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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Suheir Hammad: Poems of war, peace, women, power | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

lifeless

adj. without life; dead

synonym: inanimate, inert, motionless

(1) fall **lifeless**, (2) a **lifeless** corpse

The plant had a **lifeless** appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.

mourn

v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone

synonym: grieve, lament, weep

(1) **mourn** with deep grief, (2) **mourn** death

We **mourned** the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.

chant

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

synonym: hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

heartbeat

n. the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force

synonym : beat, pulse, force

(1) **heartbeat** abnormality, (2) a pounding **heartbeat**

New York is the commercial **heartbeat** of America.

pacifist

adj. a person who believes in pacifism, which is the opposition to war and violence as a means of resolving conflicts

synonym : peace-lover, peacemaker, dove

(1) **pacifist** party, (2) uphold **pacifist** principles

The **pacifist** group organized a peaceful demonstration to protest the war.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

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.

limitless

adj. without end, limit, or boundary; infinite

synonym : boundless, infinite, unrestricted

(1) for a **limitless** time, (2) **limitless** potential

The possibilities for scientific discovery are **limitless**.

galvanize

v. to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rust

synonym: energize, invigorate, motivate

(1) **galvanize** steel, (2) **galvanize** the country

The motivational speech **galvanized** the team and gave them the drive to succeed.

cherish

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

synonym: treasure, value, hold dear

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

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

enamel

n. a hard, glossy coating that is applied to surfaces such as metal, glass, or ceramics to protect them from wear, corrosion, or weathering; the hard, white outer layer of teeth

synonym: glaze, varnish, coating

(1) **enamel** coating, (2) **enamel** mugs

The dentist recommended using toothpaste with extra **enamel** protection to prevent cavities.

spoil

v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

synonym: rot, decay, deteriorate

(1) **spoil** a person's sport, (2) **spoil** the surprise

If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will **spoil**.

ripen

v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe

synonym: mature, grow, age

(1) **ripen** the fruit, (2) **ripen** naturally

His tireless efforts **ripen** into success.

rubble

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or

demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

synonym : debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road

After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

precipice

n. a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face

synonym : cliff, drop, brink

(1) leap off a **precipice**, (2) mural **precipice**

The hiker stood at the edge of the **precipice**, taking in the breathtaking view.

facto

adj. of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring

synonym : actual, real

(1) ex post **facto** approval, (2) a de **facto** government

The new software has become the de **facto** tool for professionals in the field.

landmine

n. an explosive device hidden underground and designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact with a person or vehicle

synonym : mine, explosive device, antipersonnel mine

(1) destroy a **landmine**, (2) **landmine** removal

The antipersonnel **landmine** was a dangerous obstacle in the war-torn area.

smolder

v. to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment

synonym : burn, smoke, simmer

(1) **smolder** in resentment for many years, (2) **smolder** beneath the surface

The fire continued to **smolder** long after the firefighters had

left.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym: defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sp__l a person's sport
v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
2. con_____te his ego
v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
3. hu_____g sound
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
4. a pounding he_____at
n. the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
5. mo__n with deep grief
v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
6. pa_____st party
adj. a person who believes in pacifism, which is the opposition to war and violence as a means of resolving conflicts
7. sp__l the surprise
v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
8. a de fa__o government
adj. of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring
9. ch__t in the chapel
n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

ANSWERS: 1. spoil, 2. contaminate, 3. humming, 4. heartbeat, 5. mourn, 6. pacifist, 7. spoil, 8. facto, 9. chant

10. ch__t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
11. ch____h relationships *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
12. leap off a pr____ce *n.* a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face
13. mural pr____ce *n.* a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face
14. con____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
15. a li____ss corpse *adj.* without life; dead
16. for a li____ss time *adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
17. co____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
18. he____at abnormality *n.* the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
19. li____ss potential *adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
20. ga____ze steel *v.* to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rust
21. la____ne removal *n.* an explosive device hidden underground and designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact with a person or vehicle

