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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dalia Mogahed: The attitudes that sparked Arab Spring | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

airwave

n. a system of transmitting sound, video, or other data through the air using radio waves or other electromagnetic waves

synonym : broadcast, transmission, radio signal

(1) walkie-talkie **airwave**, (2) commercial **airwave**

The radio station broadcasts my favorite song over the **airwaves**.

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.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

revolt

n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

synonym: rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

widen

v. to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive

synonym: broaden, enlarge, extend

(1) **widen** in excitement, (2) **widen** a narrowed heart valve

He **widened** his investigation into a medical clinic.

mundane

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

synonym: ordinary, everyday, prosaic

(1) **mundane** affairs, (2) **mundane** objects

After returning from the war, he had a pretty **mundane** life.

mound

n. a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

synonym: hill, knoll, rise

(1) **mound** of dirt, (2) burial **mound**

The team discovered a hidden **mound** in the desert.

accolade

n. an expression of praise, honor, or approval, often in the form of an award or ceremonial gesture; a sign of recognition or achievement

synonym: tribute, honor, award

(1) **accolade** ceremony, (2) professional **accolade**

The actor received an **accolade** for his outstanding performance in the play.

capita

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

synonym : head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**
GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third
consecutive year.

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.

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.

despise

v. to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or
something, often because of a perceived fault or failing;
to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something

synonym : hate, loathe, detest

(1) **despise** a particular food, (2) secretly **despise**
I **despise** injustice and those who perpetrate it.

open-ended

adj. without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a
spontaneous response

synonym : unlimited, unrestricted, flexible

(1) an **open-ended** discussion, (2) **open-ended**
agreements

Most people who saw the film were dissatisfied with the
open-ended ending.

aspiration

n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or
process of drawing breath

synonym : ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs
He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

aspiring

adj. desiring or striving for recognition or advancement;
wanting to be successful in life

synonym : hopeful, ambitious, eager

(1) **aspiring** prime minister, (2) have **aspiring** eyes
He was extremely generous to the **aspiring** young artist.

warden

n. a person responsible for the supervision and
management of a particular place, such as a prison, a
national park, or a university campus

synonym : guardian, supervisor, keeper

(1) **warden** duties, (2) forest **warden**
The **warden** of the prison made sure that the inmates
followed the rules.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a
particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym : drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship
An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

catastrophic

adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial
destruction

synonym : fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate
change

The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

spectator

n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game,
play, or concert, to watch or observe it

synonym : onlooker, observer, viewer

(1) mass **spectator** sport, (2) **spectator** seat
She enjoyed watching the game as a **spectator**.

oust

v. to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition

synonym : expel, depose, drive out

(1) **oust** the chairman, (2) **oust** him from his post

Higher capacity storage media have **ousted** floppy disks.

optimism

n. a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation

synonym : positiveness, sanguinity, bullishness

(1) sense of **optimism**, (2) political **optimism**

There is considerable **optimism** that the economy will recover soon.

turbulent

adj. marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation

synonym : chaotic, stormy, tumultuous

(1) **turbulent** waves, (2) **turbulent** age

The stock market has been **turbulent** lately, with prices fluctuating rapidly.

turnout

n. the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election

synonym : attendance, number, crowd

(1) the voter **turnout**, (2) an enormous **turnout** of people

The gig attracted a large **turnout**.

scarcely

adv. hardly or almost not; only just

synonym : barely, narrowly, hardly

(1) **scarcely** readable, (2) **scarcely** any interest in public

We **scarcely** ever used AEDs.

oppress

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

synonym : antagonize, distress, burden

(1) **oppress** the minority, (2) **oppress** the people with force

Historically, many countries have often **oppressed** certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

autocracy

n. a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society

synonym: dictatorship, tyranny, authoritarianism

(1) fight against **autocracy**, (2) absolute **autocracy**

An **autocracy** with no democratic system in a place ruled the country.

paternal

adj. relating to or characteristic of a father; fatherly in nature; showing the qualities or behavior of a good and caring father

synonym: paternalistic, fatherly, protective

(1) **paternal** authority, (2) **paternal** advice

His **paternal** instincts kicked in when he saw his baby smiling.

tectonic

adj. relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it

synonym: seismic, geologic, geological

(1) **tectonic** valleys, (2) a **tectonic** earthquake

The **tectonic** plates shifted, causing an earthquake.

