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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Pia Mancini: How to upgrade democracy for the Internet era | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

clueless

adj. lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation

synonym : uninformed, unaware, ignorant

(1) **clueless** in many ways, (2) **clueless** about the situation
She was completely **clueless** as to how to solve the problem.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

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.

cryptic

adj. having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

synonym: enigmatic, mysterious, obscure

(1) **cryptic** language, (2) **cryptic** crossword

The message was so **cryptic** that I had no idea what it meant.

monologue

n. a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory

synonym: soliloquy, speech, address

(1) inner **monologue**, (2) deliver a **monologue**

The actor's **monologue** was so powerful that the audience was moved to tears.

commonplace

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

synonym: ordinary, routine, mundane

(1) become a **commonplace** sight, (2) **commonplace** event

Forgetting someone's name is a **commonplace** occurrence.

apathetic

adj. lacking interest, enthusiasm, or concern; indifferent or unconcerned, often in situations where one might be expected to be emotionally engaged or invested

synonym: indifferent, uninterested, unconcerned

(1) **apathetic** attitude, (2) **apathetic** response

She was **apathetic** about the project and didn't care if it succeeded or failed.

shun

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

synonym: avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

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.

slogan

n. a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea

synonym: catchphrase, tagline, motto

(1) catchy **slogan**, (2) advertising **slogan**

The company spent months researching and testing different brand **slogans** before finally settling on 'Just Do It' as their new tagline.

agitation

n. a state of anxiety, excitement, or disturbance that is often associated with restlessness, agitation, or nervousness; the act of stirring or moving something in a rapid or erratic manner

synonym: excitement, restlessness, turmoil

(1) **agitation** levels, (2) political **agitation**

The crowd's **agitation** grew as the politician failed to answer their questions.

pernicious

adj. causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way

synonym: harmful, malicious, destructive

(1) **pernicious** effect, (2) **pernicious** disease

The **pernicious** influence of the corrupt officials had a detrimental effect on the town.

overthrow

v. to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force

synonym: defeat, destroy, conquer

(1) **overthrow** the government, (2) **overthrow** the theory

The group aims to **overthrow** the military regime.

authoritarian

adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal

freedoms or individual rights

synonym: dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic

(1) **authoritarian** practice, (2) **authoritarian** government

The **authoritarian** leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

facto

adj. of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring

synonym: actual, real

(1) ex post **facto** approval, (2) a de **facto** government

The new software has become the de **facto** tool for professionals in the field.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

marshal

n. a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner

synonym: marshal, commander, organizer

(1) **marshal** the books into their proper places, (2) deputy **marshal**

The event organizer appointed a professional **marshal** to manage the flow of traffic.

hindsight

n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect

synonym: retrospect, afterthought

(1) **hindsight** bias, (2) 20/20 **hindsight**

With **hindsight**, we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.

subvert

v. to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within

synonym: overthrow, undermine, sabotage

(1) **subvert** power, (2) **subvert** expectations

The rebels could **subvert** the government's plans by leaking classified information.

rewire

v. to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns

synonym: rewire, renovate, upgrade

(1) **rewire** a house, (2) **rewire** a program

I need to **rewire** the faulty electrical system in my house to prevent a fire.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ag_____on levels *n.* a state of anxiety, excitement, or disturbance that is often associated with restlessness, agitation, or nervousness; the act of stirring or moving something in a rapid or erratic manner

2. political ag_____on *n.* a state of anxiety, excitement, or disturbance that is often associated with restlessness, agitation, or nervousness; the act of stirring or moving something in a rapid or erratic manner

3. 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

4. the mo___o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

5. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something

6. ap_____ic attitude *adj.* lacking interest, enthusiasm, or concern; indifferent or unconcerned, often in situations where one might be expected to be emotionally engaged or invested

7. inner mo_____ue *n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory

ANSWERS: 1. agitation, 2. agitation, 3. devote, 4. motto, 5. empower, 6. apathetic, 7. monologue

8. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
9. re___e a house *v.* to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns
10. su_____t expectations *v.* to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within
11. hi_____ht bias *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
12. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
13. aut_____ian practice *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
14. ov_____ow the government *v.* to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force
15. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
16. cr_____c language *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

ANSWERS: 8. opportune, 9. rewire, 10. subvert, 11. hindsight, 12. institutionalize, 13. authoritarian, 14. overthrow, 15. empower, 16. cryptic

17. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
18. s__n a person *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
19. ex post fa__o approval *adj.* of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring
20. become a com_____ce sight *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
21. in_____te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
22. cl_____ss about the situation *adj.* lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation
23. per_____us disease *adj.* causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way
24. per_____us effect *adj.* causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way
25. s__n office politics *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
26. deliver a mo_____ue *n.* a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory
27. ap_____ic response *adj.* lacking interest, enthusiasm, or concern; indifferent or unconcerned, often in situations where one might be expected to be emotionally engaged or invested

ANSWERS: 17. opportune, 18. shun, 19. facto, 20. commonplace, 21. innovate, 22. clueless, 23. pernicious, 24. pernicious, 25. shun, 26. monologue, 27. apathetic

28. a de fa__o government *adj.* of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring
29. cl_____ss in many ways *adj.* lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation
30. com_____ce event *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
31. advertising sl___n *n.* a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea
32. 20/20 hi_____ht *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
33. cr_____c crossword *adj.* having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature
34. aut_____ian government *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
35. deputy ma_____l *n.* a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner

ANSWERS: 28. facto, 29. clueless, 30. commonplace, 31. slogan, 32. hindsight, 33. cryptic, 34. authoritarian, 35. marshal

36. ma____l the books into their proper places
37. ov_____ow the theory
38. de___e my own life
39. ins_____ize a system
40. su____t power
41. company mo__o
42. catchy sl___n
43. in_____te a new method
- n.* a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner
- v.* to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force
- v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
- v.* to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within
- n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
- n.* a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea
- v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

ANSWERS: 36. marshal, 37. overthrow, 38. devote, 39. institutionalize, 40. subvert, 41. motto, 42. slogan, 43. innovate

44. re___e a program

v. to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns

ANSWERS: 44. rewire

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The actor's _____ was so powerful that the audience was moved to tears.
n. a solo speech or performance given by one person, typically in a theatrical or storytelling context, and often used to reveal aspects of the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or backstory

2. I need to _____ the faulty electrical system in my house to prevent a fire.
v. to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns

3. The event organizer appointed a professional _____ to manage the flow of traffic.
n. a military officer of high rank or a person in charge of organizing or leading a parade or public event; a law enforcement official or officer responsible for maintaining order and enforcing regulations; (verb) to organize, arrange, or gather together resources, information, or people in a deliberate and systematic manner

4. The rebels could _____ the government's plans by leaking classified information.
v. to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within

5. The crowd's _____ grew as the politician failed to answer their questions.
n. a state of anxiety, excitement, or disturbance that is often associated with restlessness, agitation, or nervousness; the act of stirring or moving something in a rapid or erratic manner

6. The message was so _____ that I had no idea what it meant.
adj. having a hidden or obscure meaning or message; mysterious or puzzling in nature

ANSWERS: 1. monologue, 2. rewire, 3. marshal, 4. subvert, 5. agitation, 6. cryptic

7. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
- v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
8. With _____ we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.
- n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
9. Forgetting someone's name is a _____ occurrence.
- adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
10. The new software has become the de _____ tool for professionals in the field.
- adj.* of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring
11. The _____ influence of the corrupt officials had a detrimental effect on the town.
- adj.* causing harm or destruction, often in a subtle or gradual way
12. She was _____ about the project and didn't care if it succeeded or failed.
- adj.* lacking interest, enthusiasm, or concern; indifferent or unconcerned, often in situations where one might be expected to be emotionally engaged or invested
13. The group aims to _____ the military regime.
- v.* to defeat or remove a leader or a government from a position of power by force
14. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
- n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

ANSWERS: 7. innovate, 8. hindsight, 9. commonplace, 10. facto, 11. pernicious, 12. apathetic, 13. overthrow, 14. motto

15. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

16. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

17. 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

18. The company spent months researching and testing different brand _____ before finally settling on 'Just Do It' as their new tagline.

n. a short, catchy phrase or motto that is used by a person, organization, or company to promote a particular product, cause, or idea

19. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

20. He _____ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

21. The _____ leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

ANSWERS: 15. opportune, 16. empowered, 17. devoted, 18. slogans, 19. institutionalize, 20. shunned, 21. authoritarian

22. She was completely _____ as to how to solve the problem.

adj. lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation

ANSWERS: 22. clueless