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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jenna McCarthy: What you don't know about marriage | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

ballroom

n. a large room for dancing

synonym: dance hall, assembly hall

(1) **ballroom** dance, (2) **ballroom** floor

The grand **ballroom** was filled with twirling couples and the sound of music.

vow

v. to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn

synonym: promise, pledge, swear

(1) **vow** allegiance to the new king, (2) **vow** never to give up

They **vowed** to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.

abject

adj. extremely unpleasant and degrading; physically or emotionally impoverished; miserable, wretched, and hopeless

synonym: wretched, miserable, pitiful

(1) **abject** failure, (2) **abject** despair

The **abject** poverty in the slums is a concern for the government.

bastardize

v. to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something

synonym: corrupt, debase, pervert

(1) **bastardize** a recipe, (2) **bastardize** culture

We do not want to **bastardize** the text's original meaning through poor translations.

cherish

v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

synonym: treasure, value, hold dear

(1) **cherish** a stuffed animal, (2) **cherish** relationships

She **cherished** the memories of her childhood.

midlife

n. the period of life between young adulthood and old age, typically characterized by a sense of maturity, stability, and sometimes, dissatisfaction or restlessness

(1) **midlife** depression, (2) **midlife** changes

Many people go through a **midlife** crisis and contemplate major life changes.

snore

v. to make a loud, harsh breathing sound while sleeping, often due to an obstruction in the airways or other respiratory issues; to sound boring, monotonous, or dull

synonym: doze, slumber, yawn

(1) **snore** in my sleep, (2) **snore** peacefully

I couldn't sleep because my roommate **snored** loudly every night.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results
The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

booze

n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
synonym: alcohol, liquor, spirits

(1) cheap **booze**, (2) drown your sorrows in **booze**
The partygoers were advised to drink moderately and avoid excessive **booze** consumption.

chew

v. to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
synonym: masticate, crush, grind

(1) **chew** each word, (2) **chew** a stick of gum
My dog loves to **chew** on bones.

disrespect

n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
synonym: impoliteness, rudeness, insult

(1) mean no **disrespect**, (2) **disrespect** for a customer
His **disrespectful** behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.

boredom

n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
synonym: ennui, tedium, monotony

(1) **boredom** relief, (2) chronic **boredom**
The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off **boredom**.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
synonym: dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

monogamy

n. the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner

synonym : marriage, monandry, monogamousness

(1) **monogamy** rules, (2) practice **monogamy**

Many religious institutions promote **monogamy** as the ideal form of marriage.

annoy

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

synonym : aggravate, irritate, unsettle

(1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else

Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

stalk

v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework

synonym : follow, creep up on, (noun) stem

(1) **stalk** of celery, (2) **stalk** from the room

The hunter quietly **stalked** the deer for hours before taking the shot

bliss

n. extreme happiness or joy

synonym : delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

pinpoint

v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something

synonym : name, direct, identify

(1) **pinpoint** the problem, (2) **pinpoint** signs of manipulation

This radar quickly **pinpoints** the position of the enemy.

laborious

adj. requiring a lot of effort and time to complete; characterized by tedious or difficult work

synonym: arduous, difficult, strenuous

(1) **laborious** routine, (2) **laborious** project

The construction workers had a **laborious** job of carrying heavy equipment up several flights of stairs.

housework

n. the tasks involved in cleaning and maintaining a house

synonym: chores, cleaning, domestic duties

(1) **housework** robot, (2) light **housework**

She didn't mind doing the **housework** as long as it kept her busy and productive.

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.

swank

v. to walk or behave confidently and stylishly, often with the intent of impressing others; to style or dress in an ostentatiously fashionable or luxurious way; (adjective) stylish, luxurious, and fashionable in an ostentatious way

synonym: show off, strut, flaunt

(1) **swank** about his success, (2) **swank** restaurant

I will **swank** up this outfit with some fancy accessories for the party tonight.

bullock

n. a young bull, specifically a castrated male domestic bovine; a young steer used for draft or work purposes or its meat

synonym: ox, cow, steer

(1) grazing **bullock**, (2) **bullock** plowing

The farmer used a **bullock** cart to transport his produce to the local market.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

unbearable

adj. not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable

synonym: intolerable, insufferable, unendurable

(1) **unbearable** heat, (2) **unbearable** pain

The loss of his wife was an **unbearable** sorrow that he found hard to overcome.

fiery

adj. very intense; like or suggestive of fire

synonym: igneous, passionate, fervent

(1) a **fiery** speech, (2) a **fiery** sunset

He is a man of **fiery** temperament.

contagious

adj. able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

synonym: infectious, transmissible, communicable

(1) **contagious** enthusiasm, (2) **contagious** virus

The disease is highly **contagious** and spreads quickly.

perk

n. an advantage or something extra, such as money or goods, you receive as well as your wages for doing a particular job

synonym: extra, bonus, benefit

(1) **perks** for repeat guests, (2) worker **perk**

A yacht cruise is our company's ultimate **perk**.

chore

n. a routine or tedious task, often related to household or manual labor

synonym: task, duty, job

(1) **chore** list, (2) household **chores**

Cleaning the house is a **chore** that only some enjoy.

hover

v. to stay in one place in the air

synonym: hang, float over, drift

(1) **hover** between life and death, (2) **hover** around the table

Two birds were **hovering** overhead.

brink

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

synonym: edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

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.

subconsciously

adv. in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of

synonym: unconsciously, without thinking

(1) **subconsciously** influenced, (2) controlled **subconsciously**

He **subconsciously** picked at his cuticles while he was on the phone.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ultimate bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy
2. pi____nt the problem *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
3. sn__e in my sleep *v.* to make a loud, harsh breathing sound while sleeping, often due to an obstruction in the airways or other respiratory issues; to sound boring, monotonous, or dull
4. ab____t failure *adj.* extremely unpleasant and degrading; physically or emotionally impoverished; miserable, wretched, and hopeless
5. an__y everyone else *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
6. bo____m relief *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
7. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
8. ch____h relationships *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
9. pi____nt signs of manipulation *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
10. ab____t despair *adj.* extremely unpleasant and degrading; physically or emotionally impoverished; miserable, wretched, and hopeless

ANSWERS: 1. bliss, 2. pinpoint, 3. snore, 4. abject, 5. annoy, 6. boredom, 7. Arthurian, 8. cherish, 9. pinpoint, 10. abject

11. a fi__y sunset *adj.* very intense; like or suggestive of fire
12. v_w never to give up *v.* to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
13. unb_____le heat *adj.* not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
14. light ho_____rk *n.* the tasks involved in cleaning and maintaining a house
15. cheap bo__e *n.* an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
16. mean no dis_____ct *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
17. sub_____sly influenced *adv.* in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of
18. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
19. dis_____ct for a customer *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
20. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
21. la_____us project *adj.* requiring a lot of effort and time to complete; characterized by tedious or difficult work
22. ba_____om floor *n.* a large room for dancing
23. c__w a stick of gum *v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it

ANSWERS: 11. fiery, 12. vow, 13. unbearable, 14. housework, 15. booze, 16. disrespect, 17. subconsciously, 18. smashing, 19. disrespect, 20. brink, 21. laborious, 22. ballroom, 23. chew

24. drown your sorrows in bo__e *n.* an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits
25. 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
26. la_____us routine *adj.* requiring a lot of effort and time to complete; characterized by tedious or difficult work
27. mi_____e changes *n.* the period of life between young adulthood and old age, typically characterized by a sense of maturity, stability, and sometimes, dissatisfaction or restlessness
28. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
29. sw__k about his success *v.* to walk or behave confidently and stylishly, often with the intent of impressing others; to style or dress in an ostentatiously fashionable or luxurious way; (adjective) stylish, luxurious, and fashionable in an ostentatious way
30. sn__e peacefully *v.* to make a loud, harsh breathing sound while sleeping, often due to an obstruction in the airways or other respiratory issues; to sound boring, monotonous, or dull
31. Ar_____an romances *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

ANSWERS: 24. booze, 25. nag, 26. laborious, 27. midlife, 28. smashing, 29. swank, 30. snore, 31. Arthurian

32. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
33. sw__k restaurant *v.* to walk or behave confidently and stylishly, often with the intent of impressing others; to style or dress in an ostentatiously fashionable or luxurious way; (adjective) stylish, luxurious, and fashionable in an ostentatious way
34. controlled sub_____sly *adv.* in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of
35. p__ks for repeat guests *n.* an advantage or something extra, such as money or goods, you receive as well as your wages for doing a particular job
36. practice mo_____my *n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner
37. con_____us enthusiasm *adj.* able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease
38. bas_____ze culture *v.* to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something
39. unb_____le pain *adj.* not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable

ANSWERS: 32. numb, 33. swank, 34. subconsciously, 35. perk, 36. monogamy, 37. contagious, 38. bastardize, 39. unbearable

40. n_g political leaders *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
41. an__y at the time *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
42. a fi__y speech *adj.* very intense; like or suggestive of fire
43. bu____k plowing *n.* a young bull, specifically a castrated male domestic bovine; a young steer used for draft or work purposes or its meat
44. mi____e depression *n.* the period of life between young adulthood and old age, typically characterized by a sense of maturity, stability, and sometimes, dissatisfaction or restlessness
45. ch__e list *n.* a routine or tedious task, often related to household or manual labor
46. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
47. ho__r around the table *v.* to stay in one place in the air
48. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
49. con____us virus *adj.* able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

ANSWERS: 40. nag, 41. annoy, 42. fiery, 43. bullock, 44. midlife, 45. chore, 46. numb, 47. hover, 48. institutionalize, 49. contagious

