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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Pankaj Ghemawat: Actually, the world isn't flat | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

synonym: collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

telegraph

n. a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals

(1) answer by **telegraph**, (2) **telegraph** wires

The **telegraph** service was interrupted for a while.

spearhead

v. to lead or initiate an effort or campaign

synonym: lead, initiate, begin

(1) **spearhead** campaign, (2) **spearhead** movement

The CEO decided to **spearhead** the new project to ensure its success.

pascal

n. a unit of pressure in the International System of Units (SI) named after the French mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal, which equals one newton per square meter; the name of a high-level programming language developed in the 1970s

synonym : Pa, unit of pressure

(1) 980 hecto **pascals**, (2) pressure conditions from 100 to 1600 **pascals**

Meteorologists recorded a sudden drop in air pressure to 980 hecto **pascals**, signaling the approach of a storm.

intern

v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria

synonym : apprentice, trainee, student

(1) **intern** civilians, (2) medical **intern**

The navy **interned** ships of defeated nations.

apocalyptic

adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

synonym : fateful, prophetic, ominous

(1) **apocalyptic** event, (2) have **apocalyptic** overtones

The **apocalyptic** landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.

overstate

v. to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is

synonym : exaggerate, embellish, magnify

(1) **overstate** the issue, (2) **overstate** the importance

He tends to **overstate** his accomplishments to impress others.

confine

v. to restrict the movement of someone or something

synonym : restrict, limit, contain

(1) **confine** themselves solely, (2) **confine** the scope of use

The animal was **confined** in a small cage.

underestimate

v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

synonym : underrate, misjudge, miscalculate

(1) **underestimate** an enemy, (2) **underestimate** the probability

They frequently **underestimated** their abilities and felt inferior.

overestimate

v. to estimate something to be greater in amount or importance than it really is

synonym : overrate, overvalue, embellish

(1) **overestimate** the value, (2) **overestimate** the amount of time spent

He tends to **overestimate** his abilities.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym : doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

footnote

n. a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text

synonym : annotation, comment, reference

(1) **footnote** citation, (2) add a **footnote**

I included a **footnote** in my essay to provide additional information and sources for my argument.

bombard

v. to attack a place with bombs or gunshots continuously; to address with continuously or persistently, as if with a barrage

synonym : bomb, shoot, blitz

(1) **bombard** him with questions, (2) **bombard** a fort with heavy shells

Overprotective parents often **bombard** their children with messages reinforcing their lack of mastery.

disbelief

n. the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real

synonym : doubt, mistrust, incredulity

(1) **disbelief** in the authority, (2) ask in **disbelief**
His reaction was one of complete **disbelief**.

acquaintance

n. a person one knows but who is not a close friend
synonym: friend, associate, contact

(1) **acquaintance** with a language, (2) business **acquaintance**

I met him at a party, and we quickly became **acquaintances**.

trepidation

n. a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous

synonym: fear, anxiety, apprehension

(1) trembling with **trepidation**, (2) sense of **trepidation**

She felt **trepidation** as she approached the podium to give her speech.

brainwave

n. a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity

synonym: inspiration, brainstorm, revelation

(1) **brainwave** idea, (2) sudden **brainwave**

The engineer had a **brainwave** and redesigned the product to be more efficient.

exaggerate

v. to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is

synonym: overstate, overestimate, amplify

(1) **exaggerate** in degree, (2) **exaggerate** story

She **exaggerated** the extent of her injuries to get more money from the settlement.

overpower

v. to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength

synonym: overwhelm, conquer, surpass

(1) **overpower** the suspect, (2) **overpower** the opponent

The shooter was eventually **overpowered** and arrested by police.

displace

v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

synonym: evict, exile, remove

(1) **displace** workers, (2) **displace** the explosive power

The construction of the new dam will **displace** hundreds of families living downstream.

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.

litany

n. a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests

(1) **litany** of prayers, (2) **litany** of excuses

The **litany** of complaints from unhappy customers reminded us that we needed to improve our service.

exacerbate

v. to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse

synonym: worsen, aggravate, escalate

(1) **exacerbate** the situation, (2) **exacerbate** symptoms

The heat wave **exacerbated** the drought conditions.

superheat

v. to heat a substance to a temperature higher than its boiling point

synonym: overheat, heat up, scorch

(1) **superheat** the cheese, (2) **superheat** the solution

The metal must be **superheated** before being shaped into the final product.

reassure

v. to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence

synonym: comfort, soothe, bolster

(1) **reassure** anxious patients, (2) **reassure** market

The pilot tried to **reassure** the customers that the planes were safe.

cosmopolitan

adj. having a wide-ranging perspective and interests, embracing diverse cultures, and having the experience of living in or being familiar with many different countries

synonym: worldly, multicultural, urbane

(1) **cosmopolitan** city, (2) **cosmopolitan** lifestyle

The city was known for its **cosmopolitan** culture and diverse population.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. sense of tre_____on | <i>n.</i> a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous |
| 2. acq_____nce with a language | <i>n.</i> a person one knows but who is not a close friend |
| 3. a worthless wr__k | <i>n.</i> a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident |
| 4. sp_____ad campaign | <i>v.</i> to lead or initiate an effort or campaign |
| 5. re_____re anxious patients | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence |
| 6. exa_____te symptoms | <i>v.</i> to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse |
| 7. co____r honor | <i>v.</i> to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something |
| 8. medical in____n | <i>v.</i> to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria |
| 9. li____y of prayers | <i>n.</i> a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests |

ANSWERS: 1. trepidation, 2. acquaintance, 3. wreck, 4. spearhead, 5. reassure, 6. exacerbate, 7. confer, 8. intern, 9. litany

10. add a fo____te *n.* a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text
11. ask in di_____ef *n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
12. trembling with tre_____on *n.* a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous
13. di_____ef in the authority *n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
14. di_____ce workers *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
15. exa_____te in degree *v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
16. exa_____te story *v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is
17. a sk_____al attitude *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
18. exa_____te the situation *v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
19. cos_____tan city *adj.* having a wide-ranging perspective and interests, embracing diverse cultures, and having the experience of living in or being familiar with many different countries

ANSWERS: 10. footnote, 11. disbelief, 12. trepidation, 13. disbelief, 14. displace, 15. exaggerate, 16. exaggerate, 17. skeptical, 18. exacerbate, 19. cosmopolitan

20. in___n civilians *v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
21. li___y of excuses *n.* a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests
22. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
23. cos_____tan lifestyle *adj.* having a wide-ranging perspective and interests, embracing diverse cultures, and having the experience of living in or being familiar with many different countries
24. ov_____er the suspect *v.* to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
25. the house was a wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
26. fo_____te citation *n.* a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text

ANSWERS: 20. intern, 21. litany, 22. confer, 23. cosmopolitan, 24. overpower, 25. wreck, 26. footnote

27. ove_____ate the amount of time spent
v. to estimate something to be greater in amount or importance than it really is
28. ov_____er the opponent
v. to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
29. 980 hectopa____ls
n. a unit of pressure in the International System of Units (SI) named after the French mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal, which equals one newton per square meter; the name of a high-level programming language developed in the 1970s
30. co_____e themselves solely
v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
31. sudden br_____ve
n. a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity
32. br_____ve idea
n. a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity
33. ov_____te the issue
v. to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is
34. business acq_____nce
n. a person one knows but who is not a close friend
35. co_____e the scope of use
v. to restrict the movement of someone or something
36. di_____ce the explosive power
v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
37. re_____re market
v. to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence

ANSWERS: 27. overestimate, 28. overpower, 29. pascal, 30. confine, 31. brainwave, 32. brainwave, 33. overstate, 34. acquaintance, 35. confine, 36. displace, 37. reassure

