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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Laura Boushnak: For these women, reading is a daring act | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

exposition

n. a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display

synonym: explanation, description, account

(1) an international **exposition**, (2) rational **exposition**

The **exposition** in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.

illiterate

adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

synonym: unlettered, uneducated, unschooled

(1) **illiterate** population, (2) computer- **illiterate**

Despite attending school, he remained **illiterate** and unable to read or write.

dropout

n. a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it

synonym: noncompleter, quitter, school leaver

(1) the **dropout** rate, (2) **dropout** student

The high school **dropout** rate has decreased significantly in recent years thanks to educational initiatives and support programs.

reflex

n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli

synonym: reaction, response, instinct

(1) **reflex** test, (2) knee **reflex**

My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the **reflex** hammer.

mindset

n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

synonym: attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

belittle

v. to speak or write about someone or something in a way that shows a lack of respect

synonym: degrade, demean, disparage

(1) **belittle** his ability, (2) **belittle** through talk

He **belittled** her in front of the office, making her feel small and insignificant.

bioengineering

n. the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products

synonym: biomedical engineering, genetic engineering, biotechnology

(1) **bioengineering** field, (2) **bioengineering** techniques

The **bioengineering** lab has state-of-the-art equipment and software for analyzing biological systems and designing new solutions.

fundamentalist

n. a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline

synonym: extremist, zealot, hardliner

(1) **fundamentalist** church, (2) political **fundamentalist**

He is a religious **fundamentalist** and strictly adheres to the

teachings of his faith.

enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

synonym: coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|---|
| 1. knee re___x | <i>n.</i> an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli |
| 2. bio_____ing techniques | <i>n.</i> the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products |
| 3. an international exp_____on | <i>n.</i> a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display |
| 4. the dr_____t rate | <i>n.</i> a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it |
| 5. flexible mi_____t | <i>n.</i> the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone |
| 6. the mi_____t in an education system | <i>n.</i> the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone |
| 7. en_____e indigenous people | <i>v.</i> to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action |
| 8. bio_____ing field | <i>n.</i> the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products |
| 9. fun_____ist church | <i>n.</i> a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline |
| 10. re___x test | <i>n.</i> an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli |

ANSWERS: 1. reflex, 2. bioengineering, 3. exposition, 4. dropout, 5. mindset, 6. mindset, 7. enslave, 8. bioengineering, 9. fundamentalist, 10. reflex

11. be_____le his ability *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a way that shows a lack of respect
12. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
13. be_____le through talk *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a way that shows a lack of respect
14. en_____e poor peasants *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
15. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
16. political fun_____ist *n.* a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline
17. rational exp_____on *n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
18. dr_____t student *n.* a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it

ANSWERS: 11. belittle, 12. illiterate, 13. belittle, 14. enslave, 15. illiterate, 16. fundamentalist, 17. exposition, 18. dropout

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Her beauty _____ me completely.
 - v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
2. The _____ lab has state-of-the-art equipment and software for analyzing biological systems and designing new solutions.
 - n. the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products
3. My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the _____ hammer.
 - n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
4. He _____ her in front of the office, making her feel small and insignificant.
 - v. to speak or write about someone or something in a way that shows a lack of respect
5. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial _____ in each individual.
 - n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
6. He is a religious _____ and strictly adheres to the teachings of his faith.
 - n. a person who adheres strictly to the basic principles of any subject or discipline
7. The high school _____ rate has decreased significantly in recent years thanks to educational initiatives and support programs.
 - n. a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it

ANSWERS: 1. enslaved, 2. bioengineering, 3. reflex, 4. belittled, 5. mindset, 6. fundamentalist, 7. dropout

8. The _____ in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.
- n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
9. Despite attending school, he remained _____ and unable to read or write.
- adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

ANSWERS: 8. exposition, 9. illiterate