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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Robin Nagle: What I discovered in New York City trash | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

sparkle

v. to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy

synonym: shine, glimmer, twinkle

(1) **sparkle** like a gem, (2) **sparkle** from receiving light
The diamond **sparkled** in the sunlight.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

campsite

n. a place where people can pitch tents, park RVs, or set up other types of temporary shelter for recreational use, often equipped with facilities such as bathrooms and fire pits

synonym: campground, camping area, outdoor site

(1) **campsite** location, (2) scenic **campsite**
The firewood at the **campsite** was wet and made it hard to start a fire.

bluff

v. to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

synonym: abrupt, cliff, precipice

(1) **bluff** the other side, (2) riverside **bluff**

He **bluffed** a person out of going.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

astonished

adj. extremely surprised and upset

synonym: amazed, dumbfounded, flabbergasted

(1) **astonished** at the success, (2) cast **astonished** eyes

She was **astonished** by the news and could hardly believe it.

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.

recyclability

n. the degree to which a material or product can be reused or repurposed after it has served its original function, without requiring significant modifications or environmental harm

synonym: reusability, sustainability, renewability

(1) **recyclability** rate, (2) low **recyclability** problem

The **recyclability** of electronic devices is a significant challenge due to the complexity of their components.

outsider

n. a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social

circles

synonym: stranger, foreigner, alien

(1) **outsider** perspective, (2) **outsider** artist

Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an **outsider** at times.

broom

n. a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces

synonym: sweeper, brush

(1) **broom** closet, (2) **broom** handle

Could you please grab the **broom** and sweep the crumbs on the floor?

plow

n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

synonym: plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

relentless

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting

(1) **relentless** attack, (2) face **relentless** pressure

The athlete's **relentless** training paid off in the end.

respiration

n. the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide

synonym: breathing, ventilation

(1) **respiration** rate, (2) artificial **respiration**

The doctor carefully monitored the patient's **respiration** during the surgery.

stigma

n. a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person

synonym: mark, blemish, disgrace

(1) social **stigma**, (2) **stigma** against obesity

The mental health **stigma** often prevents people from seeking treatment.

scorn

n. a feeling of contempt or disdain for someone or something seen as unworthy or inferior; an expression of contempt or ridicule

synonym: contempt, disdain, disrespect

(1) treat with **scorn**, (2) expression of **scorn**

The politician responded to the heckler with a look of **scorn**.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym: sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

sputter

v. to emit or make a series of explosive popping or spitting sounds; to speak quickly or in a confused or agitated manner; to work or operate in an erratic or uneven manner

synonym: cough, spit, splutter

(1) **sputter** into silence, (2) **sputter** due to lack of fuel

The car's engine began to **sputter** as it ran out of gas.

quotidian

adj. occurring or recurring daily; ordinary or commonplace, typically used to describe something boring, repetitive, or mundane

synonym: everyday, mundane, routine

(1) **quotidian** chores, (2) **quotidian** life

The artist was famous for capturing the beauty of **quotidian** scenes in her paintings.

liturgy

n. a form of public worship or religious service, especially in the Christian Church

synonym : rite, service, ceremony

(1) divine **liturgy**, (2) **liturgy** of a church

The **liturgy** for the Mass included hymns, prayers, and readings from the Bible.

rhythmic

adj. having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm

synonym : measured, metrical, cadenced

(1) a **rhythmic** stroking, (2) in a **rhythmic** pace

The **rhythmic** sound of the drums was mesmerizing.

reassurance

n. the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence

synonym : encouragement, comfort, support

(1) give **reassurance**, (2) **reassurance** of my commitment

He needed **reassurance** that everything would be alright.

dross

n. waste or impurities that are separated from metal during the smelting or refining process; something that is considered to be worthless or of poor quality, often used metaphorically

synonym : scum, waste, impurities

(1) discard the **dross**, (2) political **dross**

The company needed to eliminate the **dross** in its production process to improve product quality.

growl

v. to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval

synonym : snarl, rumble, grumble

(1) **growl** menacingly, (2) **growl** a command

The dog began to **growl** at the stranger approaching the house.

downstairs

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

synonym : below

(1) creep **downstairs**, (2) escort him **downstairs**
Please get the desk **downstairs**.

recycle

v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

synonym: reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. low rec_____ity problem | <i>n.</i> the degree to which a material or product can be reused or repurposed after it has served its original function, without requiring significant modifications or environmental harm |
| 2. sp_____r into silence | <i>v.</i> to emit or make a series of explosive popping or spitting sounds; to speak quickly or in a confused or agitated manner; to work or operate in an erratic or uneven manner |
| 3. sp_____e like a gem | <i>v.</i> to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy |
| 4. riverside bl__f | <i>v.</i> to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion |
| 5. ast_____ed at the success | <i>adj.</i> extremely surprised and upset |
| 6. treat with sc__n | <i>n.</i> a feeling of contempt or disdain for someone or something seen as unworthy or inferior; an expression of contempt or ridicule |
| 7. divine li_____y | <i>n.</i> a form of public worship or religious service, especially in the Christian Church |
| 8. p__w equipment | <i>n.</i> a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops |

ANSWERS: 1. recyclability, 2. sputter, 3. sparkle, 4. bluff, 5. astonished, 6. scorn, 7. liturgy, 8. plow

9. political dr__s *n.* waste or impurities that are separated from metal during the smelting or refining process; something that is considered to be worthless or of poor quality, often used metaphorically
10. cast ast_____ed eyes *adj.* extremely surprised and upset
11. an ir___c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
12. br__m closet *n.* a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces
13. creep dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
14. social st___a *n.* a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person
15. ca_____te location *n.* a place where people can pitch tents, park RVs, or set up other types of temporary shelter for recreational use, often equipped with facilities such as bathrooms and fire pits
16. rec_____ity rate *n.* the degree to which a material or product can be reused or repurposed after it has served its original function, without requiring significant modifications or environmental harm

ANSWERS: 9. dross, 10. astonished, 11. ironic, 12. broom, 13. downstairs, 14. stigma, 15. campsite, 16. recyclability

17. escort him dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
18. br__m handle *n.* a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces
19. discard the dr__s *n.* waste or impurities that are separated from metal during the smelting or refining process; something that is considered to be worthless or of poor quality, often used metaphorically
20. li_____y of a church *n.* a form of public worship or religious service, especially in the Christian Church
21. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
22. re_____e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
23. scenic ca_____te *n.* a place where people can pitch tents, park RVs, or set up other types of temporary shelter for recreational use, often equipped with facilities such as bathrooms and fire pits
24. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
25. in a rh_____ic pace *adj.* having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm

ANSWERS: 17. downstairs, 18. broom, 19. dross, 20. liturgy, 21. ironic, 22. recycle, 23. campsite, 24. rot, 25. rhythmic

26. co____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
27. res_____on rate *n.* the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide
28. expression of sc__n *n.* a feeling of contempt or disdain for someone or something seen as unworthy or inferior; an expression of contempt or ridicule
29. qu_____an chores *adj.* occurring or recurring daily; ordinary or commonplace, typically used to describe something boring, repetitive, or mundane
30. gr__l menacingly *v.* to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval
31. face rel_____ss pressure *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
32. gr__l a command *v.* to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval
33. sp_____r due to lack of fuel *v.* to emit or make a series of explosive popping or spitting sounds; to speak quickly or in a confused or agitated manner; to work or operate in an erratic or uneven manner
34. bl__f the other side *v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

ANSWERS: 26. confuse, 27. respiration, 28. scorn, 29. quotidian, 30. growl, 31. relentless, 32. growl, 33. sputter, 34. bluff

