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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Charles Robertson: Africa's next boom | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

capita

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

synonym: head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**
GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

lifespan

n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

synonym: duration, lifetime, continuance

(1) **lifespan** extension, (2) **lifespan** retrieval curve
Generally speaking, men have a shorter **lifespan** than women.

sub-Saharan

adj. of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

(1) **sub-Saharan** Africa, (2) **sub-Saharan** countries
The coffee producers in **sub-Saharan** countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.

scot

n. a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant

synonym : tax, charge, toll

(1) pay annual **scot**, (2) traditional **Scot** attire

The **scot-free** suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.

barb

n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

synonym : spine, barbed remark, sting

(1) **barb** wire, (2) aim a **barb**

The politician's words were full of **barbs** designed to hurt his opponent.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym : forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

tundra

n. a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen

synonym : arctic plain, permafrost, polar desert

(1) the Siberian **tundra**, (2) **tundra** biome

The Arctic **tundra** is a vast and desolate landscape with few signs of life.

halve

v. to divide something into two equal parts; to reduce something by half its original amount or size

synonym : reduce by half, cut in half, split

(1) **halve** the price, (2) **halve** the workload

I need to **halve** the recipe to make just enough for two people.

barge

n. a large flat-bottomed boat with a wide, flat deck used for transporting goods on rivers and canals, which can be pushed or towed by a tugboat; (verb) to move forcefully

or abruptly, often in a clumsy or rude manner

synonym : boat, vessel, flatboat

(1) **barge** through the crowded hallway, (2) canal **barge**

The captain of the **barge** navigated through the narrow canal with ease.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

industrialize

v. to organize the production of something into an industry

synonym : motorize

(1) **industrialize** service, (2) **industrialized** textile production

The nations of South East Asia will quickly **industrialize** and catch up with the West.

autocracy

n. a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society

synonym : dictatorship, tyranny, authoritarianism

(1) fight against **autocracy**, (2) absolute **autocracy**

An **autocracy** with no democratic system in a place ruled the country.

beige

n. a pale sandy yellowish-brown color; a cloth or material of this color

synonym : tan, khaki, sand

(1) **beige** walls, (2) **beige** fabric

The curtains in the bedroom were a beautiful shade of **beige**, which complemented the natural lighting.

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.

bribe

v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements

synonym : graft, corrupt

(1) **bribe** a politician, (2) **bribe** him with food

He tries to **bribe** the ship's captain to export illegal products.

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.

woof

n. the sound that a dog makes; the threads running from side to side in a woven fabric; the texture or quality of the threads in a woven fabric

synonym : weave, texture, grain

(1) **woof** fabric, (2) **woof** sound

My dog's **woof** woke me up early in the morning.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym : detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

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.

pessimistic

adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

synonym : cynical, defeatist, despairing

(1) take a **pessimistic** view of life, (2) **pessimistic** for our survival

She was unduly **pessimistic** about her future.

Session 2: Spelling

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. li____an extension | <i>n.</i> the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists |
| 2. be__e fabric | <i>n.</i> a pale sandy yellowish-brown color; a cloth or material of this color |
| 3. conservative ap_____st | <i>n.</i> 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. th_____ld increase | <i>adj.</i> three times as great or as many |
| 5. ex_____e in popularity | <i>v.</i> to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open |
| 6. be__e walls | <i>n.</i> a pale sandy yellowish-brown color; a cloth or material of this color |
| 7. ex_____e in anger | <i>v.</i> to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open |
| 8. ho_____ss situation | <i>adj.</i> having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success |
| 9. ind_____ized textile production | <i>v.</i> to organize the production of something into an industry |
| 10. li____an retrieval curve | <i>n.</i> the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists |
| 11. fight against au_____cy | <i>n.</i> a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society |

ANSWERS: 1. lifespan, 2. beige, 3. apologist, 4. threefold, 5. explode, 6. beige, 7. explode, 8. hopeless, 9. industrialize, 10. lifespan, 11. autocracy

