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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tom Thum: The orchestra in my mouth | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_thum_the_orchestra_in_my_mouth

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

seedy

adj. run-down, shabby, or in a state of disrepair; disreputable, sleazy, or sordid; lacking moral or ethical standards; describing a fruit that has many seeds

synonym: shabby, run-down, dilapidated

(1) **seedy** apartment building, (2) **seedy** deal

The **seedy** hotel attracted a rough crowd and was known for illegal activities.

jean

n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

synonym: denim, cotton, pants

(1) a **jean** skirt, (2) **jean** denim

She wore her favorite pair of **jeans** to the party.

beatbox

n. a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice

synonym: mouth drum, lip-smack percussion

(1) **beatbox** rhythm, (2) **beatbox** battle

His **beatbox** performance at the concert was mind-blowing.

stoke

v. to add fuel to the fire or furnace; to increase the intensity or strength of something, such as an emotion or conflict

synonym : stir up, fuel, ignite

(1) **stoke** a fire, (2) **stoke** passions

The artist used bright colors and bold brushstrokes to **stoke** a sense of vibrancy in their painting.

applaud

v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

synonym : clap, celebrate, praise

(1) **applaud** his courage, (2) **applaud** the orchestra

I enthusiastically **applaud** my rival's achievement.

kinsfolk

n. one's relatives or family members; people who are connected by blood or marriage

synonym : relatives, family, kin

(1) **kinsfolk** traditions, (2) distant **kinsfolk**

The annual **kinsfolk** reunion is an event we all eagerly look forward to.

inhuman

adj. lacking human qualities, such as compassion, kindness, or understanding; cruel, brutal, or without regard for others' suffering or dignity

synonym : brutal, hardhanded, cruel

(1) **inhuman** act, (2) **inhuman** conditions

Prisoners were subjected to **inhuman** treatment in an overcrowded jail.

hemisphere

n. half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere

(1) northern **hemisphere**, (2) cerebral **hemisphere**

This weather pattern is unique to the southern **hemisphere**.

metropolis

n. a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity

synonym : city, megacity, urban center

(1) **metropolis** skyline, (2) bustling **metropolis**

Paris is a romantic **metropolis** famous for its art, fashion, and cuisine.

reverb

n. an audio effect that produces a sound that is reflected off surfaces in an enclosed space, creating a sense of space or ambiance; the natural echoing or reverberation of sound in a large or open space

synonym: echo, sound reflection

(1) **reverb** effect, (2) **reverb** chamber

The singer's voice had a natural **reverb** that sounded beautiful in the acoustically-designed church.

unison

n. occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves

synonym: harmony, accord, unanimity

(1) singing in **unison**, (2) clap the hands in **unison**

They saluted in **unison** to the captain.

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.

applause

n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together

synonym: clapping, cheering, acclaim

(1) round of **applause**, (2) earn **applause**

The **applause** burst from the audience.

Session 2: Spelling

1. st__e a fire
v. to add fuel to the fire or furnace; to increase the intensity or strength of something, such as an emotion or conflict
2. mi__c a human voice
v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
3. cerebral hem_____re
n. half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere
4. clap the hands in un___n
n. occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves
5. round of ap_____se
n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
6. met_____is skyline
n. a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
7. re___b effect
n. an audio effect that produces a sound that is reflected off surfaces in an enclosed space, creating a sense of space or ambiance; the natural echoing or reverberation of sound in a large or open space
8. se__y deal
adj. run-down, shabby, or in a state of disrepair; disreputable, sleazy, or sordid; lacking moral or ethical standards; describing a fruit that has many seeds

ANSWERS: 1. stoke, 2. mimic, 3. hemisphere, 4. unison, 5. applause, 6. metropolis, 7. reverb, 8. seedy

9. st__e passions *v.* to add fuel to the fire or furnace; to increase the intensity or strength of something, such as an emotion or conflict
10. re___b chamber *n.* an audio effect that produces a sound that is reflected off surfaces in an enclosed space, creating a sense of space or ambiance; the natural echoing or reverberation of sound in a large or open space
11. earn ap____se *n.* a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
12. bustling met_____is *n.* a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
13. ap_____d his courage *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
14. singing in un___n *n.* occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves
15. ki_____lk traditions *n.* one's relatives or family members; people who are connected by blood or marriage
16. northern hem_____re *n.* half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere
17. be_____x battle *n.* a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice

ANSWERS: 9. stoke, 10. reverb, 11. applause, 12. metropolis, 13. applaud, 14. unison, 15. kinsfolk, 16. hemisphere, 17. beatbox

18. in____n act *adj.* lacking human qualities, such as compassion, kindness, or understanding; cruel, brutal, or without regard for others' suffering or dignity
19. a j__n skirt *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
20. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
21. distant ki____lk *n.* one's relatives or family members; people who are connected by blood or marriage
22. in____n conditions *adj.* lacking human qualities, such as compassion, kindness, or understanding; cruel, brutal, or without regard for others' suffering or dignity
23. j__n denim *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
24. be____x rhythm *n.* a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice
25. se__y apartment building *adj.* run-down, shabby, or in a state of disrepair; disreputable, sleazy, or sordid; lacking moral or ethical standards; describing a fruit that has many seeds

ANSWERS: 18. inhuman, 19. jean, 20. mimic, 21. kinsfolk, 22. inhuman, 23. jean, 24. beatbox, 25. seedy

26. ap____d the orchestra

v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

ANSWERS: 26. applaud

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ burst from the audience.
n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
2. I enthusiastically _____ my rival's achievement.
v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
3. They saluted in _____ to the captain.
n. occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves
4. The annual _____ reunion is an event we all eagerly look forward to.
n. one's relatives or family members; people who are connected by blood or marriage
5. She wore her favorite pair of _____ to the party.
n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
6. The singer's voice had a natural _____ that sounded beautiful in the acoustically-designed church.
n. an audio effect that produces a sound that is reflected off surfaces in an enclosed space, creating a sense of space or ambiance; the natural echoing or reverberation of sound in a large or open space
7. Paris is a romantic _____ famous for its art, fashion, and cuisine.
n. a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity

ANSWERS: 1. applause, 2. applaud, 3. unison, 4. kinsfolk, 5. jeans, 6. reverb, 7. metropolis

8. This weather pattern is unique to the southern _____.
- n.* half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere
9. The artist used bright colors and bold brushstrokes to _____ a sense of vibrancy in their painting.
- v.* to add fuel to the fire or furnace; to increase the intensity or strength of something, such as an emotion or conflict
10. 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
11. His _____ performance at the concert was mind-blowing.
- n.* a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice
12. Prisoners were subjected to _____ treatment in an overcrowded jail.
- adj.* lacking human qualities, such as compassion, kindness, or understanding; cruel, brutal, or without regard for others' suffering or dignity
13. The _____ hotel attracted a rough crowd and was known for illegal activities.
- adj.* run-down, shabby, or in a state of disrepair; disreputable, sleazy, or sordid; lacking moral or ethical standards; describing a fruit that has many seeds

ANSWERS: 8. hemisphere, 9. stoke, 10. mimic, 11. beatbox, 12. inhuman, 13. seedy