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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: History vs. Christopher Columbus |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

intrepid

adj. courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties

synonym: unfearing, courageous, dauntless

(1) **intrepid** personality, (2) **intrepid** travelers

There were still **intrepid** pioneers who planned to start their businesses

ruthless

adj. lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

synonym: heartless, pitiless, merciless

(1) show **ruthless** behavior, (2) **ruthless** brutality

The dictator was known for his **ruthless** tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym: in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over the schedule.

settler

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

synonym: frontiersperson, immigrant, emigrant

(1) new **settlers**, (2) **settlers** on some foreign shore

A large proportion of railway workers in **settler** colonies were white.

conquer

v. to bring under control by force or authority

synonym: defeat, overpower, subdue

(1) **conquer** fatal disease, (2) **conquer** the world

You must **conquer** your anxiety about driving.

enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

synonym: coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

captivity

n. the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

synonym: confinement, detention, imprisonment

(1) escape from **captivity**, (2) animals in **captivity** in the zoo

Pandas rarely breed in **captivity**.

sporadic

adj. occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered

synonym: occasional, irregular, unpredictable

(1) **sporadic** outbreaks, (2) **sporadic** attempts

The rain was falling in **sporadic** bursts.

symbolize

v. to represent or stand for something else, particularly an abstract concept or idea; to be an emblem or sign of something

synonym: represent, signify, emblemize

(1) **symbolize** hope, (2) **symbolize** freedom

In many cultures, the color white **symbolizes** purity and innocence.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation

descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

mutilate

v. to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably

synonym: maim, disfigure, deform

(1) **mutilate** a document, (2) **mutilate** a body

It is cruel for anyone to **mutilate** an animal for any reason.

colonist

n. a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area

synonym: settler, pioneer, inhabitant

(1) space **colonist**, (2) American **colonist**

The first **colonists** arrived in the New World in the early 17th century.

rename

v. to give a new name to something; to change the name of something

synonym: rebrand, rechristen, re-label

(1) **rename** the street, (2) **rename** in plain English

The new owners **renamed** the restaurant to give it a fresh start.

delve

v. to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner

synonym: dig, excavate, uncover

(1) **delve** deeper, (2) **delve** into documents

Researchers must **delve** into the intricacies of the human brain to understand mental illness.

villain

n. a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel

synonym: scoundrel, rogue, antagonist

(1) evil **villain**, (2) authoritarian **villain**

The **villain** in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. in_____id travelers | <i>adj.</i> courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties |
| 2. escape from ca_____ty | <i>n.</i> the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from |
| 3. sp_____ic attempts | <i>adj.</i> occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered |
| 4. se_____ly connected | <i>adv.</i> used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc. |
| 5. sy_____ze freedom | <i>v.</i> to represent or stand for something else, particularly an abstract concept or idea; to be an emblem or sign of something |
| 6. des_____nt of a pioneer | <i>n.</i> children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal |
| 7. ru_____ss brutality | <i>adj.</i> lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others |
| 8. space co_____st | <i>n.</i> a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area |
| 9. de__e deeper | <i>v.</i> to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner |

ANSWERS: 1. intrepid, 2. captivity, 3. sporadic, 4. secondly, 5. symbolize, 6. descendant, 7. ruthless, 8. colonist, 9. delve

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|--|
| 10. co_____r fatal disease | v. | to bring under control by force or authority |
| 11. mu_____te a body | v. | to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably |
| 12. mu_____te a document | v. | to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably |
| 13. evil vi_____n | n. | a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel |
| 14. third-generation des_____nt | n. | children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal |
| 15. en_____e indigenous people | v. | to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action |
| 16. re_____e in plain English | v. | to give a new name to something; to change the name of something |
| 17. person of gra_____nt age | n. | a parent of one's father or mother |
| 18. se_____ly, it is important | adv. | used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc. |
| 19. en_____e poor peasants | v. | to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action |
| 20. animals in ca_____ty in the zoo | n. | the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from |

ANSWERS: 10. conquer, 11. mutilate, 12. mutilate, 13. villain, 14. descendant, 15. enslave, 16. rename, 17. grandparent, 18. secondly, 19. enslave, 20. captivity

21. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
22. show ru_____ss behavior *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
23. authoritarian vi_____n *n.* a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel
24. American co_____st *n.* a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area
25. de__e into documents *v.* to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
26. in_____id personality *adj.* courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties
27. sp_____ic outbreaks *adj.* occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered
28. re___e the street *v.* to give a new name to something; to change the name of something
29. se_____rs on some foreign shore *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
30. new se_____rs *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
31. co_____r the world *v.* to bring under control by force or authority

ANSWERS: 21. grandparent, 22. ruthless, 23. villain, 24. colonist, 25. delve, 26. intrepid, 27. sporadic, 28. rename, 29. settler, 30. settler, 31. conquer

32. sy_____ze hope

v. to represent or stand for something else, particularly an abstract concept or idea; to be an emblem or sign of something

ANSWERS: 32. symbolize

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
n. a parent of one's father or mother
2. You must _____ your anxiety about driving.
v. to bring under control by force or authority
3. Pandas rarely breed in _____.
n. the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
4. The rain was falling in _____ bursts.
adj. occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered
5. The dictator was known for his _____ tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.
adj. lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
6. In many cultures, the color white _____ purity and innocence.
v. to represent or stand for something else, particularly an abstract concept or idea; to be an emblem or sign of something
7. The new owners _____ the restaurant to give it a fresh start.
v. to give a new name to something; to change the name of something
8. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

ANSWERS: 1. grandparents, 2. conquer, 3. captivity, 4. sporadic, 5. ruthless, 6. symbolizes, 7. renamed, 8. descendants

9. Her beauty _____ me completely.
v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
10. A large proportion of railway workers in _____ colonies were white.
n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
11. There were still _____ pioneers who planned to start their businesses
adj. courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties
12. The first _____ arrived in the New World in the early 17th century.
n. a person who lives in or is sent to establish a colony (= a country or an area that is governed by a more powerful entity) a new country or area
13. Researchers must _____ into the intricacies of the human brain to understand mental illness.
v. to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
14. It is cruel for anyone to _____ an animal for any reason.
v. to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably
15. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.
adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
16. The _____ in the movie was a complex character with a tragic backstory.
n. a character in a story, movie, or play which often opposes the hero, typically characterized as immoral, evil, or cruel

ANSWERS: 9. enslaved, 10. settler, 11. intrepid, 12. colonists, 13. delve, 14. mutilate, 15. secondly, 16. villain

ANSWERS: