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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ernesto Sirolli: Want to help someone? Shut up and listen! | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

ivory

n. a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items

synonym : elephant tusk, bone, tooth

(1) tower of **ivory**, (2) **ivory** carving

The intricate carvings on the **ivory** tusk were a work of art.

distraught

adj. deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled

synonym : upset, troubled, distressed

(1) **distraught** with grief, (2) **distraught** emotions

After receiving the bad news, he was so **distraught** that he couldn't concentrate on anything else for the rest of the day.

ripple

n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym : wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water

Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

zucchini

n. a type of summer squash that has a green skin and a mild flavor, often used in cooking

synonym : courgette

(1) **zucchini** soup, (2) stuffed **zucchini**

I made a delicious **zucchini** casserole for dinner last night.

amaze

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym : astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

fertile

adj. capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops;
intellectually productive

synonym : fruitful, productive, rich

(1) **fertile** ground, (2) **fertile** market

Herbs require **fertile** soil in a sunny, sheltered location.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and,
ultimately, death

synonym : hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

hippopotamus

n. (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal
native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded
body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which
inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive
behavior and territorial nature

synonym : river horse, water horse, hippo

(1) **hippopotamus** habitat, (2) giant **hippopotamus**

The zoo has a new **hippopotamus** exhibit that popularly
attracts families.

blunder

n. mistake; the act of making a foolish error

synonym : mistake, error, goof

(1) a capital **blunder**, (2) make a **blunder** in my work

The CEO's **blunder** in the meeting cost the company
millions.

bestow

v. to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present

synonym: give, grant, present

(1) **bestow** the name, (2) **bestow** a warm praise

He did not **bestow** one thought on his dead friend.

unsuspecting

adj. unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious

synonym: unaware, unassuming, gullible

(1) **unsuspecting** boys and girls, (2) **unsuspecting** victim

The thief stole the wallet from the **unsuspecting** tourist.

imp

n. a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore

synonym: demon, sprite, mischievous child

(1) a little **imp**, (2) behave like an **imp**

The mischievous **imp** caused trouble wherever it went.

patronize

v. to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner

synonym: condescend, belittle, patronize

(1) **patronize** a restaurant, (2) **patronize** local businesses

Wealthy benefactors often **patronize** the arts by donating to museums, theaters, and galleries.

paternalism

n. the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy

synonym: guardianship, fatherliness

(1) **paternalism** in healthcare, (2) critique of **paternalism**

The CEO's leadership style was characterized by **paternalism** towards his employees.

patronizing

adj. displaying an air of condescension or superiority towards others, often in a way that comes across as insincere or manipulative; demonstrating a

condescending or dismissive attitude

synonym : condescending, superior

(1) **patronizing** remark, (2) **patronizing** behavior

The manager's attitude towards his employees was **patronizing**.

slap

v. to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly

synonym : smack, hit, whack

(1) **slap** on the back, (2) **slap** a heavy fine

The politician tried to **slap** down the rumors about his personal life.

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.

facilitation

n. the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something

synonym : assistance, support, aid

(1) trade **facilitation**, (2) **facilitation** services

The **facilitation** of teamwork and collaboration is crucial for the success of any project.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

tryout

n. a trial or test of something, particularly about sports teams or performers auditioning for a role

synonym :

audition, test, trial

(1) **tryout** audition, (2) sports **tryout**

She practiced for weeks for the cheerleading **tryouts**, hoping to make the team.

sushi

n. a Japanese dish consisting of vinegared rice, often combined with fish or vegetables and sometimes wrapped in seaweed

synonym: raw fish, sashimi, nigiri

(1) **sushi** bar, (2) **sushi** roll

I love going out for **sushi** with my friends on Friday nights.

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.

entrepreneurship

n. the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one

synonym: self-employment, risk-taking

(1) **entrepreneurship** culture, (2) embody **entrepreneurship**

The government is investing in programs to support **entrepreneurship** and small business development.

applaud

v. to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands

synonym: clap, celebrate, praise

(1) **applaud** his courage, (2) **applaud** the orchestra

I enthusiastically **applaud** my rival's achievement.

futurist

n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

synonym: foreseer, prophet, fortune-teller

(1) **futurist** architecture, (2) **futurist** ideas

The radical **futurist** predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym: douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

choke

v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something

synonym: strangle, suffocate, clog

(1) **choke** with anger, (2) **choke** off the blood supply

The baby started to **choke** on a piece of apple.

backwater

n. a stagnant or isolated area, typically referring to a place that is behind in terms of progress, development, or modernization; a remote or secluded region that is not easily accessible or influenced by mainstream society

synonym: backcountry, hinterland, outlands

(1) rural **backwater**, (2) forgotten **backwater**

Despite its natural beauty, the town remained a touristic **backwater** for many years.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

autobiography

n. a written account of someone's own life, written by that person

synonym: bio, life story, biography

(1) **autobiography** of his early life, (2) fictionalized **autobiography**

She wrote an **autobiography** detailing her journey from poverty to success.

underline

v. to draw a line or lines underneath something, typically to emphasize or draw attention to it

synonym: emphasize, highlight, stress

(1) **underline** the vision, (2) **underline** the key points

He **underlined** the important points in the document.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ch__e with anger
v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
2. die of sta_____on
n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
3. hip_____mus habitat
n. (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature
4. rural ba_____er
n. a stagnant or isolated area, typically referring to a place that is behind in terms of progress, development, or modernization; a remote or secluded region that is not easily accessible or influenced by mainstream society
5. un_____ne the vision
v. to draw a line or lines underneath something, typically to emphasize or draw attention to it
6. pa_____ze a restaurant
v. to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner

ANSWERS: 1. choke, 2. starvation, 3. hippopotamus, 4. backwater, 5. underline, 6. patronize

7. dis_____ht emotions *adj.* deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled
8. fictionalized aut_____phy *n.* a written account of someone's own life, written by that person
9. tr___t audition *n.* a trial or test of something, particularly about sports teams or performers auditioning for a role
10. pat_____ng remark *adj.* displaying an air of condescension or superiority towards others, often in a way that comes across as insincere or manipulative; demonstrating a condescending or dismissive attitude
11. tower of iv__y *n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
12. giant hip_____mus *n.* (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature
13. dr__n in a bath *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
14. fe_____e ground *adj.* capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive

ANSWERS: 7. distraught, 8. autobiography, 9. tryout, 10. patronizing, 11. ivory, 12. hippopotamus, 13. drown, 14. fertile

15. su__i bar *n.* a Japanese dish consisting of vinegared rice, often combined with fish or vegetables and sometimes wrapped in seaweed
16. ap____d his courage *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
17. stuffed zu____ni *n.* a type of summer squash that has a green skin and a mild flavor, often used in cooking
18. ent_____hip culture *n.* the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one
19. embody ent_____hip *n.* the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one
20. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
21. iv__y carving *n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
22. de____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
23. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

ANSWERS: 15. sushi, 16. applaud, 17. zucchini, 18. entrepreneurship, 19. entrepreneurship, 20. opportune, 21. ivory, 22. dedicate, 23. confer

24. am__e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
25. a little i_p *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
26. uns_____ing boys and girls *adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
27. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
28. s__p a heavy fine *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
29. s__p on the back *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
30. pa_____ze local businesses *v.* to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner
31. make a bl_____r in my work *n.* mistake; the act of making a foolish error
32. am__e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 24. amaze, 25. imp, 26. unsuspecting, 27. confer, 28. slap, 29. slap, 30. patronize, 31. blunder, 32. amaze

33. dis_____ht with grief *adj.* deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled
34. enjoyment of so_____de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
35. be___w a warm praise *v.* to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present
36. be___w the name *v.* to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present
37. critique of pat_____sm *n.* the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy
38. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
39. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
40. aut_____phy of his early life *n.* a written account of someone's own life, written by that person
41. su__i roll *n.* a Japanese dish consisting of vinegared rice, often combined with fish or vegetables and sometimes wrapped in seaweed
42. sta_____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

ANSWERS: 33. distraught, 34. solitude, 35. bestow, 36. bestow, 37. paternalism, 38. dedicate, 39. opportune, 40. autobiography, 41. sushi, 42. starvation

43. behave like an i_p *n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
44. trade fac_____ion *n.* the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something
45. live in so_____de *n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
46. fe_____e market *adj.* capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive
47. fu_____st ideas *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
48. ri_____e in the water *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
49. forgotten ba_____er *n.* a stagnant or isolated area, typically referring to a place that is behind in terms of progress, development, or modernization; a remote or secluded region that is not easily accessible or influenced by mainstream society
50. ch__e off the blood supply *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
51. fac_____ion services *n.* the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something

ANSWERS: 43. imp, 44. facilitation, 45. solitude, 46. fertile, 47. futurist, 48. ripple, 49. backwater, 50. choke, 51. facilitation

52. zu____ni soup *n.* a type of summer squash that has a green skin and a mild flavor, often used in cooking
53. pat_____ng behavior *adj.* displaying an air of condescension or superiority towards others, often in a way that comes across as insincere or manipulative; demonstrating a condescending or dismissive attitude
54. uns_____ing victim *adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
55. I was dr__ned in work *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
56. un_____ne the key points *v.* to draw a line or lines underneath something, typically to emphasize or draw attention to it
57. sports tr____t *n.* a trial or test of something, particularly about sports teams or performers auditioning for a role
58. a capital bl____r *n.* mistake; the act of making a foolish error
59. ap____d the orchestra *v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
60. a ri____e of laughter *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
61. fu____st architecture *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

ANSWERS: 52. zucchini, 53. patronizing, 54. unsuspecting, 55. drown, 56. underline, 57. tryout, 58. blunder, 59. applaud, 60. ripple, 61. futurist

62. pat_____sm in healthcare

n. the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy

ANSWERS: 62. paternalism

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. The politician tried to _____ down the rumors about his personal life.
v. to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
3. Despite its natural beauty, the town remained a touristic _____ for many years.
n. a stagnant or isolated area, typically referring to a place that is behind in terms of progress, development, or modernization; a remote or secluded region that is not easily accessible or influenced by mainstream society
4. After receiving the bad news, he was so _____ that he couldn't concentrate on anything else for the rest of the day.
adj. deeply upset, agitated, or emotionally troubled
5. Herbs require _____ soil in a sunny, sheltered location.
adj. capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive
6. The thief stole the wallet from the _____ tourist.
adj. unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
7. The government is investing in programs to support _____ and small business development.
n. the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. slap, 3. backwater, 4. distraught, 5. fertile, 6. unsuspecting, 7. entrepreneurship

8. I enthusiastically _____ my rival's achievement.
- v.* to express approval of someone or something by clapping the hands
9. The intricate carvings on the _____ tusk were a work of art.
- n.* a hard, creamy-white substance that comes from the tusks of elephants, walruses, and some other animals and is used to make ornaments and other decorative items
10. The mischievous ____ caused trouble wherever it went.
- n.* a mischievous or misbehaving child; a small and mischievous demon or sprite in folklore
11. I love going out for _____ with my friends on Friday nights.
- n.* a Japanese dish consisting of vinegared rice, often combined with fish or vegetables and sometimes wrapped in seaweed
12. She wrote an _____ detailing her journey from poverty to success.
- n.* a written account of someone's own life, written by that person
13. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
- v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
14. She practiced for weeks for the cheerleading _____ hoping to make the team.
- n.* a trial or test of something, particularly about sports teams or performers auditioning for a role
15. The radical _____ predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.
- n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

ANSWERS: 8. applaud, 9. ivory, 10. imp, 11. sushi, 12. autobiography, 13. drown, 14. tryouts, 15. futurist

16. He _____ his life to helping others.

- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

17. The manager's attitude towards his employees was _____.

- adj.* displaying an air of condescension or superiority towards others, often in a way that comes across as insincere or manipulative; demonstrating a condescending or dismissive attitude

18. Wealthy benefactors often _____ the arts by donating to museums, theaters, and galleries.

- v.* to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner

19. 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

20. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.

- v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

21. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.

- n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

22. The _____ of teamwork and collaboration is crucial for the success of any project.

- n.* the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something

23. The zoo has a new _____ exhibit that popularly attracts families.

- n.* (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature

ANSWERS: 16. dedicated, 17. patronizing, 18. patronize, 19. confer, 20. amazed, 21.

starvation, 22. facilitation, 23. hippopotamus

24. I made a delicious _____ casserole for dinner last night.
- n.* a type of summer squash that has a green skin and a mild flavor, often used in cooking
25. The baby started to _____ on a piece of apple.
- v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
26. He did not _____ one thought on his dead friend.
- v.* to give something to somebody, especially as an honor or present
27. The CEO's _____ in the meeting cost the company millions.
- n.* mistake; the act of making a foolish error
28. He sought _____ in the wilderness to escape the distractions of modern life.
- n.* the state of being alone and isolated from others
29. The CEO's leadership style was characterized by _____ towards his employees.
- n.* the practice or belief of governing or managing individuals or groups in a manner that is considered to be nurturing or protective but also limiting or controlling their freedom and autonomy
30. He _____ the important points in the document.
- v.* to draw a line or lines underneath something, typically to emphasize or draw attention to it
31. Many businesses felt the _____ effect of the economy's decline.
- n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

ANSWERS: 24. zucchini, 25. choke, 26. bestow, 27. blunder, 28. solitude, 29. paternalism, 30. underlined, 31. ripple

ANSWERS: