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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Joseph Kim: The family I lost in North Korea. And the family I gained. | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

firewood

n. wood used as fuel for fires, particularly for heating, cooking, or other purposes

synonym: fire logs, fire sticks, kindling

(1) chop **firewood**, (2) stacks of **firewood**

My neighbor gave me some extra **firewood** from their own supply.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym: despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

synonym : hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

orphan

n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them

synonym : waif, stray, fatherless child

(1) **orphan** care, (2) asylum for **orphan** children

The little girl was a war **orphan** and lived in a group home.

dusty

adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

synonym : stale, filthy, grimy

(1) **dusty** road, (2) **dusty** bookshelf

The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of **dusty** debris.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym : famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

suffocate

v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression

synonym : choke, smother, stifle

(1) **suffocate** to death, (2) **suffocate** fire

People can **suffocate** from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.

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.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ho____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
2. su_____te to death *v.* to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
3. ho____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
4. du__y bookshelf *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
5. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
6. or___n care *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
7. su_____te fire *v.* to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
8. coal fa___e *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
9. chop fi_____od *n.* wood used as fuel for fires, particularly for heating, cooking, or other purposes

ANSWERS: 1. hopeless, 2. suffocate, 3. hopeless, 4. dusty, 5. motto, 6. orphan, 7. suffocate, 8. famine, 9. firewood

10. du__y road *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
11. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
12. die of sta_____on *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
13. stacks of fi_____od *n.* wood used as fuel for fires, particularly for heating, cooking, or other purposes
14. fa___e relief *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
15. sta_____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
16. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
17. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
18. asylum for or___n children *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
19. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

ANSWERS: 10. dusty, 11. motto, 12. starvation, 13. firewood, 14. famine, 15. starvation, 16. starve, 17. opportune, 18. orphan, 19. opportune, 20. starve

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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
2. The little girl was a war _____ and lived in a group home.
n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
3. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
4. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.
n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
5. People can _____ from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.
v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
6. My neighbor gave me some extra _____ from their own supply.
n. wood used as fuel for fires, particularly for heating, cooking, or other purposes
7. The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of _____ debris.
adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
8. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.
n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

ANSWERS: 1. motto, 2. orphan, 3. hopeless, 4. famine, 5. suffocate, 6. firewood, 7. dusty, 8. starvation

9. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

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

10. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

ANSWERS: 9. opportune, 10. starve