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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Barbara F. Walter: Is the US headed towards another civil war? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

interrogate

v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

synonym: question, examine, probe

(1) **interrogate** an enemy soldier, (2) **interrogated** by police

The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately **interrogate** the witness.

junta

n. a group of military or political leaders who have taken control of a government, often by force; a board or council that rules a country or organization

synonym: regime, government, military council

(1) **junta** regime, (2) rebel **junta**

The military **junta** took control of the country after the coup.

autocratic

adj. having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking

synonym: domineering, omnipotent, authoritarian

(1) in an **autocratic** manner, (2) **autocratic** regimes
That emperor amended the law to allow him to continue his **autocratic** rule even after he abdicated.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym: Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

downgrade

v. to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating;
(noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency

synonym: demote, lower, reduce

(1) economic **downgrade**, (2) **downgrade** expectations

The company had to **downgrade** its earnings forecast for the quarter.

meddle

v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own

synonym: interfere, intrude, tamper

(1) **meddle** in relationships, (2) **meddle** with the evidence

She always tries to **meddle** in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.

trump

n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

(1) **trump** card, (2) choose **trump**

The **trump** suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.

overturn

v. to turn something upside down; to upset

synonym: flip over, upset, topple

(1) **overturn** a decision, (2) **overturn** a table

The court **overturned** the original verdict.

insurrection

n. an organized uprising or rebellion against an established government or authority

synonym: revolt, uprising, rebellion

(1) civil **insurrection**, (2) raise an **insurrection**

The government quickly suppressed the **insurrection** led by the rebel group.

oppress

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

synonym: antagonize, distress, burden

(1) **oppress** the minority, (2) **oppress** the people with force

Historically, many countries have often **oppressed** certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

topple

v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing

synonym: overturn, capsize, upset

(1) **topple** communist rule, (2) **topple** off a ledge

The statue was old and unstable, so it easily **topped** over.

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.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym : immobilize, disable, numb

(1) **paralyze** a city, (2) **paralyze** a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

apartheid

n. a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors

synonym : segregation, discrimination, oppression

(1) **apartheid** system, (2) **apartheid** policies

The South African government enforced **apartheid** laws that segregated people based on race.

sanction

n. official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

synonym : approve, authorize, endorse

(1) Imperial **sanction**, (2) popular **sanction**

The government imposed economic **sanctions** on the country.

disproportionately

adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

synonym : excessively, unequally

(1) **disproportionately** affected, (2) **disproportionately** high

The rich can often **disproportionately** benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

resentful

adj. feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly

synonym :

bitter, indignant, angry

(1) **resentful** attitude, (2) grow bitter and **resentful**

She was **resentful** of her ex-partner's new relationship, feeling that he had unfairly replaced her.

extremist

n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views

synonym: radical, fanatic, zealot

(1) **extremist** political views, (2) radical **extremist**

The **extremist** group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.

incendiary

adj. intended to cause fires, arson, or combustible materials; capable of causing a fire

synonym: flaming, explosive, blazing

(1) **incendiary** bombs, (2) **incendiary** speech

The arsonist used an **incendiary** device to start the fire.

divisive

adj. tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people

synonym: polarizing, contentious, disagreeable

(1) **divisive** question, (2) suppress **divisive** arguments

The proposed policy has been met with **divisive** reactions from the public.

cancel

n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

synonym: suppressor, scrutineer, examiner

(1) **cancel** a book, (2) **cancel** a TV program

The newspaper editor decided to **cancel** the controversial headline to avoid backlash.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

bully

n. a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful

synonym: tormentor, intimidator, aggressor

(1) **bully** bystander, (2) **bully** the weak

The schoolyard **bully** terrorized the other children and made their lives miserable.

monger

v. to sell or promote something, especially by using aggressive or exaggerated tactics; to peddle or deal in (usually negative) information, rumors, or gossip; (noun) a dealer, trader, or seller of a particular commodity or goods

synonym: peddle, sell, (noun) dealer

(1) fish- **monger**, (2) **monger** hate speech

Some politicians use fear to **monger** support for their policies.

bullhorn

n. a portable or hand-held device that amplifies sound, often used by public speakers, protests, or law enforcement

synonym: megaphone, loudspeaker, hailer

(1) **bullhorn** volume, (2) deliver a speech through a **bullhorn**

The coach shouted into a **bullhorn** to give instructions to his players.

playbook

n. a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action

synonym: strategy, game plan, manual

(1) **playbook** strategy, (2) political **playbook**
The coach's **playbook** helped the team win the
championship.