50. grazing bu____k *n.* a young bull, specifically a castrated male domestic bovine; a young steer used for draft or work purposes or its meat
51. br__k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
52. v_w allegiance to the new king *v.* to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
53. ho_____rk robot *n.* the tasks involved in cleaning and maintaining a house
54. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
55. household ch__es *n.* a routine or tedious task, often related to household or manual labor
56. pl_____ting sales *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
57. ignorance is bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy
58. chronic bo____m *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
59. c__w each word *v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
60. worker p__k *n.* an advantage or something extra, such as money or goods, you receive as well as your wages for doing a particular job
61. mo_____my rules *n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner

ANSWERS: 50. bullock, 51. brink, 52. vow, 53. housework, 54. institutionalize, 55. chore, 56. plummet, 57. bliss, 58. boredom, 59. chew, 60. perk, 61. monogamy

62. ba____om dance *n.* a large room for dancing
63. st__k of celery *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
64. st__k from the room *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
65. ho__r between life and death *v.* to stay in one place in the air
66. pl____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
67. bas_____ze a recipe *v.* to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something
68. ch____h a stuffed animal *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

ANSWERS: 62. ballroom, 63. stalk, 64. stalk, 65. hover, 66. plummet, 67. bastardize, 68. cherish

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The construction workers had a _____ job of carrying heavy equipment up several flights of stairs.
adj. requiring a lot of effort and time to complete; characterized by tedious or difficult work
2. The first two years of her marriage were sheer _____.
n. extreme happiness or joy
3. Many religious institutions promote _____ as the ideal form of marriage.
n. the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner
4. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.
v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
5. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
6. She didn't mind doing the _____ as long as it kept her busy and productive.
n. the tasks involved in cleaning and maintaining a house
7. The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off _____.
n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
8. My left arm became _____.
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 1. laborious, 2. bliss, 3. monogamy, 4. annoy, 5. brink, 6. housework, 7. boredom, 8. numb

9. I will _____ up this outfit with some fancy accessories for the party tonight.
v. to walk or behave confidently and stylishly, often with the intent of impressing others; to style or dress in an ostentatiously fashionable or luxurious way; (adjective) stylish, luxurious, and fashionable in an ostentatious way
10. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
11. The grand _____ was filled with twirling couples and the sound of music.
n. a large room for dancing
12. The loss of his wife was an _____ sorrow that he found hard to overcome.
adj. not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
13. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
14. A yacht cruise is our company's ultimate _____.
n. an advantage or something extra, such as money or goods, you receive as well as your wages for doing a particular job
15. Two birds were _____ overhead.
v. to stay in one place in the air
16. Cleaning the house is a _____ that only some enjoy.
n. a routine or tedious task, often related to household or manual labor

ANSWERS: 9. swank, 10. plummeted, 11. ballroom, 12. unbearable, 13. Arthurian, 14. perk, 15. hovering, 16. chore

17. My dog loves to _____ on bones.

- v. to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it

18. This radar quickly _____ the position of the enemy.

- v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something

19. The partygoers were advised to drink moderately and avoid excessive _____ consumption.

- n. an informal term for alcoholic beverages, particularly strong liquor or spirits

20. 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

21. I couldn't sleep because my roommate _____ loudly every night.

- v. to make a loud, harsh breathing sound while sleeping, often due to an obstruction in the airways or other respiratory issues; to sound boring, monotonous, or dull

22. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.

- adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

23. The _____ poverty in the slums is a concern for the government.

- adj. extremely unpleasant and degrading; physically or emotionally impoverished; miserable, wretched, and hopeless

24. The hunter quietly _____ the deer for hours before taking the shot

- v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework

ANSWERS: 17. chew, 18. pinpoints, 19. booze, 20. nagging, 21. snored, 22. smashing, 23. abject, 24. stalked

25. His _____ behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.
n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
26. 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.)
27. He is a man of _____ temperament.
adj. very intense; like or suggestive of fire
28. He _____ picked at his cuticles while he was on the phone.
adv. in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of
29. They _____ to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.
v. to make a promise or commitment, usually formal and solemn
30. Many people go through a _____ crisis and contemplate major life changes.
n. the period of life between young adulthood and old age, typically characterized by a sense of maturity, stability, and sometimes, dissatisfaction or restlessness
31. We do not want to _____ the text's original meaning through poor translations.
v. to alter, modify, or degrade something in a way that undermines or violates its original integrity or quality; to create a less authentic or less desirable version of something
32. She _____ the memories of her childhood.
v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

ANSWERS: 25. disrespectful, 26. institutionalize, 27. fiery, 28. subconsciously, 29. vowed, 30. midlife, 31. bastardize, 32. cherished

33. The farmer used a _____ cart to transport his produce to the local market.

n. a young bull, specifically a castrated male domestic bovine; a young steer used for draft or work purposes or its meat

34. The disease is highly _____ and spreads quickly.

adj. able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

ANSWERS: 33. bullock, 34. contagious