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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Christine Sun Kim: The enchanting music of sign language | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

loudspeaker

n. an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas

synonym: speaker, loudhailer, megaphone

(1) wireless **loudspeaker**, (2) **loudspeaker** system

The teacher spoke through the **loudspeaker** so that every student could hear the announcement.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

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.

burp

v. to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as

a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound

synonym : belch, eruct, hiccup

(1) **burp** the baby, (2) accidental **burp**

He couldn't help but **burp** loudly after drinking the fizzy soda.

scrape

v. to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

synonym : scratch, graze, rub

(1) **scrape** meat off a bone, (2) **scrape** a hole in the ground

He **scraped** the mud off his boots before entering the house.

utensil

n. a tool used in the house

synonym : appliance, equipment, instrument

(1) cooking **utensils**, (2) cleaning **utensils**

This cuisine requires special kitchen **utensils**.

etiquette

n. a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts

synonym : protocol, manners, decorum

(1) email **etiquette**, (2) breach of **etiquette**

It's important to follow proper **etiquette** when attending a formal dinner.

vigilant

adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties

synonym : watchful, attentive, alert

(1) **vigilant** watch, (2) **vigilant** about hand-washing

The guards had to remain **vigilant** to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.

smudge

n. a blurry or dirty mark or stain left by rubbing or smearing something; also, a bundle of material, such as sage or incense, that is burned to produce smoke for purification or ritual purposes

synonym : blemish, mark, stain

(1) ink **smudge**, (2) lipstick **smudge**

She accidentally left a **smudge** on the newly painted wall.

smear

v. to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one

synonym: smudge, spread, daub

(1) **smear** butter on bread, (2) **smear** of blood

The politician tried to **smear** his opponent's reputation with false accusations.

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.

auditory

adj. of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

synonym: hearing, audible, aural

(1) a good **auditory** memory, (2) **auditory** system

The **auditory** nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

tact

n. skill and sensitivity in dealing with others, particularly in difficult or delicate situations

synonym: diplomacy, politeness, discretion

(1) public speaking **tact**, (2) show great emotional **tact**

His diplomatic **tact** helped him to navigate the difficult negotiations.

reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

disempower

v. to deprive of power, authority, or influence, to make someone or something less powerful or effective

synonym: disenfranchise, weaken, undermine

(1) **disempower** the employees, (2) **disempower** the opposition

The politician's efforts to **disempower** marginalized communities were met with widespread criticism.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

oblivion

n. the state of being completely forgotten or unknown; the state of being unconscious or unaware; the condition of being destroyed, wiped out, or erased from existence

synonym: limbo, forgetfulness, unawareness

(1) vanish into **oblivion**, (2) drunken **oblivion**

The author's work was forgotten and fell into **oblivion** after his death.

delve

v. to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner

synonym: dig, excavate, uncover

(1) **delve** deeper, (2) **delve** into documents

Researchers must **delve** into the intricacies of the human brain to understand mental illness.

inflect

v. to change the form or sound of a word to express different grammatical or phonetic variations; to modify or alter the tone, pitch, or intonation of one's voice

synonym: alter, modulate, vary

(1) **inflect** his jokes, (2) **inflect** a sentence

The actress could **inflect** her voice in a way that captivated the audience.

envision

v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

synonym: anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success

We cannot **envision** her as President.

claw

n. a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

synonym: paw, talon, nail

(1) **claw** marks, (2) **claw** hammer

The bear used its **claw** to catch a fish in the river.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym: settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

enlightenment

n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge

synonym: civilization, awareness, sophistication

(1) spiritual **enlightenment**, (2) **enlightenment** activity
He finally brought his **enlightenment** to perfection.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. ins_____ize a system | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 2. public speaking t__t | <i>n.</i> skill and sensitivity in dealing with others, particularly in difficult or delicate situations |
| 3. enl_____ent activity | <i>n.</i> education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge |
| 4. lipstick sm___e | <i>n.</i> a blurry or dirty mark or stain left by rubbing or smearing something; also, a bundle of material, such as sage or incense, that is burned to produce smoke for purification or ritual purposes |
| 5. am_____y a signal | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 6. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 7. co_____ze planets | <i>v.</i> to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers |
| 8. dis_____er the opposition | <i>v.</i> to deprive of power, authority, or influence, to make someone or something less powerful or effective |
| 9. vi_____nt watch | <i>adj.</i> keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties |

ANSWERS: 1. institutionalize, 2. tact, 3. enlightenment, 4. smudge, 5. amplify, 6. opportune, 7. colonize, 8. disempower, 9. vigilant

10. cleaning ut____ls *n.* a tool used in the house
11. accidental b__p *v.* to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound
12. em____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
13. s__m the door *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
14. sm__r of blood *v.* to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one
15. spiritual enl_____ent *n.* education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
16. wireless lou_____er *n.* an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas
17. lou_____er system *n.* an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas

