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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Meera Vijayann: Find your voice against gender violence | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

molest

v. to harass, bother, or annoy someone, often sexually; to touch or handle someone in an unwelcome or inappropriate way

synonym: harass, harm, abuse

(1) **molest** a woman on a train, (2) sexually **molest** his stepchild

The organization campaigns for stricter penalties for those who **molest** children.

circulate

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

synonym: flow, disperse, rotate

(1) **circulate** a rumor, (2) **circulate** an agenda before the meeting

The fan **circulates** the air in the room quickly.

forceful

adj. having or showing great strength or energy

synonym : powerful, strong, energetic

(1) **forceful** argument, (2) take **forceful** action

She spoke with a **forceful** tone and made her point clear.

penetrate

v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

synonym : pierce, stab, go through

(1) **penetrate** a cell, (2) **penetrate** quickly into the skin

Western ideology slowly **penetrates** through the eastern countries.

plunge

v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

synonym : dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

horrific

adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

synonym : terrifying, alarming, shocking

(1) **horrific** experience, (2) **horrific** condition

The accident scene was **horrific**, with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym : unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

helpless

adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

synonym : defenseless, powerless, susceptible

(1) **helpless** baby, (2) **helpless** victims

I feel so **helpless** without you.

repress

v. to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories

synonym : suppress, control, curb

(1) cannot **repress** laughter, (2) **repress** gene expression
He **repressed** the memories of his traumatic childhood.

unthinkable

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

synonym : impossible, inconceivable, outlandish

(1) an **unthinkable** coincidence, (2) in **unthinkable** trouble
That accident was something **unthinkable** with my long experience.

insensitive

adj. not showing or feeling concern for the needs and feelings of others

synonym : unfeeling, unaware, indifferent

(1) an **insensitive** heart, (2) **insensitive** behavior
His **insensitive** comments made her feel hurt and unimportant.

hasty

adj. done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration

synonym : rushed, impulsive, prompt

(1) a **hasty** temper, (2) **hasty** commitment
The **hasty** conclusion drawn by the researchers resulted in flawed study findings.

candlelight

n. light provided by a candle or candles

synonym : lamp light, oil light, firelight

(1) **candlelight** dinner, (2) **candlelight** vigil
The room was dimly lit by soft **candlelight**.

vigil

n. a period of wakefulness maintained for any reason, typically for prayer, meditation, or watchkeeping; a period of observation or surveillance, especially for security or safety reasons

synonym : watch, observance, monitoring

(1) **vigil** for peace, (2) night **vigil**

The mother kept a **vigil** by her sick child's bedside all night.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

hypocrite

n. a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way

synonym : pretender, two-faced, insincere

(1) environmental **hypocrite**, (2) religious **hypocrite**

She accused her boss of being a **hypocrite** for advocating for workers' rights while mistreating his employees.

apologist

n. a person who offers a defense or justification of a particular belief, idea, or action; someone who defends or supports a cause or person, often in the face of criticism or opposition

synonym : defender, supporter, advocate

(1) conservative **apologist**, (2) religious **apologist**

Some people see him as an **apologist** for authoritarian regimes.

recount

v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story

synonym : narrate, tell, report

(1) **recount** the adventure, (2) **recount** a conversation with him

They **recount** events that have already occurred.

firsthand

adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

synonym : direct

(1) hear customer's voices **firsthand**, (2) conduct **firsthand** research

The manager tried to hear customers' voices **firsthand**.

entitle

v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

synonym: allow, permit, enable

(1) **entitle** him to a pension, (2) **entitle** the company to use the logo

The employee was **entitled** to a week of vacation time.

stalk

v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework

synonym: follow, creep up on, (noun) stem

(1) **stalk** of celery, (2) **stalk** from the room

The hunter quietly **stalked** the deer for hours before taking the shot

grope

v. to feel one's way by touching, typically because one cannot see

synonym: fumble, feel, pat

(1) **grope** after the truth, (2) **grope** for an answer

He was forced to **grope** in the dark for the light switch.

