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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Leslie T. Chang: *The voices of China's workers* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

rooftop

n. the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

synonym: roof, terrace, deck

(1) **rooftop** live, (2) **rooftop** deck

They held the dinner party on the **rooftop** terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

oppressive

adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way

synonym: stifling, overwhelming, depressing

(1) the atmosphere was **oppressive**, (2) **oppressive**

governments

The political situation has become increasingly **oppressive**.

equate

v. to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous

synonym: associate, liken, relate

(1) **equate** mistakes with failure, (2) **equate** to legal responsibility

It isn't very reasonable to **equate** money with happiness.

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.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

gadget

n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

synonym: appliance, gimmick, device

(1) a handy **gadget**, (2) time-saving **gadget**

I found the kitchen **gadget** that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.

insatiable

adj. impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable

synonym: voracious, unquenchable, insistent

(1) **insatiable** curiosity, (2) **insatiable** appetite

His **insatiable** hunger for success drove him to work countless hours.

dormitory

n. a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles

synonym : dorm, residence hall, hostel

(1) college **dormitory**, (2) shared **dormitory**

The girls' **dormitory** had a strict curfew of 11 p.m.

parrot

n. a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice

synonym : copyist, wannabe

(1) repeat like a **parrot**, (2) a talking **parrot**

She keeps a **parrot** in a birdcage as a pet.

garbled

adj. mixed up or distorted, often making something difficult to understand or follow; unclear or jumbled

synonym : confused, distorted, muddled

(1) **garbled** message, (2) **garbled** signal

The speaker's **garbled** speech made it difficult for the audience to understand his message.

abbreviation

n. a shortened form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole, typically for ease of use

synonym : short form, acronym, initialism

(1) currency **abbreviation**, (2) **abbreviation** of the full name

In the medical field, service **abbreviation** refers to medical procedures, diagnoses, and medications.

alienation

n. the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment

synonym : estrangement, separation, detachment

(1) human **alienation**, (2) international **alienation**

His feelings of **alienation** from society led to depression.

maroon

adj. a deep reddish-brown color that is similar to the color of dried blood

synonym : red, dark red, brown

(1) **maroon** color, (2) deep **maroon**

She wore a **maroon** dress to the formal event.

speechless

adj. unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings

synonym: wordless, mute, speech-impaired

(1) **speechless** reaction, (2) **speechless** with shock

The breathtaking view left me **speechless** for a minute.

worthless

adj. having no value or usefulness; not worth considering

synonym: valueless, useless, pointless

(1) **worthless** stock, (2) **worthless** coin

The product was found to be **worthless** as it failed to meet the customer's expectations.

patina

n. a thin layer that forms on the surface of an object as a result of natural aging or exposure to environmental factors often valued for its aesthetic or historical significance

synonym: tarnish, oxidation, weathering

(1) green **patina**, (2) coat with a **patina**

The antique dealer valued the piece higher due to its rich **patina** and aged appearance.

timeless

adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

synonym: dateless, everlasting, imperishable

(1) **timeless** masterpiece, (2) **timeless** topic

There is a **timeless** aspect to his most remarkable work.

flair

n. natural and impressive talent or ability, particularly in creativity or self-expression; a distinct style or appearance that is unique and eye-catching

synonym: talent, aptitude, gift

(1) **flair** for design, (2) creative **flair**

The chef's artistic **flair** was evident in the beautifully presented dish.

faceless

adj. lacking distinctive or individual features or characteristics; anonymous and impersonal

synonym : anonymous, impersonal, nameless

(1) **faceless** enemy, (2) **faceless** bureaucracy

The artist painted a series of **faceless** portraits to represent anonymity and self-discovery.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym : coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

lucrative

adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding

synonym : profitable, moneymaking, remunerative

(1) **lucrative** deal, (2) **lucrative** market

Investing in real estate can be a **lucrative** business if done correctly.

migrant

n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

synonym : immigrant, itinerant, transient

(1) **migrant** worker, (2) the movement of **migrant** birds

The government revoked his license to employ **migrant** labor crews.

secondhand

adj. having been previously owned or used by someone else

synonym : used, pre-owned, recycled

(1) **secondhand** car, (2) **secondhand** information

He was excited to find a vintage suit at the **secondhand**

shop for a fraction of the price of a new one.

depress

v. to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

synonym: sadden, discourage, deflate

(1) **depress** their spirits, (2) **depress** crop prices

The economic recession **depressed** the housing market.

