonymous, 22. pillage, 23. counterattack, 24. revolt, 25. truce, 26. opportune

27. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
28. smokeless gu_____er *n.* a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive
29. h__l the victorious team with cheers *v.* to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
30. industrial ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
31. pi_____e gold and other treasures *n.* the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way
32. politics of co_____ce *n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty
33. artistic ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
34. wilderness ba____t *n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others

ANSWERS: 27. opportune, 28. gunpowder, 29. hail, 30. Renaissance, 31. pillage, 32. cowardice, 33. Renaissance, 34. bandit

35. advanced we_____ry *n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
36. ou_____ss by technology *v.* to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance
37. fa___e relief *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
38. inc_____ive evidence *adj.* without any significant results or proof or decision
39. walk on a le__h *n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions
40. ri_____y among airlines *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
41. the Ca_____ic Church *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
42. gear up for a cou_____ack *n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it
43. show ru_____ss behavior *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

ANSWERS: 35. weaponry, 36. outclass, 37. famine, 38. inconclusive, 39. leash, 40. rivalry, 41. Catholic, 42. counterattack, 43. ruthless

44. gu_____er paper *n.* a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive
45. me_____ry killers *n.* a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment
46. ca_____ic in his tastes *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
47. ou_____ss her peers *v.* to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance
48. pl_____r his reputation *v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property
49. ru_____ss brutality *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
50. notorious ba____t *n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others

ANSWERS: 44. gunpowder, 45. mercenary, 46. Catholic, 47. outclass, 48. plunder, 49. ruthless, 50. bandit

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. The invention of _____ revolutionized warfare.
n. a mixture of substances, including sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, that is used as a fuel or explosive
3. The people tried to _____ to oust the tyrant.
n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
4. The _____ of innocent civilians in the war zone was a tragic event.
n. the brutal and indiscriminate killing of a large number of people; a violent and bloody event that typically results in the death of many individuals
5. Climate behavior models are frequently _____.
adj. without any significant results or proof or decision
6. He continued to grow his empire through _____.
n. the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
7. The dictator was known for his _____ tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.
adj. lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
8. The army's village _____ left the residents without food or shelter.
n. the act of looting or plundering, particularly during times of war or conflict; the theft or destruction of property or valuables; (verb) to rob, loot, or plunder a place or area, usually in a violent and destructive way

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. gunpowder, 3. revolt, 4. massacre, 5. inconclusive, 6. conquest, 7. ruthless, 8. pillage

9. The pirates could _____ the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.
- v. to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property
10. The new sports car _____ all its competitors regarding speed and performance.
- v. to be far superior to or surpass someone or something in quality, skill, or performance
11. Folk music is now experiencing a _____.
- n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
12. The two sides agreed to a _____ and set down their weapons.
- n. a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement
13. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.
- n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
14. During the Habsburg _____ colonization began.
- n. a sequence of influential leaders who are all from the same family or a period when they rule a country
15. People in the area were forced to _____ a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.
- v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

ANSWERS: 9. plunder, 10. outclasses, 11. renaissance, 12. truce, 13. famine, 14. dynasty, 15. hail

16. The university has great _____ in the academic community.
- n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
17. People who show _____ in the face of danger are not always weak but may lack experience.
- n.* the state or quality of lacking the courage or bravery to face danger, pain, or difficulty; the act of showing fear or running away from danger or difficulty
18. The company launched a _____ against its rivals with a new marketing campaign.
- n.* an attack made in response to an attack by an enemy or opponent often intended to stop or oppose against it
19. The phrase "big shot" and "important person" are _____.
- adj.* having the same or a similar meaning as another word or phrase
20. The army used various _____ to defend the country from attack.
- n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
21. The _____ between the two teams was intense and heated.
- n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
22. It would be best if you did your work without any _____ spirit.
- n.* a professional soldier who will fight for any country or organization that offers payment
23. A group of armed _____ attacked the villagers during the night.
- n.* a person who robs or steals, often while using violence or threats; a criminal who operates outside the law and steals from others

ANSWERS: 16. prestige, 17. cowardice, 18. counterattack, 19. synonymous, 20. weaponry, 21. rivalry, 22. mercenary, 23. bandits

24. Sociologists are now interested in _____ world peace.

adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

25. Make sure to put the _____ on your dog before walking.

n. a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

ANSWERS: 24. catholic, 25. leash