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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel: Mysteries of vernacular: Robot | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

vernacular

n. a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region

synonym: dialect, idiom, lingo

(1) **vernacular** language, (2) native **vernacular**

The poet wrote in the **vernacular** of ordinary people.

serf

n. a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority

synonym: peasant, slave, servant

(1) **serf** labor, (2) medieval **serfs**

My history class discussed the **serf-based** economy that dominated Europe during the Middle Ages.

servitude

n. the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience

synonym: bondage, slavery, subjugation

(1) **servitude** system, (2) mental **servitude**

The practice of forcing people into **servitude** is now illegal in many countries.

toil

v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

synonym : struggle, labor, work hard

(1) **toil** to make a living, (2) **toil** up the mountain

The farmers **toiled** in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.

figurative

adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal

synonym : metaphorical, symbolic, allegorical

(1) in a **figurative** sense, (2) **figurative** painting

When he said he was starving to death, it was a **figurative** way of saying he was very hungry.

drudgery

n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant

synonym : tedium, laboriousness, grind

(1) office **drudgery**, (2) daily **drudgery**

The tedious **drudgery** of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.

distinctly

adv. in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable

synonym : clearly, obviously, unmistakably

(1) **distinctly** remember, (2) **distinctly** different

The **distinctly** floral scent of the perfume lingered in the air long after the wearer had left the room.

revolt

n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

synonym : rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

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.

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.

enthusiastically

adv. in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

synonym: fervently, eagerly, passionately

(1) **enthusiastically** applauded, (2) discuss

enthusiastically

The study participants **enthusiastically** participated in the discussion, showing genuine interest.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. t__l up the mountain | <i>v.</i> to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time |
| 2. ent_____lly applauded | <i>adv.</i> in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval |
| 3. medieval s__fs | <i>n.</i> a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority |
| 4. native ver_____ar | <i>n.</i> a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region |
| 5. re___t against the dictator | <i>n.</i> to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler |
| 6. w__m of youth | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |
| 7. at the w__m of circumstance | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |
| 8. office dr_____ry | <i>n.</i> hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant |
| 9. en_____e indigenous people | <i>v.</i> to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action |

ANSWERS: 1. toil, 2. enthusiastically, 3. serf, 4. vernacular, 5. revolt, 6. whim, 7. whim, 8. drudgery, 9. enslave

10. fig_____ve painting *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
11. ver_____ar language *n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
12. dis_____ly remember *adv.* in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable
13. s__f labor *n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
14. mental se_____de *n.* the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience
15. in a fig_____ve sense *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
16. en_____e poor peasants *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
17. re___t against existing ways of thinking *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
18. dis_____ly different *adv.* in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable

ANSWERS: 10. figurative, 11. vernacular, 12. distinctly, 13. serf, 14. servitude, 15. figurative, 16. enslave, 17. revolt, 18. distinctly

19. se_____de system *n.* the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience
20. t__l to make a living *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
21. daily dr_____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
22. discuss ent_____lly *adv.* in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

ANSWERS: 19. servitude, 20. toil, 21. drudgery, 22. enthusiastically

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ floral scent of the perfume lingered in the air long after the wearer had left the room.
adv. in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable
2. The people tried to _____ to oust the tyrant.
n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
3. My history class discussed the _____ economy that dominated Europe during the Middle Ages.
n. a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
4. The study participants _____ participated in the discussion, showing genuine interest.
adv. in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval
5. The tedious _____ of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.
n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
6. The farmers _____ in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.
v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

ANSWERS: 1. distinctly, 2. revolt, 3. serf-based, 4. enthusiastically, 5. drudgery, 6. toiled

7. The poet wrote in the _____ of ordinary people.
- n.* a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
8. 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
9. The practice of forcing people into _____ is now illegal in many countries.
- n.* the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience
10. Her beauty _____ me completely.
- v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
11. When he said he was starving to death, it was a _____ way of saying he was very hungry.
- adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal

ANSWERS: 7. vernacular, 8. whim, 9. servitude, 10. enslaved, 11. figurative