outburst

n. a sudden, violent, and uncontrolled expression of emotion, usually anger or excitement; a sudden release of energy or feeling

synonym: outcry, eruption, explosion

(1) **outburst** of applause, (2) violent **outburst**

My boss's sudden **outburst** shocked and scared me.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project
He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

disbelief

n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real

synonym: doubt, mistrust, incredulity

(1) **disbelief** in the authority, (2) ask in **disbelief**

His reaction was one of complete **disbelief**.

unsettle

v. to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation

synonym: aggravate, annoy, disturb

(1) **unsettle** the nervous system, (2) **unsettle** his conviction

This nationwide strike may **unsettle** the country's economy.

threefold

adj. three times as great or as many

synonym: three, triple, three times

(1) rise nearly **threefold**, (2) **threefold** increase

The price of the item was reduced **threefold** after the sale.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. night vi__l
n. a period of wakefulness maintained for any reason, typically for prayer, meditation, or watchkeeping; a period of observation or surveillance, especially for security or safety reasons
2. th_____ld increase
adj. three times as great or as many
3. religious ap_____st
n. a person who offers a defense or justification of a particular belief, idea, or action; someone who defends or supports a cause or person, often in the face of criticism or opposition
4. em_____r my life
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
5. te_____y people
v. to frighten someone very much
6. a s__m battle
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
7. ins_____ve behavior
adj. not showing or feeling concern for the needs and feelings of others
8. an ins_____ve heart
adj. not showing or feeling concern for the needs and feelings of others
9. di_____ef in the authority
n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
10. turn out to be all s__m
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

ANSWERS: 1. vigil, 2. threefold, 3. apologist, 4. empower, 5. terrify, 6. sham, 7. insensitive, 8. insensitive, 9. disbelief, 10. sham

11. ho____ic experience *adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
12. re____t the adventure *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story
13. st__k of celery *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
14. an unt____le coincidence *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
15. st__k from the room *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
16. he____ss baby *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
17. ci____te an agenda before the meeting *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
18. mo____t a woman on a train *v.* to harass, bother, or annoy someone, often sexually; to touch or handle someone in an unwelcome or inappropriate way

ANSWERS: 11. horrific, 12. recount, 13. stalk, 14. unthinkable, 15. stalk, 16. helpless, 17. circulate, 18. molest

19. ask in di_____ef *n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
20. gr__e after the truth *v.* to feel one's way by touching, typically because one cannot see
21. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
22. can_____ht vigil *n.* light provided by a candle or candles
23. hear customer's voices fi_____nd *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
24. en_____e the company to use the logo *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
25. ou_____st of applause *n.* a sudden, violent, and uncontrolled expression of emotion, usually anger or excitement; a sudden release of energy or feeling
26. re_____t a conversation with him *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story
27. cannot re_____s laughter *v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
28. vi__l for peace *n.* a period of wakefulness maintained for any reason, typically for prayer, meditation, or watchkeeping; a period of observation or surveillance, especially for security or safety reasons
29. en_____e him to a pension *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

ANSWERS: 19. disbelief, 20. grope, 21. embarrass, 22. candlelight, 23. firsthand, 24. entitle, 25. outburst, 26. recount, 27. repress, 28. vigil, 29. entitle

30. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
31. ho_____ic condition *adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
32. conservative ap_____st *n.* a person who offers a defense or justification of a particular belief, idea, or action; someone who defends or supports a cause or person, often in the face of criticism or opposition
33. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
34. a ha__y temper *adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration
35. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
36. un_____le the nervous system *v.* to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
37. pe_____te a cell *v.* to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
38. can_____ht dinner *n.* light provided by a candle or candles
39. un_____le his conviction *v.* to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
40. he_____ss victims *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
41. pe_____te quickly into the skin *v.* to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

ANSWERS: 30. embarrass, 31. horrific, 32. apologist, 33. confuse, 34. hasty, 35. confuse, 36. unsettle, 37. penetrate, 38. candlelight, 39. unsettle, 40. helpless, 41. penetrate

42. environmental hy_____te *n.* a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way
43. pl___e a dagger through his heart *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
44. in unt_____le trouble *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
45. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
46. the threats te_____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
47. pl___e into the water *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
48. take fo_____ul action *adj.* having or showing great strength or energy
49. religious hy_____te *n.* a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way
50. gr___e for an answer *v.* to feel one's way by touching, typically because one cannot see
51. conduct fi_____nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

