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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Elora Hardy: Magical houses, made of bamboo | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

mushroom

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

synonym: fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

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.

overlook

v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

synonym: disregard, look down, supervise

(1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads

at a right angle to them

synonym : braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story

The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

unproductive

adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results

synonym : fruitless, ineffective, idle

(1) in an **unproductive** manner, (2) **unproductive** industries

The negotiations between labor and management were **unproductive**.

ravine

n. a deep, narrow gorge or valley with steep sides, often carved by the flow of water or a landslide

synonym : canyon, gorge, gulch

(1) **ravine** trail, (2) steep **ravine**

The hiker fell into a **ravine** and had to be rescued by a helicopter.

mountainside

n. the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity

synonym : slope, hillside, incline

(1) climb a **mountainside**, (2) enjoy the view from the **mountainside**

The hiker slipped and fell down the **mountainside**, injuring herself.

rainwater

n. water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected

synonym : precipitation, drizzle, showers

(1) **rainwater** acidity, (2) **rainwater** drainage

The company installed a **rainwater** harvesting system to collect and reuse it for manufacturing.

clump

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
synonym : cluster, bunch, bundle

(1) **clump** of bacteria, (2) a **clump** of trees

I heard the **clump** of his boots in the hallway.

tensile

adj. relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension

synonym : flexible, pliable, ductile

(1) **tensile** deformation, (2) **tensile** properties

The engineer tested the **tensile** strength of the metal to determine its durability.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym : condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

slam

v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

synonym : bang, crash, shut

(1) **slam** the door, (2) **slam** the book against a wall

She **slammed** the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.

veggie

adj. (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables

synonym : vegetarian, herbivorous, plant-based

(1) **veggie** omelet, (2) **veggie** dip

I prefer to eat **veggie** burgers instead of traditional meat burgers.

hut

n. a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud

synonym : shack, cabin, cottage

(1) shepherd's **hut**, (2) fishing **hut**

The little girl lived in a small **hut** in the woods with her family.

raft *n.* a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer
synonym : flatboat, boat, barge

(1) a **raft** for carrying horses, (2) a life **raft**

The rubber **raft** was swept out to sea.

unprotected *adj.* not guarded, covered, or shielded; vulnerable; without protection or defense

synonym : uncovered, defenseless, vulnerable

(1) **unprotected** area, (2) **unprotected** Wi-Fi

It's important never to have **unprotected** sex to prevent the spread of STDs.

untreated *adj.* not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment

synonym : raw, unprocessed, coarse

(1) an **untreated** disease, (2) dispose of **untreated** formalin solution

Heat stroke is the result of **untreated** heat exhaustion.

aspiring *adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life

synonym : hopeful, ambitious, eager

(1) **aspiring** prime minister, (2) have **aspiring** eyes

He was extremely generous to the **aspiring** young artist.

craftsman *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials

synonym : artisan, mechanic, workman

(1) **craftsman** skill, (2) a subtle **craftsman**

The adept **craftsman** carefully carved the wooden figurine with precision and skill.

adventurous

adj. willing to take risks and try new or difficult things
synonym : daring, risk-taking, bold

(1) lead an **adventurous** life, (2) **adventurous** pioneers
He has an **adventurous** spirit and is unafraid of risks.

tapering

adj. gradually becoming narrower or thinner at one end;
(noun) the practice of reducing the intensity and volume of training for a period of time before a race or competition; the reduction of monetary stimulus in an economy by a central bank

synonym : narrowing, decreasing, dwindling

(1) **tapering** economy, (2) gradual **tapering** of the dose
The **tapering** end of the pencil allowed for precise drawing.

blueprint

n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym : draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**
A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

hinge

n. a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close

synonym : joint, pivot

(1) a stiff **hinge**, (2) insecure **hinge**
His involvement is the **hinge** of our plan.

pivot

n. a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances

synonym : center point, fulcrum, heart

(1) center- **pivot** irrigation, (2) **pivot** point
The team needed to come up with a **pivot** strategy to turn things around.

teardrop

n. anything shaped like a falling drop as a pendant gem on an earring; a single tear that falls from the eye

synonym : tear

(1) **teardrop** balloon, (2) **teardrop** earring

Teardrop rubies and diamonds were set in white gold.

reap

v. to harvest a grain crop from a field; to obtain something beneficial as a consequence of something that you have done

synonym: collect, harvest, derive

(1) **reap** the benefits, (2) **reap** crops

He **reaped** a significant profit from the listing of his company's stock.

plywood

n. a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles

synonym: panel board, veneer panel, plyboard

(1) flexible **plywood**, (2) **plywood** furniture

Manufacturing companies use large sheets of **plywood** to make furniture and fixtures.

