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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sally Kohn: Let's try emotional correctness | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/sally_kohn_let_s_try_emotional_correctness

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

obliterate

v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory

synonym: destroy, eliminate, erase

(1) **obliterate** all traces, (2) **obliterate** data

The accident at that nuclear power plant **obliterated** the local ecosystem.

thanksgiving

n. an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

synonym: gratitude, appreciation, recognition

(1) **thanksgiving** traditions, (2) **thanksgiving** parade

My family gathers together every year for **thanksgiving** dinner.

steroid

n. any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs

(1) **steroid** abuse, (2) a **steroid** hormone

Some **steroids** are banned for use by athletes because of their muscle-building effects.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym: peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

traitor

n. a person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause, or principle, to which they had previously been loyal; a person who commits treason against their country or sovereign

synonym: betrayal, turncoat, renegade

(1) political **traitor**, (2) notorious **traitor**

The government branded him a **traitor** after he leaked classified information to the press.

scourge

n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

synonym: plague, disaster, curse

(1) **scourge** of AIDS, (2) bring a **scourge** under control

The plague was a **scourge** that killed millions of people.

takeaway

n. a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information

synonym: conclusion, message, insight

(1) **takeaway** pizza, (2) **takeaway** message

The main **takeaway** from the meeting was the need for better communication.

dike

n. a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion

synonym: levee, embankment, dam

(1) water **dike**, (2) coastal **dike**

The town council plans to repair the damaged **dike** along the riverbank.

confession

n. a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal

synonym: admission, avowal, acknowledgment

(1) a **confession** of guilt, (2) a **confession** of faith

The prisoner made a full **confession** and admitted to his crime.

knuckle

n. one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand

synonym: joint, finger joint, finger knob

(1) **knuckle** sandwich, (2) bare- **knuckle** boxer

He cracked his **knuckles** nervously before the presentation.

condescending

adj. having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing

synonym: patronizing, superior, haughty

(1) **condescending** tone, (2) **condescending** smile

He had a **condescending** attitude towards those less fortunate than himself.

incidentally

adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing

synonym: by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned

Incidentally, I know the answer to that question.

hokey

adj. overly sentimental, exaggerated, or contrived in an attempt to evoke emotion, often in a way that is considered insincere or tacky

synonym: corny, cheesy, cliched

(1) **hokey** movie, (2) **hokey** joke

The movie's plot seemed **hokey** and predictable to me.

devastate

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

synonym: demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy

Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

gutter

n. a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater

synonym: channel, trench, drain

(1) **gutter** system, (2) a building **gutter**

The **gutter** on the roof's edge was clogged with leaves, causing water to overflow.

flurry

n. a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals

synonym: burst, storm, bustle

(1) **flurry** of activity, (2) **flurry** of emails

A **flurry** of snowflakes fell from the sky as we stepped outside.

vile

adj. highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence

synonym: disgusting, repulsive, despicable

(1) **vile** behavior, (2) **vile** language

The **vile** smell coming from the dumpster was unbearable.

profanity

n. a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things

synonym: cuss, expletive, crudeness

(1) give a **profanity**, (2) shout **profanity**

We do not tolerate any **profanity** or abusive language.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a st____d hormone
n. any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs
2. obl_____te data
v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory
3. bare-kn_____e boxer
n. one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand
4. tha_____ing parade
n. an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year
5. kn_____e sandwich
n. one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand
6. v__e behavior
adj. highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence
7. a con_____on of faith
n. a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal

ANSWERS: 1. steroid, 2. obliterate, 3. knuckle, 4. thanksgiving, 5. knuckle, 6. vile, 7. confession

8. water d__e *n.* a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
9. inc_____lly mentioned *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
10. ta_____ay pizza *n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information
11. notorious tr_____r *n.* a person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause, or principle, to which they had previously been loyal; a person who commits treason against their country or sovereign
12. gu___r system *n.* a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater
13. con_____ing tone *adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing
14. de_____te the economy *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
15. political tr_____r *n.* a person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause, or principle, to which they had previously been loyal; a person who commits treason against their country or sovereign
16. st_____d abuse *n.* any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs

ANSWERS: 8. dike, 9. incidentally, 10. takeaway, 11. traitor, 12. gutter, 13. condescending, 14. devastate, 15. traitor, 16. steroid

17. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
18. bring a sc_____e under control *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
19. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
20. shout pr_____ty *n.* a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things
21. ho__y movie *adj.* overly sentimental, exaggerated, or contrived in an attempt to evoke emotion, often in a way that is considered insincere or tacky
22. a con_____on of guilt *n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
23. v__e language *adj.* highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence
24. a building gu____r *n.* a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater
25. tha_____ing traditions *n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

ANSWERS: 17. tweet, 18. scourge, 19. tweet, 20. profanity, 21. hokey, 22. confession, 23. vile, 24. gutter, 25. thanksgiving

26. con_____ing smile *adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing
27. inc_____lly discovered *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
28. de_____te an area *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
29. obl_____te all traces *v.* to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory
30. sc_____e of AIDS *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
31. ta_____ay message *n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information
32. ho__y joke *adj.* overly sentimental, exaggerated, or contrived in an attempt to evoke emotion, often in a way that is considered insincere or tacky
33. coastal d__e *n.* a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
34. fl___y of activity *n.* a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals
35. fl___y of emails *n.* a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals

ANSWERS: 26. condescending, 27. incidentally, 28. devastate, 29. obliterate, 30. scourge, 31. takeaway, 32. hokey, 33. dike, 34. flurry, 35. flurry

36. give a pr_____ty

n. a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things

ANSWERS: 36. profanity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ I know the answer to that question.
adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing
2. The town council plans to repair the damaged _____ along the riverbank.
n. a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
3. The prisoner made a full _____ and admitted to his crime.
n. a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
4. We do not tolerate any _____ or abusive language.
n. a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things
5. He cracked his _____ nervously before the presentation.
n. one of the joint-like parts of the fingers and toes, especially of the hand
6. The movie's plot seemed _____ and predictable to me.
adj. overly sentimental, exaggerated, or contrived in an attempt to evoke emotion, often in a way that is considered insincere or tacky
7. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.
n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
8. The accident at that nuclear power plant _____ the local ecosystem.
v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory

ANSWERS: 1. Incidentally, 2. dike, 3. confession, 4. profanity, 5. knuckles, 6. hokey, 7. tweet, 8. obliterated

9. Some _____ are banned for use by athletes because of their muscle-building effects.
- n.* any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs
10. The plague was a _____ that killed millions of people.
- n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
11. He had a _____ attitude towards those less fortunate than himself.
- adj.* having or showing a feeling of superiority; patronizing
12. The _____ on the roof's edge was clogged with leaves, causing water to overflow.
- n.* a channel along the edge of a road or structure for carrying away rainwater
13. A _____ of snowflakes fell from the sky as we stepped outside.
- n.* a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals
14. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.
- v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
15. The government branded him a _____ after he leaked classified information to the press.
- n.* a person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause, or principle, to which they had previously been loyal; a person who commits treason against their country or sovereign

ANSWERS: 9. steroids, 10. scourge, 11. condescending, 12. gutter, 13. flurry, 14. devastate, 15. traitor

16. My family gathers together every year for _____ dinner.

- n.* an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada, typically observed on the fourth Thursday in November in the U.S. and on the second Monday in October in Canada, that commemorates the giving of thanks for the blessings of the previous year

17. The _____ smell coming from the dumpster was unbearable.

- adj.* highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable; morally reprehensible or wicked; characterized by cruelty or violence

18. The main _____ from the meeting was the need for better communication.

- n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information

ANSWERS: 16. thanksgiving, 17. vile, 18. takeaway