elevate

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

synonym: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the

same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

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.

dissident

n. a person who opposes the policies or actions of a government or other authority, often publicly and openly; a rebel or revolutionary

synonym: dissenter, rebel, protester

(1) **dissident** activities, (2) outspoken **dissident**

The government's security forces constantly monitored the **dissident** politician.

monolithic

adj. characterized by massiveness, rigidity, and uniformity

synonym: massive, monumental, hulking

(1) **monolithic** block, (2) **monolithic** system

Big technology companies try to integrate customers' data into **monolithic** applications.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ope_____ed agreements *adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response
2. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
3. di_____nt activities *n.* a person who opposes the policies or actions of a government or other authority, often publicly and openly; a rebel or revolutionary
4. sc_____ly any interest in public *adv.* hardly or almost not; only just
5. pr____l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
6. pa_____al advice *adj.* relating to or characteristic of a father; fatherly in nature; showing the qualities or behavior of a good and caring father
7. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
8. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
9. wi__n a narrowed heart valve *v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
10. asp_____on into the lungs *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

ANSWERS: 1. open-ended, 2. opportune, 3. dissident, 4. scarcely, 5. propel, 6. paternal, 7. empower, 8. illiterate, 9. widen, 10. aspiration

11. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
12. te_____ic valleys *adj.* relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
13. mo__d of dirt *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
14. outspoken di_____nt *n.* a person who opposes the policies or actions of a government or other authority, often publicly and openly; a rebel or revolutionary
15. mass sp_____or sport *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
16. op_____s the people with force *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
17. a te_____ic earthquake *adj.* relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
18. op_____s the minority *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
19. per ca___a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

ANSWERS: 11. illiterate, 12. tectonic, 13. mound, 14. dissident, 15. spectator, 16. oppress, 17. tectonic, 18. oppress, 19. capita

20. burial mo__d *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
21. walkie-talkie ai____e *n.* a system of transmitting sound, video, or other data through the air using radio waves or other electromagnetic waves
22. mu____e affairs *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
23. mon____ic system *adj.* characterized by massiveness, rigidity, and uniformity
24. sense of op____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
25. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
26. the agricultural yield per ca___a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
27. no asp_____on for fame *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
28. commercial ai____e *n.* a system of transmitting sound, video, or other data through the air using radio waves or other electromagnetic waves

ANSWERS: 20. mound, 21. airwave, 22. mundane, 23. monolithic, 24. optimism, 25. rev, 26. capita, 27. aspiration, 28. airwave

29. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
30. pa_____al authority *adj.* relating to or characteristic of a father; fatherly in nature; showing the qualities or behavior of a good and caring father
31. o__t the chairman *v.* to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition
32. el_____e educational standards *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
33. ac_____de ceremony *n.* an expression of praise, honor, or approval, often in the form of an award or ceremonial gesture; a sign of recognition or achievement
34. tu_____nt waves *adj.* marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation
35. mon_____ic block *adj.* characterized by massiveness, rigidity, and uniformity
36. sc_____ly readable *adv.* hardly or almost not; only just
37. have as_____ng eyes *adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
38. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 29. opportune, 30. paternal, 31. oust, 32. elevate, 33. accolade, 34. turbulent, 35. monolithic, 36. scarcely, 37. aspiring, 38. rev

39. o__t him from his post *v.* to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition
40. und_____ate an enemy *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
41. an ope_____ed discussion *adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response
42. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
43. absolute au_____cy *n.* a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society
44. the voter tu_____t *n.* the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election
45. und_____ate the probability *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
46. de_____e a particular food *v.* to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
47. fight against au_____cy *n.* a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society
48. pr_____l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

ANSWERS: 39. oust, 40. underestimate, 41. open-ended, 42. empower, 43. autocracy, 44. turnout, 45. underestimate, 46. despise, 47. autocracy, 48. propel

49. professional ac____de *n.* an expression of praise, honor, or approval, often in the form of an award or ceremonial gesture; a sign of recognition or achievement
50. victim of cat_____hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
51. sp_____or seat *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
52. cat_____hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
53. wi__n in excitement *v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
54. political op_____sm *n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
55. as_____ng prime minister *adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
56. an enormous tu_____t of people *n.* the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election
57. secretly de_____e *v.* to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
58. el_____e a close relationship *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