resourceful

adj. showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems

synonym: inventive, imaginative, clever

(1) **resourceful** thinker, (2) **resourceful** cook in town

She was **resourceful** and found a solution to the problem on her own.

illiterate

adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

synonym: unlettered, uneducated, unschooled

(1) **illiterate** population, (2) computer- **illiterate**

Despite attending school, he remained **illiterate** and unable to read or write.

rudimentary

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

synonym: essential, fundamental, elementary

(1) a **rudimentary** plant, (2) **rudimentary** understanding

He has only a **rudimentary** knowledge of this topic.

pragmatic

adj. practical rather than idealistic

synonym: practical, realistic, down-to-earth

(1) **pragmatic** approach, (2) **pragmatic** politics

He was a **pragmatic** leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.

sideways

adv. towards or from the side; with one side forward or to the front; (adjective, of movement) at an angle

synonym: to the edge, obliquely, sidelong

(1) fall **sideways**, (2) a **sideways** market

She glanced **sideways** at the conversation of the boy she was interested in.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym: course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
2. mi_____t worker *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
3. opp_____ve governments *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
4. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
5. pr_____ic politics *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
6. abb_____ion of the full name *n.* a shortened form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole, typically for ease of use
7. dis_____ct for a customer *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
8. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
9. fa_____ss bureaucracy *adj.* lacking distinctive or individual features or characteristics; anonymous and impersonal
10. a si_____ys market *adv.* towards or from the side; with one side forward or to the front; (adjective, of movement) at an angle

ANSWERS: 1. smartphone, 2. migrant, 3. oppressive, 4. quitter, 5. pragmatic, 6. abbreviation, 7. disrespect, 8. quitter, 9. faceless, 10. sideways

11. green pa___a *n.* a thin layer that forms on the surface of an object as a result of natural aging or exposure to environmental factors often valued for its aesthetic or historical significance
12. sec_____nd information *adj.* having been previously owned or used by someone else
13. ga_____d signal *adj.* mixed up or distorted, often making something difficult to understand or follow; unclear or jumbled
14. de_____s crop prices *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
15. repeat like a pa___t *n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
16. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
17. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
18. international ali_____on *n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
19. deep ma___n *adj.* a deep reddish-brown color that is similar to the color of dried blood
20. de_____s their spirits *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

ANSWERS: 11. patina, 12. secondhand, 13. garbled, 14. depress, 15. parrot, 16. aft, 17. illiterate, 18. alienation, 19. maroon, 20. depress

21. spe_____ss reaction *adj.* unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings
22. currency abb_____ion *n.* a shortened form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole, typically for ease of use
23. a talking pa____t *n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
24. pr_____ic approach *adj.* practical rather than idealistic
25. ti_____ss masterpiece *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
26. ins_____le curiosity *adj.* impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
27. ro_____p live *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
28. eq___e to legal responsibility *v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous
29. the movement of mi_____t birds *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
30. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 21. speechless, 22. abbreviation, 23. parrot, 24. pragmatic, 25. timeless, 26. insatiable, 27. rooftop, 28. equate, 29. migrant, 30. obsess

31. ti____ss topic *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
32. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
33. lu_____ve market *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
34. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
35. coat with a pa____a *n.* a thin layer that forms on the surface of an object as a result of natural aging or exposure to environmental factors often valued for its aesthetic or historical significance
36. time-saving ga____t *n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
37. lu_____ve deal *adj.* producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
38. ma____n color *adj.* a deep reddish-brown color that is similar to the color of dried blood
39. human ali_____on *n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
40. college do_____ry *n.* a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
41. sec_____nd car *adj.* having been previously owned or used by someone else
42. fl__r for design *n.* natural and impressive talent or ability, particularly in creativity or self-expression; a distinct style or appearance that is unique and eye-catching

ANSWERS: 31. timeless, 32. trajectory, 33. lucrative, 34. smartphone, 35. patina, 36. gadget, 37. lucrative, 38. maroon, 39. alienation, 40. dormitory, 41. secondhand, 42. flair

43. wo_____ss coin *adj.* having no value or usefulness; not worth considering
44. fa_____ss enemy *adj.* lacking distinctive or individual features or characteristics; anonymous and impersonal
45. wo_____ss stock *adj.* having no value or usefulness; not worth considering
46. a rud_____ry plant *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
47. ins_____le appetite *adj.* impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
48. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
49. creative fl__r *n.* natural and impressive talent or ability, particularly in creativity or self-expression; a distinct style or appearance that is unique and eye-catching
50. rud_____ry understanding *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
51. mean no dis_____ct *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
52. shared do_____ry *n.* a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
53. res_____ul thinker *adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems

ANSWERS: 43. worthless, 44. faceless, 45. worthless, 46. rudimentary, 47. insatiable, 48. aft, 49. flair, 50. rudimentary, 51. disrespect, 52. dormitory, 53. resourceful

54. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
55. eq___e mistakes with failure *v.* to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous
56. fall si_____ys *adv.* towards or from the side; with one side forward or to the front; (adjective, of movement) at an angle
57. spe_____ss with shock *adj.* unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings
58. ro_____p deck *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
59. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
60. res_____ul cook in town *adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems
61. a handy ga___t *n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
62. the atmosphere was opp_____ve *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
63. ga_____d message *adj.* mixed up or distorted, often making something difficult to understand or follow; unclear or jumbled
64. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 54. illiterate, 55. equate, 56. sideways, 57. speechless, 58. rooftop, 59. trajectory, 60. resourceful, 61. gadget, 62. oppressive, 63. garbled, 64. obsess

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Investing in real estate can be a _____ business if done correctly.
adj. producing a great deal of profit; financially rewarding
2. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
3. She glanced _____ at the conversation of the boy she was interested in.
adv. towards or from the side; with one side forward or to the front; (adjective, of movement) at an angle
4. He was a _____ leader who made decisions based on what was practical rather than ideal.
adj. practical rather than idealistic
5. She keeps a _____ in a birdcage as a pet.
n. a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
6. He was excited to find a vintage suit at the _____ shop for a fraction of the price of a new one.
adj. having been previously owned or used by someone else
7. There is a _____ aspect to his most remarkable work.
adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
8. I found the kitchen _____ that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.
n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

ANSWERS: 1. lucrative, 2. quitter, 3. sideways, 4. pragmatic, 5. parrot, 6. secondhand, 7. timeless, 8. gadget

9. The chef's artistic _____ was evident in the beautifully presented dish.
n. natural and impressive talent or ability, particularly in creativity or self-expression; a distinct style or appearance that is unique and eye-catching
10. The economic recession _____ the housing market.
v. to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
11. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
12. The antique dealer valued the piece higher due to its rich _____ and aged appearance.
n. a thin layer that forms on the surface of an object as a result of natural aging or exposure to environmental factors often valued for its aesthetic or historical significance
13. The speaker's _____ speech made it difficult for the audience to understand his message.
adj. mixed up or distorted, often making something difficult to understand or follow; unclear or jumbled
14. His feelings of _____ from society led to depression.
n. the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
15. The breathtaking view left me _____ for a minute.
adj. unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings

ANSWERS: 9. flair, 10. depressed, 11. smartphones, 12. patina, 13. garbled, 14. alienation, 15. speechless

16. They held the dinner party on the _____ terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.

n. the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

17. The ___ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

18. She wore a _____ dress to the formal event.

adj. a deep reddish-brown color that is similar to the color of dried blood

19. The product was found to be _____ as it failed to meet the customer's expectations.

adj. having no value or usefulness; not worth considering

20. The political situation has become increasingly _____.

adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way

21. She was _____ and found a solution to the problem on her own.

adj. showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems

22. The government revoked his license to employ _____ labor crews.

n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

23. He has only a _____ knowledge of this topic.

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

ANSWERS: 16. rooftop, 17. aft, 18. maroon, 19. worthless, 20. oppressive, 21. resourceful, 22. migrant, 23. rudimentary

24. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
25. The artist painted a series of _____ portraits to represent anonymity and self-discovery.
adj. lacking distinctive or individual features or characteristics; anonymous and impersonal
26. The girls' _____ had a strict curfew of 11 p.m.
n. a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
27. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space
28. Despite attending school, he remained _____ and unable to read or write.
adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
29. His _____ hunger for success drove him to work countless hours.
adj. impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
30. In the medical field, service _____ refers to medical procedures, diagnoses, and medications.
n. a shortened form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole, typically for ease of use
31. 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

ANSWERS: 24. obsessed, 25. faceless, 26. dormitory, 27. trajectory, 28. illiterate, 29. insatiable, 30. abbreviation, 31. disrespectful

32. It isn't very reasonable to _____ money with happiness.

v. to consider or describe one thing as similar, equal, or analogous

ANSWERS: 32. equate