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.

boulder

n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

synonym: rock, stone, clump

(1) **boulder** field, (2) lava **boulder**

The hikers had to climb over a **boulder** that was blocking their path.

- loaf** *n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
synonym : bread, boule, brioche
(1) crusty **loaf**, (2) **loaf** around during the day
On my way home from work, I picked up a **loaf** of bread from the bakery.
- 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.
- whittle** *v.* to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something
synonym : carve, pare, trim
(1) **whittle** wooden toys, (2) **whittle** down expenses
The skilled craftsman used a pocket knife to **whittle** a small figurine from a wood block.
- glossy** *adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish
synonym : shiny, polished, gleaming
(1) **glossy** lipstick, (2) **glossy** photograph
The magazine cover had a **glossy** finish, making the images shine.
- footprint** *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
synonym : footmark, imprint, impression
(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization
We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. architect's bl_____nt | <i>n.</i> a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine |
| 2. bl_____nt for economic reform | <i>n.</i> a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine |
| 3. insecure hi__e | <i>n.</i> a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close |
| 4. te_____e properties | <i>adj.</i> relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension |
| 5. co_____ss the chest | <i>v.</i> to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space |
| 6. a r__t for carrying horses | <i>n.</i> a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer |
| 7. enjoy the view from the mou_____ide | <i>n.</i> the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity |
| 8. s__m the book against a wall | <i>v.</i> to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily |
| 9. gl___y lipstick | <i>adj.</i> having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish |

ANSWERS: 1. blueprint, 2. blueprint, 3. hinge, 4. tensile, 5. compress, 6. raft, 7. mountainside, 8. slam, 9. glossy

19. wh_____e wooden toys *v.* to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something
20. te_____e deformation *adj.* relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension
21. center-pi__t irrigation *n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
22. we__e on a loom *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
23. be_____k elegance *v.* to suggest or indicate something; to request something in advance; to suggest or indicate a particular quality or characteristic
24. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
25. ra_____er drainage *n.* water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected
26. ve___e omelet *adj.* (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables
27. steep ra___e *n.* a deep, narrow gorge or valley with steep sides, often carved by the flow of water or a landslide

ANSWERS: 19. whittle, 20. tensile, 21. pivot, 22. weave, 23. bespeak, 24. footprint, 25. rainwater, 26. veggie, 27. ravine

28. ov____ok that fact *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
29. bo____r field *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
30. l__f around during the day *n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
31. pi__t point *n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
32. in an unp____ive manner *adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
33. unp____ed area *adj.* not guarded, covered, or shielded; vulnerable; without protection or defense
34. fo____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
35. mu____om cultivation *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
36. climb a mou____ide *n.* the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity
37. 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

ANSWERS: 28. overlook, 29. boulder, 30. loaf, 31. pivot, 32. unproductive, 33. unprotected, 34. footprint, 35. mushroom, 36. mountainside, 37. lacquer

38. be____k good manners *v.* to suggest or indicate something; to request something in advance; to suggest or indicate a particular quality or characteristic
39. 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
40. unp_____ive industries *adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
41. cr_____an skill *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials
42. a stiff hi__e *n.* a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close
43. unp_____ed Wi-Fi *adj.* not guarded, covered, or shielded; vulnerable; without protection or defense
44. te____op earring *n.* anything shaped like a falling drop as a pendant gem on an earring; a single tear that falls from the eye
45. te____op balloon *n.* anything shaped like a falling drop as a pendant gem on an earring; a single tear that falls from the eye
46. crusty l__f *n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle

ANSWERS: 38. bespeak, 39. lacquer, 40. unproductive, 41. craftsman, 42. hinge, 43. unprotected, 44. teardrop, 45. teardrop, 46. loaf

47. adv_____us pioneers *adj.* willing to take risks and try new or difficult things
48. flexible pl_____d *n.* a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles
49. gl____y photograph *adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish
50. we__e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
51. mu_____om spores *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
52. wh_____e down expenses *v.* to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something
53. fishing h_t *n.* a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud
54. ov_____ok a street *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
55. a subtle cr_____an *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials

ANSWERS: 47. adventurous, 48. plywood, 49. glossy, 50. weave, 51. mushroom, 52. whittle, 53. hut, 54. overlook, 55. craftsman