ANSWERS: 49. accolade, 50. catastrophic, 51. spectator, 52. catastrophic, 53. widen, 54. optimism, 55. aspiring, 56. turnout, 57. despise, 58. elevate

59. pl____t against other major currencies
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
60. tu_____nt age
adj. marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation
61. pl____ting sales
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
62. wa____n duties
n. a person responsible for the supervision and management of a particular place, such as a prison, a national park, or a university campus
63. mu_____e objects
adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
64. re___t against the dictator
n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
65. re___t against existing ways of thinking
n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
66. forest wa____n
n. a person responsible for the supervision and management of a particular place, such as a prison, a national park, or a university campus

ANSWERS: 59. plummet, 60. turbulent, 61. plummet, 62. warden, 63. mundane, 64. revolt, 65. revolt, 66. warden

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He has an _____ to become a doctor.
n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

2. The gig attracted a large _____.
n. the number of people who are present at an event or vote at an election

3. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.
v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

4. An _____ with no democratic system in a place ruled the country.
n. a form of government in which one person has unlimited power and authority; a system of government in which a ruler or ruling class holds absolute power and controls all aspects of society

5. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was _____.
adj. extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

6. Eating food in a hurry _____ blood glucose levels.
v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

7. The radio station broadcasts my favorite song over the _____.
n. a system of transmitting sound, video, or other data through the air using radio waves or other electromagnetic waves

8. The _____ plates shifted, causing an earthquake.
adj. relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it

ANSWERS: 1. aspiration, 2. turnout, 3. propel, 4. autocracy, 5. catastrophic, 6. elevates, 7. airwaves, 8. tectonic

9. She enjoyed watching the game as a _____.
- n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
10. Big technology companies try to integrate customers' data into _____ applications.
- adj.* characterized by massiveness, rigidity, and uniformity
11. There is considerable _____ that the economy will recover soon.
- n.* a feeling or the belief that good things will happen, or the quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the positive aspects of a situation
12. His _____ instincts kicked in when he saw his baby smiling.
- adj.* relating to or characteristic of a father; fatherly in nature; showing the qualities or behavior of a good and caring father
13. Most people who saw the film were dissatisfied with the _____ ending.
- adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response
14. Higher capacity storage media have _____ floppy disks.
- v.* to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition
15. He _____ his investigation into a medical clinic.
- v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
16. The actor received an _____ for his outstanding performance in the play.
- n.* an expression of praise, honor, or approval, often in the form of an award or ceremonial gesture; a sign of recognition or achievement

ANSWERS: 9. spectator, 10. monolithic, 11. optimism, 12. paternal, 13. open-ended, 14. ousted, 15. widened, 16. accolade

17. The government's security forces constantly monitored the _____ politician.
n. a person who opposes the policies or actions of a government or other authority, often publicly and openly; a rebel or revolutionary
18. I _____ injustice and those who perpetrate it.
v. to feel strong dislike or contempt for someone or something, often because of a perceived fault or failing; to have a low or unfavorable opinion of something
19. GDP per _____ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.
n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
20. We _____ ever used AEDs.
adv. hardly or almost not; only just
21. The stock market has been _____ lately, with prices fluctuating rapidly.
adj. marked by a lot of sudden changes, confusion, or uncertainty; characterized by intense activity or agitation
22. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
23. The people tried to _____ to oust the tyrant.
n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
24. The team discovered a hidden _____ in the desert.
n. a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

ANSWERS: 17. dissident, 18. despise, 19. capita, 20. scarcely, 21. turbulent, 22. opportune, 23. revolt, 24. mound

25. After returning from the war, he had a pretty _____ life.
adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
26. He was extremely generous to the _____ young artist.
adj. desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
27. 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
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. Historically, many countries have often _____ certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.
v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
30. They frequently _____ their abilities and felt inferior.
v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
31. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
32. The _____ of the prison made sure that the inmates followed the rules.
n. a person responsible for the supervision and management of a particular place, such as a prison, a national park, or a university campus

ANSWERS: 25. mundane, 26. aspiring, 27. plummeted, 28. illiterate, 29. oppressed, 30. underestimated, 31. empowered, 32. warden

33. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.

- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 33. rev