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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Annette Heuser: The 3 agencies with the power to make or break economies | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/annette_heuser_the_3_agencies_with_the_power_to_make_or_break_economies

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

downgrade

- v. to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency

synonym: demote, lower, reduce

(1) economic **downgrade**, (2) **downgrade** expectations

The company had to **downgrade** its earnings forecast for the quarter.

devote

- v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

countryman

- n. (considered non-inclusive) a person who lives in the country or a rural area; a compatriot or fellow citizen

synonym: rural, peasant, farmer

(1) **countryman** lifestyle, (2) traditional **countryman**

The local **countryman** is known for his hospitality and

warmth towards visitors.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

brink

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

synonym: edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

irresponsible

adj. not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable

synonym: careless, reckless, thoughtless

(1) **irresponsible** actions, (2) **irresponsible** behavior

It was **irresponsible** of him to drive home after drinking so much alcohol.

overhaul

n. a thorough examination, evaluation, or inspection of something, often with the intent of making necessary improvements; a major reorganization or restructuring of a system or process; (verb) to thoroughly examine, repair, and improve something to ensure that it is functioning properly and up to standard

synonym: renovation, revamp, modernization

(1) **overhaul** process, (2) vehicle **overhaul**

The mechanic suggested an **overhaul** of the engine to improve performance.

acronym

n. a word formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase, such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) or AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

synonym: abbreviation, initialism, shortcut

(1) **acronym** definition, (2) use an **acronym**

RADAR is an **acronym** for radio detection and ranging.

endowment

n. a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization

synonym : fund, gift, donation

(1) education **endowment** insurance, (2) **endowment** gift
The wealthy benefactor's **endowment** helped the university build a new library.

socioeconomic

adj. relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class

synonym : social, economic, financial

(1) **socioeconomic** status, (2) **socioeconomic** issues
The **socioeconomic** conditions of a country can significantly affect its political stability.

nutshell

n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

synonym : summary, essence, covering

(1) move into a **nutshell**, (2) **nutshell** version
Can you explain your argument in a **nutshell**?

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.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. the cr____or's claims | <i>n.</i> a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money |
| 2. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 3. ac_____m definition | <i>n.</i> a word formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase, such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) or AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) |
| 4. de___e my own life | <i>v.</i> to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose |
| 5. bankrupt cr____or | <i>n.</i> a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money |
| 6. do_____de expectations | <i>v.</i> to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency |
| 7. traditional cou_____an | <i>n.</i> (considered non-inclusive) a person who lives in the country or a rural area; a compatriot or fellow citizen |
| 8. education en_____nt insurance | <i>n.</i> a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization |

ANSWERS: 1. creditor, 2. opportune, 3. acronym, 4. devote, 5. creditor, 6. downgrade, 7. countryman, 8. endowment

9. vehicle ov____ul
- n.* a thorough examination, evaluation, or inspection of something, often with the intent of making necessary improvements; a major reorganization or restructuring of a system or process; (verb) to thoroughly examine, repair, and improve something to ensure that it is functioning properly and up to standard
10. nu____ll version
- n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
11. br__k of war
- n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
12. cou_____an lifestyle
- n.* (considered non-inclusive) a person who lives in the country or a rural area; a compatriot or fellow citizen
13. move into a nu____ll
- n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
14. economic do_____de
- v.* to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency

ANSWERS: 9. overhaul, 10. nutshell, 11. brink, 12. countryman, 13. nutshell, 14. downgrade

15. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
16. irr_____ble behavior *adj.* not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable
17. soc_____mic issues *adj.* relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class
18. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
19. irr_____ble actions *adj.* not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable
20. ov_____ul process *n.* a thorough examination, evaluation, or inspection of something, often with the intent of making necessary improvements; a major reorganization or restructuring of a system or process; (verb) to thoroughly examine, repair, and improve something to ensure that it is functioning properly and up to standard
21. de___e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
22. en_____nt gift *n.* a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization

ANSWERS: 15. brink, 16. irresponsible, 17. socioeconomic, 18. opportune, 19. irresponsible, 20. overhaul, 21. devote, 22. endowment

23. use an ac____m

n. a word formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase, such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) or AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

24. soc_____mic status

adj. relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class

ANSWERS: 23. acronym, 24. socioeconomic

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

2. The mechanic suggested an _____ of the engine to improve performance.
n. a thorough examination, evaluation, or inspection of something, often with the intent of making necessary improvements; a major reorganization or restructuring of a system or process; (verb) to thoroughly examine, repair, and improve something to ensure that it is functioning properly and up to standard

3. The _____ conditions of a country can significantly affect its political stability.
adj. relating to the social and economic factors that shape an individual, group, or community, particularly in terms of income, occupation, education, and social class

4. The company had to _____ its earnings forecast for the quarter.
v. to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency

5. The local _____ is known for his hospitality and warmth towards visitors.
n. (considered non-inclusive) a person who lives in the country or a rural area; a compatriot or fellow citizen

6. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. overhaul, 3. socioeconomic, 4. downgrade, 5. countryman, 6. devoted

7. The wealthy benefactor's _____ helped the university build a new library.
n. a fund or financial support, either from a charitable organization or from an individual or group of individuals, to support a specific purpose or organization
8. RADAR is an _____ for radio detection and ranging.
n. a word formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase, such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) or AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
9. Can you explain your argument in a _____
n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
10. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
11. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
12. It was _____ of him to drive home after drinking so much alcohol.
adj. not showing a proper sense of responsibility; not reliable

ANSWERS: 7. endowment, 8. acronym, 9. nutshell?, 10. brink, 11. creditor, 12. irresponsible