ANSWERS: 42. hypocrite, 43. plunge, 44. unthinkable, 45. empower, 46. terrify, 47. plunge, 48. forceful, 49. hypocrite, 50. grope, 51. firsthand

52. violent ou____st *n.* a sudden, violent, and uncontrolled expression of emotion, usually anger or excitement; a sudden release of energy or feeling
53. rise nearly th_____ld *adj.* three times as great or as many
54. re____s gene expression *v.* to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
55. sexually mo____t his stepchild *v.* to harass, bother, or annoy someone, often sexually; to touch or handle someone in an unwelcome or inappropriate way
56. ci_____te a rumor *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
57. fo____ul argument *adj.* having or showing great strength or energy
58. ha__y commitment *adj.* done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration

ANSWERS: 52. outburst, 53. threefold, 54. repress, 55. molest, 56. circulate, 57. forceful, 58. hasty

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My boss's sudden _____ shocked and scared me.
n. a sudden, violent, and uncontrolled expression of emotion, usually anger or excitement; a sudden release of energy or feeling
2. Some people see him as an _____ for authoritarian regimes.
n. a person who offers a defense or justification of a particular belief, idea, or action; someone who defends or supports a cause or person, often in the face of criticism or opposition
3. The accident scene was _____ with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.
adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
4. She spoke with a _____ tone and made her point clear.
adj. having or showing great strength or energy
5. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
v. to frighten someone very much
6. The room was dimly lit by soft _____.
n. light provided by a candle or candles
7. The employee was _____ to a week of vacation time.
v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
8. I feel so _____ without you.
adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

ANSWERS: 1. outburst, 2. apologist, 3. horrific, 4. forceful, 5. terrify, 6. candlelight, 7. entitled, 8. helpless

9. This nationwide strike may _____ the country's economy.
v. to make somebody feel anxious or upset, especially because of an unstable or problematic situation
10. That accident was something _____ with my long experience.
adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
11. The company's profits _____ after the recall of their new product.
v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
12. The organization campaigns for stricter penalties for those who _____ children.
v. to harass, bother, or annoy someone, often sexually; to touch or handle someone in an unwelcome or inappropriate way
13. 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
14. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
15. His _____ comments made her feel hurt and unimportant.
adj. not showing or feeling concern for the needs and feelings of others
16. The mother kept a _____ by her sick child's bedside all night.
n. a period of wakefulness maintained for any reason, typically for prayer, meditation, or watchkeeping; a period of observation or surveillance, especially for security or safety reasons

ANSWERS: 9. unsettle, 10. unthinkable, 11. plunged, 12. molest, 13. empowered, 14. embarrass, 15. insensitive, 16. vigil

17. They _____ events that have already occurred.
v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story
18. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
19. She accused her boss of being a _____ for advocating for workers' rights while mistreating his employees.
n. a person who claims to have certain beliefs or values but acts in a way that contradicts those beliefs or values; a person who pretends to be virtuous or moral but behaves in an unethical or deceitful way
20. The hunter quietly _____ the deer for hours before taking the shot
v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
21. The price of the item was reduced _____ after the sale.
adj. three times as great or as many
22. His reaction was one of complete _____.
n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
23. He _____ the memories of his traumatic childhood.
v. to restrain or control by force; to suppress feelings or memories
24. Western ideology slowly _____ through the eastern countries.
v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

ANSWERS: 17. recount, 18. confused, 19. hypocrite, 20. stalked, 21. threefold, 22. disbelief, 23. repressed, 24. penetrates

25. The fan _____ the air in the room quickly.

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

26. He was forced to _____ in the dark for the light switch.

v. to feel one's way by touching, typically because one cannot see

27. The _____ conclusion drawn by the researchers resulted in flawed study findings.

adj. done or acting with excessive speed or urgency and without sufficient thought or consideration

28. The manager tried to hear customers' voices _____.

adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

29. The data he prepared was completely _____.

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

ANSWERS: 25. circulates, 26. grope, 27. hasty, 28. firsthand, 29. sham