12. w__f sound *n.* the sound that a dog makes; the threads running from side to side in a woven fabric; the texture or quality of the threads in a woven fabric
13. pay annual s__t *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
14. sub_____an countries *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
15. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
16. ho_____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
17. tu___a biome *n.* a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen
18. w__f fabric *n.* the sound that a dog makes; the threads running from side to side in a woven fabric; the texture or quality of the threads in a woven fabric
19. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
20. traditional S__t attire *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
21. ha__e the workload *v.* to divide something into two equal parts; to reduce something by half its original amount or size
22. b__b wire *n.* a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

ANSWERS: 12. woof, 13. scot, 14. sub-Saharan, 15. smartphone, 16. hopeless, 17. tundra, 18. woof, 19. ancestor, 20. scot, 21. halve, 22. barb

23. the agricultural yield per ca___a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
24. ba__e through the crowded hallway *n.* a large flat-bottomed boat with a wide, flat deck used for transporting goods on rivers and canals, which can be pushed or towed by a tugboat; (verb) to move forcefully or abruptly, often in a clumsy or rude manner
25. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
26. earliest human an____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
27. 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
28. absolute au_____cy *n.* a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society
29. br__e a politician *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
30. take a pes_____ic view of life *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

ANSWERS: 23. capita, 24. barge, 25. smartphone, 26. ancestor, 27. apologist, 28. autocracy, 29. bribe, 30. pessimistic

31. aim a b__b *n.* a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair
32. rise nearly th_____ld *adj.* three times as great or as many
33. pes_____ic for our survival *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
34. canal ba__e *n.* a large flat-bottomed boat with a wide, flat deck used for transporting goods on rivers and canals, which can be pushed or towed by a tugboat; (verb) to move forcefully or abruptly, often in a clumsy or rude manner
35. ha__e the price *v.* to divide something into two equal parts; to reduce something by half its original amount or size
36. br__e him with food *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
37. per ca___a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
38. ind_____ize service *v.* to organize the production of something into an industry
39. the Siberian tu___a *n.* a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen

ANSWERS: 31. barb, 32. threefold, 33. pessimistic, 34. barge, 35. halve, 36. bribe, 37. capita, 38. industrialize, 39. tundra

40. sub_____an Africa

adj. of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

ANSWERS: 40. sub-Saharan

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
2. The captain of the _____ navigated through the narrow canal with ease.
n. a large flat-bottomed boat with a wide, flat deck used for transporting goods on rivers and canals, which can be pushed or towed by a tugboat; (verb) to move forcefully or abruptly, often in a clumsy or rude manner
3. The price of the item was reduced _____ after the sale.
adj. three times as great or as many
4. The _____ suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.
n. a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
5. I need to _____ the recipe to make just enough for two people.
v. to divide something into two equal parts; to reduce something by half its original amount or size
6. He tries to _____ the ship's captain to export illegal products.
v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
7. The politician's words were full of _____ designed to hurt his opponent.
n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

ANSWERS: 1. hopeless, 2. barge, 3. threefold, 4. scot-free, 5. halve, 6. bribe, 7. barbs

8. Generally speaking, men have a shorter _____ than women.
n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
9. My dog's _____ woke me up early in the morning.
n. the sound that a dog makes; the threads running from side to side in a woven fabric; the texture or quality of the threads in a woven fabric
10. An _____ with no democratic system in a place ruled the country.
n. a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society
11. She was unduly _____ about her future.
adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
12. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.
v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
13. The Arctic _____ is a vast and desolate landscape with few signs of life.
n. a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen
14. The curtains in the bedroom were a beautiful shade of _____ which complemented the natural lighting.
n. a pale sandy yellowish-brown color; a cloth or material of this color
15. The nations of South East Asia will quickly _____ and catch up with the West.
v. to organize the production of something into an industry

ANSWERS: 8. lifespan, 9. woof, 10. autocracy, 11. pessimistic, 12. exploded, 13. tundra, 14. beige, 15. industrialize

16. The coffee producers in _____ countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.

adj. of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

17. GDP per _____ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

18. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

19. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

20. 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

ANSWERS: 16. sub-Saharan, 17. capita, 18. smartphones, 19. ancestor, 20. apologist