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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Eric Liu: How to understand power | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

militia

n. a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs

synonym : reserves

(1) **militia** groups, (2) armed **militia**

Militia suddenly occupied the presidential palace.

primal

adj. of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

synonym : original, fundamental, basic

(1) **primal** eras, (2) **primal** fear

The **primal** instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.

bureaucracy

n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by

elected representatives

synonym : administration, government, system

(1) government **bureaucracy**, (2) arbitrary **bureaucracy**

The bumbling **bureaucracy** made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

compel

v. to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

synonym : force, oblige, coerce

(1) **compel** a person to submission, (2) **compel** attention

The strict deadlines will **compel** the team to work efficiently.

dictator

n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

synonym : autocrat, tyrant, despot

(1) military **dictator**, (2) a **dictator** with enormous powers

A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the **dictator**.

boundless

adj. having no limits; limitless

synonym : limitless, indefinite, bottomless

(1) **boundless** imagination, (2) **boundless** energy

The **boundless** ocean stretched before them as far as the eye could see.

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.

intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym : amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

legitimacy

n. the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

synonym: legality, lawfulness, authenticity

(1) democratic **legitimacy**, (2) challenge the **legitimacy**
I'm going to deny the **legitimacy** of his claim.

policymaker

n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.

synonym: lawmaker, legislator

(1) education **policymaker**, (2) regional **policymaker**
Policymakers struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.

perpetuate

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

synonym: eternalize, preserve, maintain

(1) **perpetuate** a myth, (2) **perpetuate** chronic pain
That work **perpetuates** his fame.

beget

v. to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of

synonym: be father, procreate, reproduce

(1) **beget** children, (2) **beget** fear
His irresponsible behavior may **beget** many problems for him in the future.

powerless

adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

synonym: helpless, impotent, feeble

(1) **powerless** position, (2) **powerless** in the organization
During the hurricane, we felt **powerless** against the winds

and rain.

enshrine

v. to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect

synonym: ensconce, preserve, cherish

(1) **enshrine** memories, (2) **enshrine** tradition

The Constitution **enshrines** the rights and freedoms of citizens.

adept

adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

synonym: proficient, masterful, experienced

(1) **adept** at fishing, (2) **adept** in handicrafts

She is highly **adept** with medical equipment.

charismatic

adj. having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others

synonym: mesmerizing, alluring, captivating

(1) **charismatic** chairman, (2) **charismatic** personality

He was a **charismatic** leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. armed mi_____a | <i>n.</i> a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs |
| 2. be__t children | <i>v.</i> to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of |
| 3. in_____fy a good relationship | <i>v.</i> to increase or make something increase in extent or strength |
| 4. environmental det_____nt | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 5. per_____te chronic pain | <i>v.</i> to make something continue or prevail for a long time |
| 6. per_____te a myth | <i>v.</i> to make something continue or prevail for a long time |
| 7. co___l attention | <i>v.</i> to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way |
| 8. bo_____ss imagination | <i>adj.</i> having no limits; limitless |
| 9. the mo__o for safe traffic | <i>n.</i> a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal |
| 10. po_____ss in the organization | <i>adj.</i> lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change |
| 11. in_____fy diplomatic efforts | <i>v.</i> to increase or make something increase in extent or strength |

ANSWERS: 1. militia, 2. beget, 3. intensify, 4. determinant, 5. perpetuate, 6. perpetuate, 7. compel, 8. boundless, 9. motto, 10. powerless, 11. intensify

12. en____ne memories *v.* to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect
13. pr____l eras *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive
14. regional pol____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
15. ad__t at fishing *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult
16. military di____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
17. po____ss position *adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
18. bo____ss energy *adj.* having no limits; limitless
19. cha____ic personality *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
20. co__l a person to submission *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
21. arbitrary bur____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
22. democratic leg____cy *n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

ANSWERS: 12. enshrine, 13. primal, 14. policymaker, 15. adept, 16. dictator, 17. powerless, 18. boundless, 19. charismatic, 20. compel, 21. bureaucracy, 22. legitimacy

23. en____ne tradition *v.* to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect
24. cha____ic chairman *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
25. mi____a groups *n.* a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs
26. a di____or with enormous powers *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
27. ad__t in handicrafts *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult
28. be__t fear *v.* to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of
29. education pol____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
30. a det____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
31. challenge the leg____cy *n.* the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason
32. pr____l fear *adj.* of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

ANSWERS: 23. enshrine, 24. charismatic, 25. militia, 26. dictator, 27. adept, 28. beget, 29. policymaker, 30. determinant, 31. legitimacy, 32. primal

33. government bur_____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
34. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

ANSWERS: 33. bureaucracy, 34. motto

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The bumbling _____ made it difficult to get the permits we needed.
n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

2. I'm going to deny the _____ of his claim.
n. the state or quality of being allowed and acceptable under the law; the state or quality of being founded on a reasonable or acceptable reason

3. That work _____ his fame.
v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

4. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

5. His irresponsible behavior may _____ many problems for him in the future.
v. to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of

6. 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

7. A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the _____.
n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

ANSWERS: 1. bureaucracy, 2. legitimacy, 3. perpetuates, 4. determinant, 5. beget, 6. motto, 7. dictator

8. The Constitution _____ the rights and freedoms of citizens.
v. to cherish or protect something as if it is sacred; to place something in a position of honor or respect
9. He was a _____ leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.
adj. having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
10. _____ suddenly occupied the presidential palace.
n. a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs
11. _____ struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.
n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
12. The strict deadlines will _____ the team to work efficiently.
v. to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
13. During the hurricane, we felt _____ against the winds and rain.
adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
14. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
15. She is highly _____ with medical equipment.
adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

ANSWERS: 8. enshrines, 9. charismatic, 10. Militia, 11. Policymakers, 12. compel, 13. powerless, 14. intensify, 15. adept

16. The _____ instincts of the animal kicked in when it was threatened.

adj. of or relating to the earliest stage of development; fundamental; primitive

17. The _____ ocean stretched before them as far as the eye could see.

adj. having no limits; limitless

ANSWERS: 16. primal, 17. boundless