56. ca__e my name on the plate
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
57. ve___e dip
adj. (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables
58. gradual ta_____ng of the dose
adj. gradually becoming narrower or thinner at one end; (noun) the practice of reducing the intensity and volume of training for a period of time before a race or competition; the reduction of monetary stimulus in an economy by a central bank
59. ca__e a statue
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
60. lead an adv_____us life
adj. willing to take risks and try new or difficult things
61. co_____ss gas
v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
62. lava bo_____r
n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
63. dispose of un_____ed formalin solution
adj. not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment
64. a life r__t
n. a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer
65. s__m the door
v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
66. an un_____ed disease
adj. not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment

ANSWERS: 56. carve, 57. veggie, 58. tapering, 59. carve, 60. adventurous, 61. compress, 62. boulder, 63. untreated, 64. raft, 65. slam, 66. untreated

67. cl__p of bacteria

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

68. pl____d furniture

n. a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles

ANSWERS: 67. clump, 68. plywood

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. On my way home from work, I picked up a _____ of bread from the bakery.
n. a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle

2. I heard the _____ of his boots in the hallway.
n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

3. A business plan is a _____ for your success.
n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

4. The rubber _____ was swept out to sea.
n. a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer

5. The little girl lived in a small _____ in the woods with her family.
n. a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud

6. _____ rubies and diamonds were set in white gold.
n. anything shaped like a falling drop as a pendant gem on an earring; a single tear that falls from the eye

7. He _____ a significant profit from the listing of his company's stock.
v. to harvest a grain crop from a field; to obtain something beneficial as a consequence of something that you have done

8. The hiker slipped and fell down the _____ injuring herself.
n. the side or slope of a mountain often used to describe the location or position of a particular object or activity

ANSWERS: 1. loaf, 2. clump, 3. blueprint, 4. raft, 5. hut, 6. Teardrop, 7. reaped, 8. mountainside,

9. The hiker fell into a _____ and had to be rescued by a helicopter.
- n.* a deep, narrow gorge or valley with steep sides, often carved by the flow of water or a landslide
10. The hikers had to climb over a _____ that was blocking their path.
- n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
11. His involvement is the _____ of our plan.
- n.* a joint that holds the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. and allows it to open or close
12. The company installed a _____ harvesting system to collect and reuse it for manufacturing.
- n.* water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected
13. Manufacturing companies use large sheets of _____ to make furniture and fixtures.
- n.* a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles
14. The team needed to come up with a _____ strategy to turn things around.
- n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
15. We cannot _____ an opportunity for great success.
- v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above
16. The adept _____ carefully carved the wooden figurine with precision and skill.
- n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials

ANSWERS: 9. ravine, 10. boulder, 11. hinge, 12. rainwater, 13. plywood, 14. pivot, 15. overlook, 16. craftsman

17. 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

18. He was extremely generous to the _____ young artist.

- adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life

19. He has an _____ spirit and is unafraid of risks.

- adj.* willing to take risks and try new or difficult things

20. It's important never to have _____ sex to prevent the spread of STDs.

- adj.* not guarded, covered, or shielded; vulnerable; without protection or defense

21. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.

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

22. 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

23. The _____ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

- n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

24. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

- v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

ANSWERS: 17. bespeaks, 18. aspiring, 19. adventurous, 20. unprotected, 21. carved, 22. lacquer, 23. mushroom, 24. compressed

25. I prefer to eat _____ burgers instead of traditional meat burgers.

adj. (short for vegetarian) relating to or consisting of vegetables

26. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

27. The negotiations between labor and management were _____.

adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results

28. She _____ the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.

v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

29. The skilled craftsman used a pocket knife to _____ a small figurine from a wood block.

v. to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something

30. The engineer tested the _____ strength of the metal to determine its durability.

adj. relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension

31. The _____ end of the pencil allowed for precise drawing.

adj. gradually becoming narrower or thinner at one end; (noun) the practice of reducing the intensity and volume of training for a period of time before a race or competition; the reduction of monetary stimulus in an economy by a central bank

32. The magazine cover had a _____ finish, making the images shine.

adj. having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish

ANSWERS: 25. veggie, 26. footprint, 27. unproductive, 28. slammed, 29. whittle, 30. tensile, 31. tapering, 32. glossy

33. Heat stroke is the result of _____ heat exhaustion.

adj. not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment

34. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

ANSWERS: 33. untreated, 34. weaves