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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Maria Bezaitis: Why we need strangeness | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

mediate

v. to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict

synonym: arbitrate, reconcile, intervene

(1) **mediate** allergic reaction, (2) **mediate** a negotiation

The teacher had to **mediate** a disagreement between two students over a stolen pencil.

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.

sociologist

n. a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

(1) religious **sociologist**, (2) French **sociologist**

Sociologist studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.

intermediary

n. a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings

synonym: middleman, mediator, agent

(1) financial **intermediary**, (2) **intermediary** role

The **intermediary** between the buyer and the seller helped them agree.

seminal

adj. highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system

synonym : influential, groundbreaking, original

(1) **seminal** research, (2) **seminal** duct

The book was a **seminal** work in psychology, influencing generations of researchers.

diffuse

adj. spread out widely; not concentrated in one place

synonym : spread, scatter

(1) **diffuse** bleeding, (2) **diffuse** cloud

Direct lighting is preferable to **diffuse** lighting when reading.

indict

v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

synonym : accuse, charge, prosecute

(1) **indict** a suspect, (2) **indict** him of injuries

The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to **indict** the corrupt politician.

homogenize

v. to make something uniform or consistent in composition or character, often by mixing or blending different elements

synonym : standardize, assimilate, conform

(1) **homogenize** data, (2) **homogenize** society

The company aimed to **homogenize** its products to appeal to a broader range of consumers.

reshape

v. to change the form or structure of something

synonym : alter, adjust, modify

(1) **reshape** education policy, (2) **reshape** my thoughts
The advent of the Internet completely **reshaped** the manufacturing industry.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

calibration

n. the process of ensuring that an instrument, machine, or process is accurate and functioning correctly, often involving comparison to a standard or reference

synonym: adjustment, tuning, standardization

(1) **calibration** error, (2) **calibration** settings

The **calibration** of the equipment was vital to ensure accurate measurements.

intimacy

n. close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person

synonym: closeness, familiarity, nearness

(1) on terms of **intimacy**, (2) build **intimacy**

They were looking for **intimacy** in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.

jog

v. to run or move at a slow or leisurely pace, typically for exercise; to continue talking or writing without a definite plan or purpose

synonym: run, sprint, trot

(1) **jog** in place, (2) **jog** my memory

She decided to **jog** around the park to clear her head.

detriment

n. something that causes harm, injury, or damage

synonym: harm, damage, injury

(1) **detriment** of society, (2) bring great **detriment**

The new approach resulted in a significant **detriment** to the local economy.

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.

jostle

v. to push, elbow, or bump against someone or something in a forceful or crowded way; to compete with or struggle against another person or group for space, resources, or attention

synonym : push, bump, elbow

(1) **jostle** for position, (2) **jostle** my elbow

I had to **jostle** through the crowded concert to get to the front of the stage.

pave

v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

synonym : surface, coat, cover

(1) **pave** a new path, (2) **pave** a smoother road

They **paved** the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.

Session 2: Spelling

1. me____e allergic reaction
v. to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict
2. di____e bleeding
adj. spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
3. in____t a suspect
v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them
4. cal____on settings
n. the process of ensuring that an instrument, machine, or process is accurate and functioning correctly, often involving comparison to a standard or reference
5. in____t him of injuries
v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them
6. religious soc____st
n. a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
7. re____e education policy
v. to change the form or structure of something
8. jo____e my elbow
v. to push, elbow, or bump against someone or something in a forceful or crowded way; to compete with or struggle against another person or group for space, resources, or attention

ANSWERS: 1. mediate, 2. diffuse, 3. indict, 4. calibration, 5. indict, 6. sociologist, 7. reshape, 8. jostle

9. p__e a smoother road *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
10. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
11. j_g in place *v.* to run or move at a slow or leisurely pace, typically for exercise; to continue talking or writing without a definite plan or purpose
12. build in_____cy *n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
13. p__e a new path *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
14. se_____l research *adj.* highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system
15. se_____l duct *adj.* highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system
16. int_____ary role *n.* a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings

ANSWERS: 9. pave, 10. institutionalize, 11. jog, 12. intimacy, 13. pave, 14. seminal, 15. seminal, 16. intermediary

17. re_____e my thoughts *v.* to change the form or structure of something
18. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
19. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
20. cal_____on error *n.* the process of ensuring that an instrument, machine, or process is accurate and functioning correctly, often involving comparison to a standard or reference
21. bring great de_____nt *n.* something that causes harm, injury, or damage
22. me_____e a negotiation *v.* to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict
23. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
24. j_g my memory *v.* to run or move at a slow or leisurely pace, typically for exercise; to continue talking or writing without a definite plan or purpose
25. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 17. reshape, 18. disrupt, 19. disrupt, 20. calibration, 21. detriment, 22. mediate, 23. institutionalize, 24. jog, 25. opportune

26. hom_____ze data *v.* to make something uniform or consistent in composition or character, often by mixing or blending different elements
27. on terms of in_____cy *n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
28. jo___e for position *v.* to push, elbow, or bump against someone or something in a forceful or crowded way; to compete with or struggle against another person or group for space, resources, or attention
29. financial int_____ary *n.* a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings
30. French soc_____st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
31. di_____e cloud *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
32. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
33. hom_____ze society *v.* to make something uniform or consistent in composition or character, often by mixing or blending different elements

ANSWERS: 26. homogenize, 27. intimacy, 28. jostle, 29. intermediary, 30. sociologist, 31. diffuse, 32. opportune, 33. homogenize

34. de_____nt of society

n. something that causes harm, injury, or damage

ANSWERS: 34. detriment

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to _____ the corrupt politician.
 - v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

2. 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.)

3. _____ studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.
 - n. a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

4. The teacher had to _____ a disagreement between two students over a stolen pencil.
 - v. to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict

5. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
 - v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

6. The _____ between the buyer and the seller helped them agree.
 - n. a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings

ANSWERS: 1. indict, 2. institutionalize, 3. Sociologist, 4. mediate, 5. disrupt, 6. intermediary

7. They _____ the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.
- v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
8. The book was a _____ work in psychology, influencing generations of researchers.
- adj. highly original, influential, or innovative; containing the seeds or beginnings of future development or growth; (of medicine) of or relating to semen or the male reproductive system
9. I had to _____ through the crowded concert to get to the front of the stage.
- v. to push, elbow, or bump against someone or something in a forceful or crowded way; to compete with or struggle against another person or group for space, resources, or attention
10. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.
- v. to change the form or structure of something
11. The new approach resulted in a significant _____ to the local economy.
- n. something that causes harm, injury, or damage
12. The company aimed to _____ its products to appeal to a broader range of consumers.
- v. to make something uniform or consistent in composition or character, often by mixing or blending different elements
13. Direct lighting is preferable to _____ lighting when reading.
- adj. spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
14. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 7. paved, 8. seminal, 9. jostle, 10. reshaped, 11. detriment, 12. homogenize, 13. diffuse, 14. opportune

15. The _____ of the equipment was vital to ensure accurate measurements.
- n.* the process of ensuring that an instrument, machine, or process is accurate and functioning correctly, often involving comparison to a standard or reference
16. They were looking for _____ in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.
- n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
17. She decided to ____ around the park to clear her head.
- v.* to run or move at a slow or leisurely pace, typically for exercise; to continue talking or writing without a definite plan or purpose

ANSWERS: 15. calibration, 16. intimacy, 17. jog