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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Giles Duley: When a reporter becomes the story |
TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

nag

v. to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse

synonym: hassle, bother, badger

(1) **nag** about the minor thing, (2) **nag** political leaders

She couldn't stop **nagging** her husband to take out the trash.

downstairs

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

synonym: below

(1) creep **downstairs**, (2) escort him **downstairs**

Please get the desk **downstairs**.

rot v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym : perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

hut n. a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud

synonym : shack, cabin, cottage

(1) shepherd's **hut**, (2) fishing **hut**

The little girl lived in a small **hut** in the woods with her family.

sew v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym : stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

ailment n. a slight but often persistent illness

synonym : illness, disorder, infection

(1) heart **ailment**, (2) age-related **ailment**

He got timely treatment for his physical **ailment** of severe back pain.

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.

helpless *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

synonym : defenseless, powerless, susceptible

(1) **helpless** baby, (2) **helpless** victims

I feel so **helpless** without you.

suffocate

v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression

synonym : choke, smother, stifle

(1) **suffocate** to death, (2) **suffocate** fire

People can **suffocate** from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.

squat

v. to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

synonym : crouch, hunch, sit

(1) **squat** behind a tree, (2) **squat** exercise

I need to **squat** down to pick up the pen from the floor.

vodka

n. a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring

synonym : spirit, liquor, distilled beverage

(1) **vodka** shot, (2) flavored **vodka**

I ordered a **vodka** tonic at the bar.

farewell

n. the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting

synonym : goodbye, send-off

(1) a **farewell** address, (2) bid **farewell** to the departed

There is his **farewell** party tomorrow.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym : poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

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.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym: robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

cog

n. a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system

synonym: gear, wheel, sprocket

(1) **cog** in the system, (2) missing **cog**

The **cog** in the machine broke down, causing a delay in production.

soapbox

n. a makeshift platform or podium, typically one that is improvised in a public place, used for making impromptu speeches or for expressing opinions on various topics;
(verb) to express one's opinions or deliver a speech in a passionate, forceful, or assertive manner

synonym: platform, podium, soap opera

(1) **soapbox** about climate change, (2) get on a **soapbox**

The politician climbed onto his **soapbox** and began his campaign speech.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. heart ai_____t | <i>n.</i> a slight but often persistent illness |
| 2. sto_____ing performance | <i>n.</i> the act or art of narrating or writing stories |
| 3. fishing h_t | <i>n.</i> a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud |
| 4. de_____te an area | <i>v.</i> to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage |
| 5. walk on_____e | <i>adv.</i> onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience |
| 6. missing c_g | <i>n.</i> a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system |
| 7. bid fa_____ll to the departed | <i>n.</i> the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting |
| 8. de_____te the economy | <i>v.</i> to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage |
| 9. begin to r_t | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually |
| 10. r_t with age | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually |
| 11. a hard and re_____nt steel | <i>adj.</i> able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions |

ANSWERS: 1. ailment, 2. storytelling, 3. hut, 4. devastate, 5. onstage, 6. cog, 7. farewell, 8. devastate, 9. rot, 10. rot, 11. resilient

12. vo__a shot *n.* a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring
13. flavored vo__a *n.* a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring
14. n_g about the minor thing *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
15. appeared on____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
16. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
17. s_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
18. age-related ai____t *n.* a slight but often persistent illness
19. escort him dow____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
20. get on a so____x *n.* a makeshift platform or podium, typically one that is improvised in a public place, used for making impromptu speeches or for expressing opinions on various topics; (verb) to express one's opinions or deliver a speech in a passionate, forceful, or assertive manner

ANSWERS: 12. vodka, 13. vodka, 14. nag, 15. onstage, 16. excite, 17. sew, 18. ailment, 19. downstairs, 20. soapbox

21. creep dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
22. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
23. n_g political leaders *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
24. he_____ss baby *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
25. su_____te to death *v.* to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
26. shepherd's h_t *n.* a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud
27. su_____te fire *v.* to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
28. so_____x about climate change *n.* a makeshift platform or podium, typically one that is improvised in a public place, used for making impromptu speeches or for expressing opinions on various topics; (verb) to express one's opinions or deliver a speech in a passionate, forceful, or assertive manner

ANSWERS: 21. downstairs, 22. excite, 23. nag, 24. helpless, 25. suffocate, 26. hut, 27. suffocate, 28. soapbox

29. s__b in the chest *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
30. he_____ss victims *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
31. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
32. s_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
33. re_____nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
34. c_g in the system *n.* a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system
35. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
36. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
37. a fa_____ll address *n.* the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting
38. sq__t behind a tree *v.* to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

ANSWERS: 29. stab, 30. helpless, 31. storytelling, 32. sew, 33. resilient, 34. cog, 35. hopeless, 36. stab, 37. farewell, 38. squat

39. ho____ss at everything

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

40. sq__t exercise

v. to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

ANSWERS: 39. hopeless, 40. squat

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. There is his _____ party tomorrow.
n. the act of departing politely; an expression of a wish or well-being at parting
2. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.
v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
3. I feel so _____ without you.
adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
4. People can _____ from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.
v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
5. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
6. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
7. The little girl lived in a small ____ in the woods with her family.
n. a small, simple, and often crude shelter or dwelling, typically made of natural materials such as wood or mud
8. My mother taught me how to _____.
v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

ANSWERS: 1. farewell, 2. devastate, 3. helpless, 4. suffocate, 5. resilient, 6. excited, 7. hut, 8. sew

9. She couldn't stop _____ her husband to take out the trash.
v. to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
10. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories
11. Please get the desk _____.
adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
12. He got timely treatment for his physical _____ of severe back pain.
n. a slight but often persistent illness
13. I ordered a _____ tonic at the bar.
n. a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grains or potatoes, typically with high alcohol content and little or no added flavoring
14. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
15. He was _____ many times with scissors.
v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
16. The politician climbed onto his _____ and began his campaign speech.
n. a makeshift platform or podium, typically one that is improvised in a public place, used for making impromptu speeches or for expressing opinions on various topics; (verb) to express one's opinions or deliver a speech in a passionate, forceful, or assertive manner

ANSWERS: 9. nagging, 10. storytelling, 11. downstairs, 12. ailment, 13. vodka, 14. hopeless, 15. stabbed, 16. soapbox

17. I need to _____ down to pick up the pen from the floor.

- v.* to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

18. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.

- adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

19. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.

- v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

20. The _____ in the machine broke down, causing a delay in production.

- n.* a tooth or projection on a gearwheel or sprocket, which transmits force and motion between moving parts; a person who plays a small or subordinate but essential role in an organization or system

ANSWERS: 17. squat, 18. onstage, 19. rot, 20. cog