38. bo____d a fort with heavy shells *v.* to attack a place with bombs or gunshots continuously; to address with continuously or persistently, as if with a barrage
39. bo____d him with questions *v.* to attack a place with bombs or gunshots continuously; to address with continuously or persistently, as if with a barrage
40. apo____ic event *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
41. te____ph wires *n.* a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals
42. ove____ate the value *v.* to estimate something to be greater in amount or importance than it really is
43. und____ate an enemy *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
44. su____at the solution *v.* to heat a substance to a temperature higher than its boiling point
45. pressure conditions from 100 to 1600 pa____ls *n.* a unit of pressure in the International System of Units (SI) named after the French mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal, which equals one newton per square meter; the name of a high-level programming language developed in the 1970s
46. have apo____ic overtones *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

ANSWERS: 38. bombard, 39. bombard, 40. apocalyptic, 41. telegraph, 42. overestimate, 43. underestimate, 44. superheat, 45. pascal, 46. apocalyptic

47. su_____at the cheese *v.* to heat a substance to a temperature higher than its boiling point
48. sk_____al scientists *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
49. und_____ate the probability *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
50. sp_____ad movement *v.* to lead or initiate an effort or campaign
51. answer by te_____ph *n.* a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals
52. ov_____te the importance *v.* to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is

ANSWERS: 47. superheat, 48. skeptical, 49. underestimate, 50. spearhead, 51. telegraph, 52. overstate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The city was known for its _____ culture and diverse population.
adj. having a wide-ranging perspective and interests, embracing diverse cultures, and having the experience of living in or being familiar with many different countries
2. The _____ landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.
adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
3. The engineer had a _____ and redesigned the product to be more efficient.
n. a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity
4. She felt _____ as she approached the podium to give her speech.
n. a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous
5. The _____ service was interrupted for a while.
n. a method of long-distance transmission of messages by electrical or radio signals
6. The _____ of complaints from unhappy customers reminded us that we needed to improve our service.
n. a prolonged or repetitive recitation or listing of something, often with a negative connotation; a repetitive series or list of complaints, criticisms, or requests
7. The CEO decided to _____ the new project to ensure its success.
v. to lead or initiate an effort or campaign

ANSWERS: 1. cosmopolitan, 2. apocalyptic, 3. brainwave, 4. trepidation, 5. telegraph, 6. litany, 7. spearhead

8. Meteorologists recorded a sudden drop in air pressure to 980 hecto_____ signaling the approach of a storm.
- n.* a unit of pressure in the International System of Units (SI) named after the French mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal, which equals one newton per square meter; the name of a high-level programming language developed in the 1970s
9. The construction of the new dam will _____ hundreds of families living downstream.
- v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
10. He tends to _____ his accomplishments to impress others.
- v.* to exaggerate or make something seem more important or serious than it is
11. They frequently _____ their abilities and felt inferior.
- v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
12. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.
- adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
13. Overprotective parents often _____ their children with messages reinforcing their lack of mastery.
- v.* to attack a place with bombs or gunshots continuously; to address with continuously or persistently, as if with a barrage
14. The heat wave _____ the drought conditions.
- v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
15. The pilot tried to _____ the customers that the planes were safe.
- v.* to cause someone to feel sure; to give or restore confidence

ANSWERS: 8. pascals, 9. displace, 10. overstate, 11. underestimated, 12. skeptical, 13. bombard, 14. exacerbated, 15. reassure

16. His reaction was one of complete _____.
- n.* the feeling of not being able to believe or accept that something is true or real
17. The animal was _____ in a small cage.
- v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
18. 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
19. I met him at a party, and we quickly became _____.
- n.* a person one knows but who is not a close friend
20. The shooter was eventually _____ and arrested by police.
- v.* to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
21. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.
- n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
22. I included a _____ in my essay to provide additional information and sources for my argument.
- n.* a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text
23. She _____ the extent of her injuries to get more money from the settlement.
- v.* to describe or represent something as better or worse than it is

ANSWERS: 16. disbelief, 17. confined, 18. confer, 19. acquaintances, 20. overpowered, 21. wreck, 22. footnote, 23. exaggerated

24. The metal must be _____ before being shaped into the final product.
- v. to heat a substance to a temperature higher than its boiling point
25. He tends to _____ his abilities.
- v. to estimate something to be greater in amount or importance than it really is
26. The navy _____ ships of defeated nations.
- v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria

ANSWERS: 24. superheated, 25. overestimate, 26. interned