35. a rh____ic stroking *adj.* having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm
36. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
37. ou_____er artist *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
38. deeply p__w the soil *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
39. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
40. sp_____e from receiving light *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
41. qu_____an life *adj.* occurring or recurring daily; ordinary or commonplace, typically used to describe something boring, repetitive, or mundane
42. st___a against obesity *n.* a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person

ANSWERS: 35. rhythmic, 36. pretension, 37. outsider, 38. plow, 39. nod, 40. sparkle, 41. quotidian, 42. stigma

43. artificial res_____on *n.* the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide
44. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
45. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
46. rel_____ss attack *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
47. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
48. re_____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
49. rea_____ce of my commitment *n.* the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence
50. ou_____er perspective *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
51. give rea_____ce *n.* the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence

ANSWERS: 43. respiration, 44. rot, 45. nod, 46. relentless, 47. confuse, 48. recycle, 49. reassurance, 50. outsider, 51. reassurance

52. pre_____on to authority

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 52. pretension

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

2. The dog began to _____ at the stranger approaching the house.
v. to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval

3. We largely _____ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.
v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

4. The _____ of electronic devices is a significant challenge due to the complexity of their components.
n. the degree to which a material or product can be reused or repurposed after it has served its original function, without requiring significant modifications or environmental harm

5. He needed _____ that everything would be alright.
n. the act of giving advice or help to make someone feel less worried; the act of giving someone confidence

6. The mental health _____ often prevents people from seeking treatment.
n. a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person

7. The _____ sound of the drums was mesmerizing.
adj. having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm

ANSWERS: 1. rot, 2. growl, 3. recycle, 4. recyclability, 5. reassurance, 6. stigma, 7. rhythmic

8. The politician responded to the heckler with a look of _____.
- n.* a feeling of contempt or disdain for someone or something seen as unworthy or inferior; an expression of contempt or ridicule
9. The company needed to eliminate the _____ in its production process to improve product quality.
- n.* waste or impurities that are separated from metal during the smelting or refining process; something that is considered to be worthless or of poor quality, often used metaphorically
10. The athlete's _____ training paid off in the end.
- adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
11. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
- v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
12. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
13. She was _____ by the news and could hardly believe it.
- adj.* extremely surprised and upset
14. The diamond _____ in the sunlight.
- v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
15. Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an _____ at times.
- n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

ANSWERS: 8. scorn, 9. dross, 10. relentless, 11. nodded, 12. confused, 13. astonished, 14. sparkled, 15. outsider

16. Could you please grab the _____ and sweep the crumbs on the floor?
- n.* a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces
17. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.
- adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
18. The firewood at the _____ was wet and made it hard to start a fire.
- n.* a place where people can pitch tents, park RVs, or set up other types of temporary shelter for recreational use, often equipped with facilities such as bathrooms and fire pits
19. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
20. Please get the desk _____.
- adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
21. The doctor carefully monitored the patient's _____ during the surgery.
- n.* the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide
22. The car's engine began to _____ as it ran out of gas.
- v.* to emit or make a series of explosive popping or spitting sounds; to speak quickly or in a confused or agitated manner; to work or operate in an erratic or uneven manner

ANSWERS: 16. broom, 17. ironic, 18. campsite, 19. pretensions, 20. downstairs, 21. respiration, 22. sputter

23. The _____ for the Mass included hymns, prayers, and readings from the Bible.
- n.* a form of public worship or religious service, especially in the Christian Church
24. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the _____.
- n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
25. The artist was famous for capturing the beauty of _____ scenes in her paintings.
- adj.* occurring or recurring daily; ordinary or commonplace, typically used to describe something boring, repetitive, or mundane
26. He _____ a person out of going.
- v.* to try to deceive someone into believing that you can or are going to do something, or that you have knowledge or abilities; (noun) a high steep bank, usually formed by river erosion

ANSWERS: 23. liturgy, 24. plow, 25. quotidian, 26. bluffed