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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lisa Winer: Can you solve the river crossing riddle? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

wildfire

n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

synonym: blaze, bonfire, flame

(1) **wildfire** spread, (2) arson-caused **wildfire**

The **wildfire** destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

rage

n. a strong feeling of anger or violence

synonym: fury, anger, outrage

(1) uncontrollable **rage**, (2) fall into a **rage**

She was filled with a burning **rage** at the injustice she had witnessed.

grassland

n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

synonym: meadow, plain, savanna

(1) endangered **grassland**, (2) vast **grassland**

Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale **grasslands** in many parts of the world.

wildebeest

n. (also "gnu") a large African antelope with a broad muzzle and curved horns, known for its annual migration

synonym : gnu

(1) grazing **wildebeest**, (2) **wildebeest** herd

The migration of **wildebeest** across the Serengeti is an awe-inspiring natural phenomenon.

flee

v. to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger

synonym : exit, escape, run away

(1) **flee** their homes, (2) **flee** abroad

It is a basic instinct to **flee** from a dangerous situation.

inferno

n. a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs

synonym : hell, fiery pit, furnace

(1) a raging **inferno**, (2) devastating **inferno**

The building was consumed by an **inferno**, reducing it to ashes.

crocodile

n. a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats

synonym : alligator, gator, croc

(1) **crocodile** hide, (2) saltwater **crocodile**

The **crocodile** attack left the villagers in a state of shock and fear

fortunate

adj. having good luck or lucky

synonym : fortuitous, lucky, blessed

(1) **fortunate** situation, (2) less **fortunate** person

He was pretty **fortunate** to pass the exam.

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.

row

n. an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
synonym : line, sequence, layer

(1) criminal on death **row**, (2) a **row** of cherry trees
He was the leader of the demonstrators and spoke out against the war in the front **row**.

outnumber

v. to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number
synonym : surpass, exceed

(1) **outnumber** our opponents, (2) **outnumber** males
The number of tourists in the city now **outnumbers** the locals.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
synonym : intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**
When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

pause

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
synonym : halt, break, intermit

(1) **pause** a moment, (2) **pause** for a reaction
The man **paused** before opening the door.

stick

v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
synonym : pierce, adhere, stay

(1) **stick** a key in a lock, (2) fire **stick**
You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

decision

n. the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options

synonym: choice, determination, judgment

(1) **decision** authority, (2) a selfish **decision**

She was struggling to make a **decision** between two job offers.

consequence

n. the outcome of a particular action or event, especially relative to an individual

synonym: result, impact, outcome

(1) unintended **consequences**, (2) the **consequence** of an argument

These economic activities had disastrous environmental **consequences**.

instance

n. a particular example or single occurrence of something

synonym: example, sample, illustration

(1) for **instance**, (2) notable **instance**

These articles cite five **instances** of climate change.

straight

adj. extending or moving in one direction without bending or curving; having no deviations

synonym: linear, honest, consecutive

(1) a **straight** line, (2) **straight** for two months

He was sick for five **straight** days.

immediately

adv. now or without delay

synonym: directly, instantly, promptly

(1) **immediately** recall a product, (2) write him an answer **immediately**

A suspension order from the court is effective **immediately**.

sake

n. purpose; reason for wanting something done

synonym: purpose, reason, interest

(1) for your own **sake**, (2) for the **sake** of argument

He got a new job for the **sake** of his family.

reverse

v. to change something's direction, order, position, decision, etc., to the opposite one; (adjective) directed or moving toward the rear

synonym: overturn, shift, switch

(1) **reverse** the trend, (2) **reverse** the order

The restaurant **reversed** a ban on smoking.

fellow

adj. someone who has the same job or interests as you, or is in the same class, profession, or situation as you

synonym: buddy, mate, affiliate

(1) junior **fellow**, (2) nice **fellow**

He is the kind of **fellow** who only works for his success.

involve

v. to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

synonym: implicate, include, engage

(1) **involve** a lot of paperwork, (2) **involve** a high degree of risk

The investigation **involves** several government agencies and is expected to take several months.

similarly

adv. in almost the same way

synonym: also, likewise, ditto

(1) **similarly** situated, (2) have **similarly** great abilities

We argue that wages for temporary workers should **similarly** rise.

unlikely

adj. not probable or likely to happen

synonym: doubtful, questionable, far-fetched

(1) **unlikely** event, (2) it is **unlikely** that he would win the game

The passage of the bill is **unlikely**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|---|
| 1. ou_____er our opponents | v. | to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number |
| 2. ou_____er males | v. | to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number |
| 3. a raging in_____o | n. | a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs |
| 4. the con_____ce of an argument | n. | the outcome of a particular action or event, especially relative to an individual |
| 5. a selfish de_____on | n. | the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options |
| 6. aggressive in_____ct | n. | an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true |
| 7. pa__e for a reaction | v. | to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing |
| 8. saltwater cr_____le | n. | a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats |
| 9. arson-caused wi_____re | n. | a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope |

ANSWERS: 1. outnumber, 2. outnumber, 3. inferno, 4. consequence, 5. decision, 6. instinct, 7. pause, 8. crocodile, 9. wildfire

