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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sayu Bhojwani: Immigrant voices make democracy stronger | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

repurpose

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

synonym: reuse, recycle, repurpose

(1) **repurpose** an old building, (2) **repurpose** a used car
The old barn was **repurposed** into a modern event space.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: RPM, speed, revolution

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

cakewalk

n. an easy task or achievement

synonym: simple task, straightforward task

(1) **cakewalk** task, (2) **cakewalk** for him

The exam was a **cakewalk** compared to his final exams in college.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, inter, bury

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion
There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

optimism

n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym: positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism**

There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

ajar

adj. partially open; slightly or partly open

synonym: open, askew

(1) gate **ajar**, (2) closet **ajar**

The door was left **ajar**, letting a cool breeze enter the stuffy room.

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.

fingerprint

n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person

synonym: print, mark, impression

(1) **fingerprint** at a crime scene, (2) **fingerprint** identification

The police used a **fingerprint** scanner to identify the suspect.

flounder

v. to struggle or stumble awkwardly; to move or act clumsily or in confusion; to be in a difficult or uncertain situation

synonym: struggle, stumble, falter

(1) **flounder** with decisions, (2) **flounder** in water

I watched him **flounder** through the difficult math problem, unable to find a solution.

undocumented

adj. not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission

(1) **undocumented** worker, (2) **undocumented** command
The border patrol has recently been focusing on cracking down on **undocumented** non-citizens.

harass

v. to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention

synonym : pester, annoy, bother

(1) **harass** the enemy, (2) **harass** with constant criticism
She was constantly **harassed** by her ex-boyfriend and had to get a restraining order.

beard

n. hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin

synonym : facial hair, whiskers, stubble

(1) a black **beard**, (2) shave my **beard**
He grew a thick **beard** to change his appearance.

vantage

n. a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage

synonym : advantage, benefit, edge

(1) strategic **vantage**, (2) gain a **vantage**
From our **vantage** point, we could see the whole city skyline.

stale

adj. no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting

synonym : old, uninteresting, dull

(1) a **stale** joke, (2) **stale** smell
The bread was **stale** and not fit for eating.

Latina

n. a female person of Latin American origin or descent; a term used to refer to women from Latin American

countries or with Latin American heritage

synonym : Hispanic woman

(1) **Latina** community, (2) **Latina** actress

She is the first **Latina** senator in the country's history.

untapped

adj. not yet used or exploited

synonym : unexplored, untouched, untried

(1) **untapped** market, (2) **untapped** potential

The forest held many **untapped** resources that could be used for commercial purposes.

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.

statesman

n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs

synonym : solon, politician, legislator

(1) a woman **statesman**, (2) international **statesman**

This statue honors a distinguished **statesman**.

whim

n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

synonym : fancy, caprice, whimsy

(1) at the **whim** of circumstance, (2) **whim** of youth

He quit his job on a **whim** and moved to a new city.

waver

v. to move in a quivering manner; to become weak

synonym : lurch, sway, wobble

(1) **waver** in purpose, (2) **waver** between work and private life

She didn't **waver** in her decision to pursue her dream career, despite the challenges.

Session 2: Spelling

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| 1. at the w__m of circumstance | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |
| 2. un____ed potential | <i>adj.</i> not yet used or exploited |
| 3. La___a community | <i>n.</i> a female person of Latin American origin or descent; a term used to refer to women from Latin American countries or with Latin American heritage |
| 4. a st__e joke | <i>adj.</i> no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting |
| 5. wa__r in purpose | <i>v.</i> to move in a quivering manner; to become weak |
| 6. a black be__d | <i>n.</i> hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin |
| 7. ha___s the enemy | <i>v.</i> to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention |
| 8. fl_____er in water | <i>v.</i> to struggle or stumble awkwardly; to move or act clumsily or in confusion; to be in a difficult or uncertain situation |
| 9. wa__r between work and private life | <i>v.</i> to move in a quivering manner; to become weak |
| 10. re_____se an old building | <i>v.</i> to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended |
| 11. strategic va_____e | <i>n.</i> a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage |

ANSWERS: 1. whim, 2. untapped, 3. Latina, 4. stale, 5. waver, 6. beard, 7. harass, 8. flounder, 9. waver, 10. repurpose, 11. vantage

12. sense of op_____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
13. fin_____nt identification *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
14. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
15. shave my be__d *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
16. s__m the door *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
17. international st_____an *n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
18. ca_____lk task *n.* an easy task or achievement
19. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
20. gain a va_____e *n.* a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage

ANSWERS: 12. optimism, 13. fingerprint, 14. rev, 15. beard, 16. slam, 17. statesman, 18. cakewalk, 19. rev, 20. vantage

21. s__m the book against a wall *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
22. fl_____er with decisions *v.* to struggle or stumble awkwardly; to move or act clumsily or in confusion; to be in a difficult or uncertain situation
23. und_____ted command *adj.* not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission
24. a woman st_____an *n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
25. un_____ed market *adj.* not yet used or exploited
26. ha___s with constant criticism *v.* to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention
27. political op_____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
28. w__m of youth *n.* a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained
29. closet a__r *adj.* partially open; slightly or partly open
30. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
31. st__e smell *adj.* no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting
32. ca_____lk for him *n.* an easy task or achievement

ANSWERS: 21. slam, 22. flounder, 23. undocumented, 24. statesman, 25. untapped, 26. harass, 27. optimism, 28. whim, 29. ajar, 30. opportune, 31. stale, 32. cakewalk

33. fin_____nt at a crime scene *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
34. und_____ted worker *adj.* not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission
35. gate a__r *adj.* partially open; slightly or partly open
36. La___a actress *n.* a female person of Latin American origin or descent; a term used to refer to women from Latin American countries or with Latin American heritage
37. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
38. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
39. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
40. re_____se a used car *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

ANSWERS: 33. fingerprint, 34. undocumented, 35. ajar, 36. Latina, 37. bury, 38. bury, 39. opportune, 40. repurpose

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
2. The police used a _____ scanner to identify the suspect.
n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
3. From our _____ point, we could see the whole city skyline.
n. a position or place that provides a commanding or advantageous view or perspective; a favorable position or advantage
4. The border patrol has recently been focusing on cracking down on _____ non-citizens.
adj. not supported by written evidence or having the necessary written permission
5. The door was left _____ letting a cool breeze enter the stuffy room.
adj. partially open; slightly or partly open
6. 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
7. The bread was _____ and not fit for eating.
adj. no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting
8. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. rev, 2. fingerprint, 3. vantage, 4. undocumented, 5. ajar, 6. slammed, 7. stale, 8. opportune

9. The forest held many _____ resources that could be used for commercial purposes.
adj. not yet used or exploited
10. This statue honors a distinguished _____.
n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
11. The exam was a _____ compared to his final exams in college.
n. an easy task or achievement
12. She is the first _____ senator in the country's history.
n. a female person of Latin American origin or descent; a term used to refer to women from Latin American countries or with Latin American heritage
13. There is considerable _____ that the economy will recover soon.
n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
14. He grew a thick _____ to change his appearance.
n. hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
15. She was constantly _____ by her ex-boyfriend and had to get a restraining order.
v. to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention
16. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

ANSWERS: 9. untapped, 10. statesman, 11. cakewalk, 12. Latina, 13. optimism, 14. beard, 15. harassed, 16. bury

17. He quit his job on a _____ and moved to a new city.

n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

18. I watched him _____ through the difficult math problem, unable to find a solution.

v. to struggle or stumble awkwardly; to move or act clumsily or in confusion; to be in a difficult or uncertain situation

19. She didn't _____ in her decision to pursue her dream career, despite the challenges.

v. to move in a quivering manner; to become weak

20. The old barn was _____ into a modern event space.

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

ANSWERS: 17. whim, 18. flounder, 19. waver, 20. repurposed