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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alessandra Orofino: It's our city. Let's fix it | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

slum

n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

synonym: shantytown, slumdwelling, ghetto

(1) **slum** area, (2) **slum** dwellers

The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in **slums**.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

turnout

n. the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election

synonym: attendance, number, crowd

(1) the voter **turnout**, (2) an enormous **turnout** of people

The gig attracted a large **turnout**.

dismal

adj. depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair

synonym: gloomy, depressing, dreary

(1) **dismal** failure, (2) **dismal** performance

The weather was so **dismal** that we decided to stay indoors all day.

annul

v. to make something legally or officially invalid

synonym: cancel, void, rescind

(1) **annul** his orders, (2) **annul** a judgment

The court **annulled** the marriage due to fraud.

unequal

adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair

synonym: unfair, uneven, imbalanced

(1) **unequal** distribution, (2) **unequal** opportunity

The income inequality in the country is becoming increasingly **unequal**.

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.

flourish

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

synonym: boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide

The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

urbanization

n. the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture

synonym: urban development, urban growth, urban expansion

(1) **urbanization** process, (2) non- **urbanization** area

Rapid **urbanization** has led to many environmental and social issues in cities.

solitude

n. the state of being alone and isolated from others
synonym: isolation, seclusion, loneliness

(1) live in **solitude**, (2) enjoyment of **solitude**

He sought **solitude** in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
synonym: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

elector

n. a person who has the right to vote in an election
synonym: voter, constituent, citizen

(1) presidential **elector**, (2) qualified for an **elector**

The **elector** cast their vote for the candidate they believed in.

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym: shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

pothole

n. a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles

synonym: chuckhole, pit, depression

(1) deep **pothole**, (2) **pothole** repair

The car hit a **pothole** and caused a flat tire.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**
He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

pajama

n. a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging

synonym: nightgown, nightdress

(1) care **pajama**, (2) **pajama** pants

My little sister loves to have **pajama** parties with her friends on the weekends.

cofounder

n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

(1) **cofounder** of the university, (2) late **cofounder**

He is the **cofounder** and chairman of this tech company.

demolish

v. to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something

synonym: destroy, wreck, level

(1) **demolish** a myth, (2) **demolish** a bridge

The city decided to **demolish** the old, unsafe building and build a new one.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

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.

evict

v. to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law

synonym: oust, expel, eject

(1) **evict** a person from his home, (2) **evict** squatter

The landlord may **evict** tenants for violations of the lease agreement.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|------|---|
| 1. em_____r my life | v. | to give someone the power or authority to do something |
| 2. s__m area | n. | a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect |
| 3. hu_____te the heckler in the audience | v. | to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information |
| 4. fl_____sh economically | v. | to grow or develop vigorously or successfully |
| 5. qualified for an el_____r | n. | a person who has the right to vote in an election |
| 6. sub_____an countries | adj. | of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert |
| 7. hu_____te him publicly | v. | to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information |
| 8. presidential el_____r | n. | a person who has the right to vote in an election |
| 9. de_____sh a myth | v. | to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something |

ANSWERS: 1. empower, 2. slum, 3. humiliate, 4. flourish, 5. elector, 6. sub-Saharan, 7. humiliate, 8. elector, 9. demolish

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. un_____l distribution | <i>adj.</i> different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair |
| 11. an enormous tu_____t of people | <i>n.</i> the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election |
| 12. ins_____ize customary laws | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 13. re_____e milk packaging into new paper | <i>v.</i> to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again |
| 14. go there af_____rd | <i>adv.</i> after the time mentioned |
| 15. ins_____ize a system | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 16. non-urb_____ion area | <i>n.</i> the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture |
| 17. sub_____an Africa | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert |
| 18. fl_____sh worldwide | <i>v.</i> to grow or develop vigorously or successfully |
| 19. ev__t a person from his home | <i>v.</i> to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law |
| 20. ev__t squatter | <i>v.</i> to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law |
| 21. re_____e the cardboard boxes | <i>v.</i> to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again |

ANSWERS: 10. unequal, 11. turnout, 12. institutionalize, 13. recycle, 14. afterward, 15. institutionalize, 16. urbanization, 17. sub-Saharan, 18. flourish, 19. evict, 20. evict, 21. recycle

22. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
23. urb_____ion process *n.* the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture
24. late co_____er *n.* one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
25. deep po_____e *n.* a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles
26. care pa____a *n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
27. the voter tu_____t *n.* the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election
28. an__l his orders *v.* to make something legally or officially invalid
29. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
30. pa____a pants *n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
31. de_____sh a bridge *v.* to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something
32. enjoyment of so_____de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others

ANSWERS: 22. improvisation, 23. urbanization, 24. cofounder, 25. pothole, 26. pajama, 27. turnout, 28. annul, 29. empower, 30. pajama, 31. demolish, 32. solitude

33. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
34. live in so_____de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
35. s__m dwellers *n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
36. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
37. un_____l opportunity *adj.* different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
38. co_____er of the university *n.* one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
39. an__l a judgment *v.* to make something legally or officially invalid
40. po_____e repair *n.* a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles
41. di___l failure *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
42. di___l performance *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair

ANSWERS: 33. afterward, 34. solitude, 35. slum, 36. improvisation, 37. unequal, 38. cofounder, 39. annul, 40. pothole, 41. dismal, 42. dismal

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
2. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.
v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
3. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
4. The _____ cast their vote for the candidate they believed in.
n. a person who has the right to vote in an election
5. The city decided to _____ the old, unsafe building and build a new one.
v. to completely destroy or tear down a building, structure, or other entity; to ruin or eliminate the effectiveness or power of something
6. The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in _____.
n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
7. He sought _____ in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.
n. the state of being alone and isolated from others
8. My little sister loves to have _____ parties with her friends on the weekends.
n. a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging

ANSWERS: 1. humiliated, 2. flourished, 3. empowered, 4. elector, 5. demolish, 6. slums, 7. solitude, 8. pajama

9. The court _____ the marriage due to fraud.
v. to make something legally or officially invalid
10. The income inequality in the country is becoming increasingly _____.
adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
11. 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
12. Rapid _____ has led to many environmental and social issues in cities.
n. the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture
13. The weather was so _____ that we decided to stay indoors all day.
adj. depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
14. The car hit a _____ and caused a flat tire.
n. a hole or depression in a road surface, usually caused by wear, weathering, or erosion; can be dangerous to drivers and cause damage to vehicles
15. The gig attracted a large _____.
n. the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election
16. He is the _____ and chairman of this tech company.
n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

ANSWERS: 9. annulled, 10. unequal, 11. recycle, 12. urbanization, 13. dismal, 14. pothole, 15. turnout, 16. cofounder

17. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.

adv. after the time mentioned

18. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

19. 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

20. The landlord may _____ tenants for violations of the lease agreement.

v. to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law

21. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

ANSWERS: 17. afterward, 18. improvisation, 19. sub-Saharan, 20. evict, 21. institutionalize