Session 2: Spelling

1. fri_____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
2. Imperial sa_____on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
3. do_____de expectations *v.* to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency
4. me_____e with the evidence *v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
5. aut_____ic regimes *adj.* having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking
6. suppress di_____ve arguments *adj.* tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people
7. ap_____id policies *n.* a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors

ANSWERS: 1. frightening, 2. sanction, 3. downgrade, 4. meddle, 5. autocratic, 6. divisive, 7. apartheid

8. popular sa____on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
9. op____s the minority *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
10. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
11. bu__y bystander *n.* a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful
12. am____y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
13. dis_____ely high *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
14. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
15. before Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

ANSWERS: 8. sanction, 9. oppress, 10. confer, 11. bully, 12. amplify, 13. disproportionately, 14. confer, 15. Christ

16. mo___r hate speech v. to sell or promote something, especially by using aggressive or exaggerated tactics; to peddle or deal in (usually negative) information, rumors, or gossip; (noun) a dealer, trader, or seller of a particular commodity or goods
17. me___e in relationships v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
18. to___e off a ledge v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
19. civil ins_____ion n. an organized uprising or rebellion against an established government or authority
20. bu__y the weak n. a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful
21. int_____te an enemy soldier v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
22. economic do_____de v. to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency

ANSWERS: 16. monger, 17. meddle, 18. topple, 19. insurrection, 20. bully, 21. interrogate, 22. downgrade

23. deliver a speech through a
bu____rn
24. ce____r a TV program
25. int____ted by police
26. in an aut____ic manner
27. op____s the people with force
28. cast fri____ng eyes
29. inc____ry speech
30. tr__p card
31. choose tr__p
- n.* a portable or hand-held device that amplifies sound, often used by public speakers, protests, or law enforcement
- n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
- v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
- adj.* having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking
- v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
- adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
- adj.* intended to cause fires, arson, or combustible materials; capable of causing a fire
- n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games
- n.* a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

ANSWERS: 23. bullhorn, 24. censor, 25. interrogate, 26. autocratic, 27. oppress, 28. frightening, 29. incendiary, 30. trump, 31. trump

32. teaching of Ch___t
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
33. fish-mo___r
v. to sell or promote something, especially by using aggressive or exaggerated tactics; to peddle or deal in (usually negative) information, rumors, or gossip; (noun) a dealer, trader, or seller of a particular commodity or goods
34. to___e communist rule
v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
35. grow bitter and re____ul
adj. feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly
36. mi____a groups
n. a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs
37. armed mi____a
n. a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs
38. bu____rn volume
n. a portable or hand-held device that amplifies sound, often used by public speakers, protests, or law enforcement
39. ce___r a book
n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

ANSWERS: 32. Christ, 33. monger, 34. topple, 35. resentful, 36. militia, 37. militia, 38. bullhorn, 39. censor

40. pa_____ze a person *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
41. rebel ju__a *n.* a group of military or political leaders who have taken control of a government, often by force; a board or council that rules a country or organization
42. am_____y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
43. ov_____rn a decision *v.* to turn something upside down; to upset
44. di_____ve question *adj.* tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people
45. pa_____ze a city *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
46. ju__a regime *n.* a group of military or political leaders who have taken control of a government, often by force; a board or council that rules a country or organization
47. ov_____rn a table *v.* to turn something upside down; to upset
48. inc_____ry bombs *adj.* intended to cause fires, arson, or combustible materials; capable of causing a fire
49. ap_____id system *n.* a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors

ANSWERS: 40. paralyze, 41. junta, 42. amplify, 43. overturn, 44. divisive, 45. paralyze, 46. junta, 47. overturn, 48. incendiary, 49. apartheid

50. radical ex_____st *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
51. raise an ins_____ion *n.* an organized uprising or rebellion against an established government or authority
52. political pl_____ok *n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
53. dis_____ely affected *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
54. ex_____st political views *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
55. re_____ul attitude *adj.* feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly
56. pl_____ok strategy *n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action

ANSWERS: 50. extremist, 51. insurrection, 52. playbook, 53. disproportionately, 54. extremist, 55. resentful, 56. playbook

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ suddenly occupied the presidential palace.
n. a military force comprised of trained soldiers who are usually a citizen or have other jobs

2. The venom from the snake bite _____ his arm.
v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

3. The South African government enforced _____ laws that segregated people based on race.
n. a system of racial segregation and discrimination that was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994; any similar system of discrimination or segregation based on race, ethnicity, or other factors

4. The _____ suit in the game of bridge is determined at the beginning of each hand.
n. a playing card with a picture of a trumpeter on it, used in certain card games

5. The company had to _____ its earnings forecast for the quarter.
v. to reduce in importance, rank, or status; to decrease the quality or value of something; to lower a score or rating; (noun) a negative change in the rating of a security, a company's stock, or a country's sovereign debt by a rating agency

6. The proposed policy has been met with _____ reactions from the public.
adj. tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people

7. Historically, many countries have often _____ certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.
v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

ANSWERS: 1. Militia, 2. paralyzed, 3. apartheid, 4. trump, 5. downgrade, 6. divisive, 7. oppressed

8. The court _____ the original verdict.
v. to turn something upside down; to upset
9. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
10. The schoolyard _____ terrorized the other children and made their lives miserable.
n. a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful
11. The coach shouted into a _____ to give instructions to his players.
n. a portable or hand-held device that amplifies sound, often used by public speakers, protests, or law enforcement
12. The statue was old and unstable, so it easily _____ over.
v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
13. She was _____ of her ex-partner's new relationship, feeling that he had unfairly replaced her.
adj. feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly
14. The _____ group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.
n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
15. The military _____ took control of the country after the coup.
n. a group of military or political leaders who have taken control of a government, often by force; a board or council that rules a country or organization

ANSWERS: 8. overturned, 9. Christmas, 10. bully, 11. bullhorn, 12. toppled, 13. resentful, 14. extremist, 15. junta

16. The coach's _____ helped the team win the championship.
- n.* a set of strategies or tactics used in a particular situation, often in a business or political context; a guidebook or manual that outlines a specific plan of action
17. That emperor amended the law to allow him to continue his _____ rule even after he abdicated.
- adj.* having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking
18. The government quickly suppressed the _____ led by the rebel group.
- n.* an organized uprising or rebellion against an established government or authority
19. The newspaper editor decided to _____ the controversial headline to avoid backlash.
- n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
20. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
- v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
21. The rich can often _____ benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.
- adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
22. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
- adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

ANSWERS: 16. playbook, 17. autocratic, 18. insurrection, 19. censor, 20. confer, 21. disproportionately, 22. frightening

23. You might need to _____ this point.

- v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

24. The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately _____ the witness.

- v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

25. Some politicians use fear to _____ support for their policies.

- v. to sell or promote something, especially by using aggressive or exaggerated tactics; to peddle or deal in (usually negative) information, rumors, or gossip; (noun) a dealer, trader, or seller of a particular commodity or goods

26. The arsonist used an _____ device to start the fire.

- adj. intended to cause fires, arson, or combustible materials; capable of causing a fire

27. The government imposed economic _____ on the country.

- n. official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

28. She always tries to _____ in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.

- v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own

ANSWERS: 23. amplify, 24. interrogate, 25. monger, 26. incendiary, 27. sanctions, 28. meddle