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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Geoffrey Canada: Our failing schools. Enough is enough! | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

needless

adj. describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences

synonym: unnecessary, pointless, superfluous

(1) **needless** argument, (2) **needless** waste

This **needless** paperwork is wasting our time and resources.

louse

n. a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person

synonym: bug, insect, parasite

(1) pubic **louse**, (2) **louse** egg

The child was sent home from school because of a lice infestation caused by one **louse**.

contraption

n. a machine or device that is made up of a combination of interconnected parts and often appears complicated or unusual

synonym : device, gadget, machinery

(1) farming **contraption**, (2) complicated **contraption**

The inventor created a **contraption** that could turn salt water into drinking water.

teller

n. a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience

synonym : cashier, bank clerk, clerk

(1) fortune- **teller**, (2) **teller** machine

The bank **teller** carefully counted the money before handing it to the customer.

rotary

adj. relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion

synonym : circular, revolving, spinning

(1) **rotary** motion, (2) **rotary** tool

The **rotary** engine is known for its smooth and efficient operation.

cripple

v. to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine

synonym : disable, impair, paralyze

(1) **cripple** economy, (2) **cripple** opposition

The injury was severe enough to **cripple** the athlete's chances of playing again this season.

polio

n. an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability

synonym : poliomyelitis, infantile paralysis

(1) **polio** epidemic, (2) **polio** eradication

The **polio** vaccine development is regarded as one of the

greatest medical achievements of the 20th century.

agrarian

adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

synonym : agricultural, farming, rural

(1) **agrarian** society, (2) **agrarian** reform

Most of the people in the **agrarian** community work in agriculture.

ordain

v. to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service

synonym : consecrate, appoint, order

(1) **ordain** a deacon, (2) **ordain** a minister

The bishop will **ordain** new priests next week during the religious ceremony.

fuss

n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance

synonym : commotion, agitation, disturbance

(1) make a **fuss**, (2) get into a **fuss**

There was a **fuss** about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.

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.

clairvoyant

adj. having the ability to perceive or predict events, facts, or details that are not apparent to the senses; possessing extrasensory perception

synonym : second-sighted, precognitive, psychic

(1) **clairvoyant** powers, (2) **clairvoyant** abilities

He was considered a **clairvoyant** prophet because of his uncanny ability to predict the future.

stifle

v. to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation

synonym: smother, suppress, suffocate

(1) **stifle** a laugh, (2) **stifle** creativity

The oppressive regime tried to **stifle** free speech and dissent.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym: bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

disgust

n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

synonym: nauseate, hate, dislike

(1) public **disgust**, (2) show **disgust** at his actions

He was filled with **disgust** and fear for the threat of war.

pittance

n. a very small or inadequate amount of money or income; a meager allowance or wage, often suggesting that it is insufficient or unsatisfactory

synonym: meager amount, paltry sum, token

(1) live on a **pittance**, (2) earn a **pittance**

I work long hours for such a **pittance** of a salary, struggling to make ends meet.

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.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym: mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

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.

grit

n. very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

synonym: determination, fortitude, courage

(1) **grit** determination, (2) **grit** washer

She has a lot of **grit** and determination to succeed.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. g__t determination | <i>n.</i> very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles |
| 2. in____te the quality of his life | <i>v.</i> to introduce new methods, ideas, or products |
| 3. ex___e rebellion | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 4. or___n a deacon | <i>v.</i> to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service |
| 5. lo__e egg | <i>n.</i> a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person |
| 6. ex___e the crowd | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 7. in____te a new method | <i>v.</i> to introduce new methods, ideas, or products |
| 8. get into a f__s | <i>n.</i> a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance |
| 9. make a f__s | <i>n.</i> a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance |
| 10. live on a pi____ce | <i>n.</i> a very small or inadequate amount of money or income; a meager allowance or wage, often suggesting that it is insufficient or unsatisfactory |

ANSWERS: 1. grit, 2. innovate, 3. excite, 4. ordain, 5. louse, 6. excite, 7. innovate, 8. fuss, 9. fuss, 10. pittance