ANSWERS: 10. utensil, 11. burp, 12. empower, 13. slam, 14. smear, 15. enlightenment, 16. loudspeaker, 17. loudspeaker

18. vanish into ob____on *n.* the state of being completely forgotten or unknown; the state of being unconscious or unaware; the condition of being destroyed, wiped out, or erased from existence
19. email et____te *n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
20. sm__r butter on bread *v.* to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one
21. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
22. cooking ut____ls *n.* a tool used in the house
23. show great emotional t__t *n.* skill and sensitivity in dealing with others, particularly in difficult or delicate situations
24. re____m land from the sea *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
25. c__w marks *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

ANSWERS: 18. oblivion, 19. etiquette, 20. smear, 21. institutionalize, 22. utensil, 23. tact, 24. reclaim, 25. claw

26. co____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
27. en____on the project's success *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
28. en____on the future *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
29. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
30. ink sm____e *n.* a blurry or dirty mark or stain left by rubbing or smearing something; also, a bundle of material, such as sage or incense, that is burned to produce smoke for purification or ritual purposes
31. de__e deeper *v.* to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
32. c__w hammer *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
33. re_____m a competitive position *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
34. in_____t a sentence *v.* to change the form or sound of a word to express different grammatical or phonetic variations; to modify or alter the tone, pitch, or intonation of one's voice

ANSWERS: 26. colonize, 27. envision, 28. envision, 29. opportune, 30. smudge, 31. delve, 32. claw, 33. reclaim, 34. inflect

35. de__e into documents *v.* to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
36. a good au____ry memory *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
37. dis_____er the employees *v.* to deprive of power, authority, or influence, to make someone or something less powerful or effective
38. breach of et_____te *n.* a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
39. vi_____nt about hand-washing *adj.* keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
40. drunken ob_____on *n.* the state of being completely forgotten or unknown; the state of being unconscious or unaware; the condition of being destroyed, wiped out, or erased from existence
41. am_____y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
42. sc_____e a hole in the ground *v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
43. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
44. au_____ry system *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
45. sc_____e meat off a bone *v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

ANSWERS: 35. delve, 36. auditory, 37. disempower, 38. etiquette, 39. vigilant, 40. oblivion, 41. amplify, 42. scrape, 43. empower, 44. auditory, 45. scrape

46. in____t his jokes
- v. to change the form or sound of a word to express different grammatical or phonetic variations; to modify or alter the tone, pitch, or intonation of one's voice
47. s__m the book against a wall
- v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
48. b__p the baby
- v. to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound

ANSWERS: 46. inflect, 47. slam, 48. burp

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The guards had to remain _____ to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.
adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
2. You may be entitled to _____ some tax.
v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
3. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
4. He couldn't help but _____ loudly after drinking the fizzy soda.
v. to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound
5. His diplomatic _____ helped him to navigate the difficult negotiations.
n. skill and sensitivity in dealing with others, particularly in difficult or delicate situations
6. It's important to follow proper _____ when attending a formal dinner.
n. a set of rules and norms governing polite and proper behavior in social situations or professional contexts
7. We cannot _____ her as President.
v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

ANSWERS: 1. vigilant, 2. reclaim, 3. amplify, 4. burp, 5. tact, 6. etiquette, 7. envision

8. He finally brought his _____ to perfection.
- n.* education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
9. The teacher spoke through the _____ so that every student could hear the announcement.
- n.* an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas
10. Researchers must _____ into the intricacies of the human brain to understand mental illness.
- v.* to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
11. The actress could _____ her voice in a way that captivated the audience.
- v.* to change the form or sound of a word to express different grammatical or phonetic variations; to modify or alter the tone, pitch, or intonation of one's voice
12. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
- v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
13. The politician tried to _____ his opponent's reputation with false accusations.
- v.* to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one
14. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.
- v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something

ANSWERS: 8. enlightenment, 9. loudspeaker, 10. delve, 11. inflect, 12. colonized, 13. smear, 14. empowered

15. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
16. The author's work was forgotten and fell into _____ after his death.
- n.* the state of being completely forgotten or unknown; the state of being unconscious or unaware; the condition of being destroyed, wiped out, or erased from existence
17. The _____ nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.
- adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
18. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
19. The politician's efforts to _____ marginalized communities were met with widespread criticism.
- v.* to deprive of power, authority, or influence, to make someone or something less powerful or effective
20. This cuisine requires special kitchen _____.
- n.* a tool used in the house
21. The bear used its _____ to catch a fish in the river.
- n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

ANSWERS: 15. institutionalize, 16. oblivion, 17. auditory, 18. opportune, 19. disempower, 20. utensils, 21. claw

22. 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
23. She accidentally left a _____ on the newly painted wall.
- n. a blurry or dirty mark or stain left by rubbing or smearing something; also, a bundle of material, such as sage or incense, that is burned to produce smoke for purification or ritual purposes
24. He _____ the mud off his boots before entering the house.
- v. to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

ANSWERS: 22. slammed, 23. smudge, 24. scraped