10. si_____ly situated *adv.* in almost the same way
11. a st_____ht line *adj.* extending or moving in one direction without bending or curving; having no deviations
12. wil_____st herd *n.* (also "gnu") a large African antelope with a broad muzzle and curved horns, known for its annual migration
13. junior fe___w *adj.* someone who has the same job or interests as you, or is in the same class, profession, or situation as you
14. de_____on authority *n.* the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options
15. notable in_____ce *n.* a particular example or single occurrence of something
16. unintended con_____ces *n.* the outcome of a particular action or event, especially relative to an individual
17. wi_____re spread *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
18. f__e their homes *v.* to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger
19. for your own s__e *n.* purpose; reason for wanting something done
20. re_____e the trend *v.* to change something's direction, order, position, decision, etc., to the opposite one; (adjective) directed or moving toward the rear

ANSWERS: 10. similarly, 11. straight, 12. wildebeest, 13. fellow, 14. decision, 15. instance, 16. consequence, 17. wildfire, 18. flee, 19. sake, 20. reverse

21. devastating in____o *n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs
22. un____ly event *adj.* not probable or likely to happen
23. vast gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
24. a r_w of cherry trees *n.* an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
25. in____e a lot of paperwork *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
26. for the s__e of argument *n.* purpose; reason for wanting something done
27. cr_____le hide *n.* a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
28. imm_____ly recall a product *adv.* now or without delay
29. grazing wil_____st *n.* (also "gnu") a large African antelope with a broad muzzle and curved horns, known for its annual migration
30. 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
31. re____e the order *v.* to change something's direction, order, position, decision, etc., to the opposite one; (adjective) directed or moving toward the rear

ANSWERS: 21. inferno, 22. unlikely, 23. grassland, 24. row, 25. involve, 26. sake, 27. crocodile, 28. immediately, 29. wildebeest, 30. raft, 31. reverse

32. uncontrollable r__e *n.* a strong feeling of anger or violence
33. for in____ce *n.* a particular example or single occurrence of something
34. less fo_____te person *adj.* having good luck or lucky
35. in_____ct for self-preservation *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
36. criminal on death r_w *n.* an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
37. a r__t for carrying horses *n.* a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer
38. write him an answer imm_____ly *adv.* now or without delay
39. endangered gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
40. it is un_____ly that he would win the game *adj.* not probable or likely to happen
41. have si_____ly great abilities *adv.* in almost the same way
42. in_____e a high degree of risk *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
43. fo_____te situation *adj.* having good luck or lucky
44. fire st__k *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

ANSWERS: 32. rage, 33. instance, 34. fortunate, 35. instinct, 36. row, 37. raft, 38. immediately, 39. grassland, 40. unlikely, 41. similarly, 42. involve, 43. fortunate, 44. stick

45. st__k a key in a lock
v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
46. f__e abroad
v. to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger
47. fall into a r__e
n. a strong feeling of anger or violence
48. nice fe___w
adj. someone who has the same job or interests as you, or is in the same class, profession, or situation as you
49. pa__e a moment
v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
50. st____ht for two months
adj. extending or moving in one direction without bending or curving; having no deviations

ANSWERS: 45. stick, 46. flee, 47. rage, 48. fellow, 49. pause, 50. straight

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.
n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
2. We argue that wages for temporary workers should _____ rise.
adv. in almost the same way
3. It is a basic instinct to _____ from a dangerous situation.
v. to leave by running away, especially out of fear or danger
4. These articles cite five _____ of climate change.
n. a particular example or single occurrence of something
5. He got a new job for the _____ of his family.
n. purpose; reason for wanting something done
6. He is the kind of _____ who only works for his success.
adj. someone who has the same job or interests as you, or is in the same class, profession, or situation as you
7. He was the leader of the demonstrators and spoke out against the war in the front _____.
n. an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line; (verb) to propel a boat through the water using oars
8. The man _____ before opening the door.
v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

ANSWERS: 1. wildfire, 2. similarly, 3. flee, 4. instances, 5. sake, 6. fellow, 7. row, 8. paused

9. 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
10. Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale _____ in many parts of the world.
n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
11. The passage of the bill is _____.
adj. not probable or likely to happen
12. A suspension order from the court is effective _____.
adv. now or without delay
13. She was struggling to make a _____ between two job offers.
n. the act or process of making up someone's mind about something; a choice or judgment reached after considering options
14. He was pretty _____ to pass the exam.
adj. having good luck or lucky
15. She was filled with a burning _____ at the injustice she had witnessed.
n. a strong feeling of anger or violence
16. You _____ a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.
v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

ANSWERS: 9. raft, 10. grasslands, 11. unlikely, 12. immediately, 13. decision, 14. fortunate, 15. rage, 16. stick

17. The restaurant _____ a ban on smoking.
- v.* to change something's direction, order, position, decision, etc., to the opposite one; (adjective) directed or moving toward the rear
18. The investigation _____ several government agencies and is expected to take several months.
- v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
19. These economic activities had disastrous environmental _____.
- n.* the outcome of a particular action or event, especially relative to an individual
20. The _____ attack left the villagers in a state of shock and fear
- n.* a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
21. The building was consumed by an _____ reducing it to ashes.
- n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs
22. The number of tourists in the city now _____ the locals.
- v.* to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number
23. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
- n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
24. He was sick for five _____ days.
- adj.* extending or moving in one direction without bending or curving; having no deviations

ANSWERS: 17. reversed, 18. involves, 19. consequences, 20. crocodile, 21. inferno, 22. outnumbers, 23. instinct, 24. straight

25. The migration of _____ across the Serengeti is an awe-inspiring natural phenomenon.

n. (also "gnu") a large African antelope with a broad muzzle and curved horns, known for its annual migration

ANSWERS: 25. wildebeest