11. po__o epidemic *n.* an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
12. cla_____nt abilities *adj.* having the ability to perceive or predict events, facts, or details that are not apparent to the senses; possessing extrasensory perception
13. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. ag_____an society *adj.* relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance
15. dr_____t student *n.* a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it
16. or___n a minister *v.* to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service
17. earn a pi_____ce *n.* a very small or inadequate amount of money or income; a meager allowance or wage, often suggesting that it is insufficient or unsatisfactory
18. st___e a laugh *v.* to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation

ANSWERS: 11. polio, 12. clairvoyant, 13. opportune, 14. agrarian, 15. dropout, 16. ordain, 17. pittance, 18. stifle

19. farming con_____on *n.* a machine or device that is made up of a combination of interconnected parts and often appears complicated or unusual
20. complicated con_____on *n.* a machine or device that is made up of a combination of interconnected parts and often appears complicated or unusual
21. ro___y motion *adj.* relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion
22. st___e creativity *v.* to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation
23. cr_____e opposition *v.* to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine
24. public di_____t *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
25. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
26. fortune-te___r *n.* a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience

ANSWERS: 19. contraption, 20. contraption, 21. rotary, 22. stifle, 23. cripple, 24. disgust, 25. confuse, 26. teller

27. pubic lo__e *n.* a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person
28. the dr____t rate *n.* a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it
29. ha___s with constant criticism *v.* to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention
30. cla_____nt powers *adj.* having the ability to perceive or predict events, facts, or details that are not apparent to the senses; possessing extrasensory perception
31. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
32. ro___y tool *adj.* relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion
33. show di____t at his actions *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
34. po__o eradication *n.* an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
35. ne_____ss argument *adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences

ANSWERS: 27. louse, 28. dropout, 29. harass, 30. clairvoyant, 31. mimic, 32. rotary, 33. disgust, 34. polio, 35. needless

36. ne____ss waste *adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
37. co____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
38. cr____e economy *v.* to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine
39. ha____s the enemy *v.* to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention
40. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
41. g__t washer *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
42. te____r machine *n.* a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience
43. op____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 36. needless, 37. confuse, 38. cripple, 39. harass, 40. mimic, 41. grit, 42. teller, 43. opportune

44. ag____an reform

adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

ANSWERS: 44. agrarian

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
 - v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

2. Her remarks _____ the debate.
 - v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

3. The inventor created a _____ that could turn salt water into drinking water.
 - n. a machine or device that is made up of a combination of interconnected parts and often appears complicated or unusual

4. He was considered a _____ prophet because of his uncanny ability to predict the future.
 - adj. having the ability to perceive or predict events, facts, or details that are not apparent to the senses; possessing extrasensory perception

5. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
 - v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

6. The oppressive regime tried to _____ free speech and dissent.
 - v. to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation

7. There was a _____ about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.
 - n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance

ANSWERS: 1. innovate, 2. confused, 3. contraption, 4. clairvoyant, 5. mimic, 6. stifle, 7. fuss

8. 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
9. The bishop will _____ new priests next week during the religious ceremony.
- v.* to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service
10. She has a lot of _____ and determination to succeed.
- n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
11. The child was sent home from school because of a lice infestation caused by one _____.
- n.* a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person
12. The _____ vaccine development is regarded as one of the greatest medical achievements of the 20th century.
- n.* an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
13. He was filled with _____ and fear for the threat of war.
- n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
14. Most of the people in the _____ community work in agriculture.
- adj.* relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

ANSWERS: 8. dropout, 9. ordain, 10. grit, 11. louse, 12. polio, 13. disgust, 14. agrarian

15. The bank _____ carefully counted the money before handing it to the customer.
- n.* a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience
16. The _____ engine is known for its smooth and efficient operation.
- adj.* relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion
17. 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
18. This _____ paperwork is wasting our time and resources.
- adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
19. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. I work long hours for such a _____ of a salary, struggling to make ends meet.
- n.* a very small or inadequate amount of money or income; a meager allowance or wage, often suggesting that it is insufficient or unsatisfactory
21. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 15. teller, 16. rotary, 17. harassed, 18. needless, 19. opportune, 20. pittance, 21. excited

22. The injury was severe enough to _____ the athlete's chances of playing again this season.
- v. to cause severe damage or injury that greatly impairs someone's ability to function or move; to weaken or undermine

ANSWERS: 22. cripple