ANSWERS: 10. chant, 11. cherish, 12. precipice, 13. precipice, 14. contaminate, 15. lifeless, 16. limitless, 17. confuse, 18. heartbeat, 19. limitless, 20. galvanize, 21. landmine

22. en___l coating *n.* a hard, glossy coating that is applied to surfaces such as metal, glass, or ceramics to protect them from wear, corrosion, or weathering; the hard, white outer layer of teeth
23. ru___e-strewn road *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
24. as_____ng prime minister *adj.* desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
25. ri__n naturally *v.* to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe
26. destroy a la_____ne *n.* an explosive device hidden underground and designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact with a person or vehicle
27. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
28. uphold pa_____st principles *adj.* a person who believes in pacifism, which is the opposition to war and violence as a means of resolving conflicts
29. fall li_____ss *adj.* without life; dead
30. sm_____r beneath the surface *v.* to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment

ANSWERS: 22. enamel, 23. rubble, 24. aspiring, 25. ripen, 26. landmine, 27. confuse, 28. pacifist, 29. lifeless, 30. smolder

31. ri__n the fruit
v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe
32. have as____ng eyes
adj. desiring or striving for recognition or advancement; wanting to be successful in life
33. sm____r in resentment for many years
v. to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment
34. ch____h a stuffed animal
v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
35. clear away ru___e
n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
36. ga_____ze the country
v. to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rust
37. ex____e in anger
v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
38. ex post fa__o approval
adj. of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring
39. mo__n death
v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone

ANSWERS: 31. ripen, 32. aspiring, 33. smolder, 34. cherish, 35. rubble, 36. galvanize, 37. explode, 38. facto, 39. mourn

40. en___l mugs *n.* a hard, glossy coating that is applied to surfaces such as metal, glass, or ceramics to protect them from wear, corrosion, or weathering; the hard, white outer layer of teeth
41. ex_____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
42. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

ANSWERS: 40. enamel, 41. explode, 42. humming

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. New York is the commercial _____ of America.
n. the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
2. We _____ the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.
v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
3. She _____ the memories of her childhood.
v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
4. The _____ group organized a peaceful demonstration to protest the war.
adj. a person who believes in pacifism, which is the opposition to war and violence as a means of resolving conflicts
5. The soccer game crowd broke into a _____ of "Go, team, go!"
n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
6. The antipersonnel _____ was a dangerous obstacle in the war-torn area.
n. an explosive device hidden underground and designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity, or contact with a person or vehicle
7. The fire continued to _____ long after the firefighters had left.
v. to burn slowly and without a flame, often with the production of smoke and heat; to exist or persist in a suppressed or hidden state, particularly anger or resentment

ANSWERS: 1. heartbeat, 2. mourned, 3. cherished, 4. pacifist, 5. chant, 6. landmine, 7. smolder

8. The possibilities for scientific discovery are _____.
adj. without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
9. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.
v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
10. After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of _____.
n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
11. The motivational speech _____ the team and gave them the drive to succeed.
v. to stimulate or shock someone into taking action; to cover metal containing zinc to protect it from rust
12. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
13. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
14. The dentist recommended using toothpaste with extra _____ protection to prevent cavities.
n. a hard, glossy coating that is applied to surfaces such as metal, glass, or ceramics to protect them from wear, corrosion, or weathering; the hard, white outer layer of teeth
15. The hiker stood at the edge of the _____ taking in the breathtaking view.
n. a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face

ANSWERS: 8. limitless, 9. exploded, 10. rubble, 11. galvanized, 12. humming, 13. confused, 14. enamel, 15. precipice,

16. His tireless efforts _____ into success.

v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe

17. He was extremely generous to the _____ young artist.

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

18. If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will _____.

v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

19. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

20. The new software has become the de _____ tool for professionals in the field.

adj. of or relating to facts; done in reality; actually existing or occurring

21. The plant had a _____ appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.

adj. without life; dead

ANSWERS: 16. ripen, 17. aspiring, 18. spoil, 19. contaminate, 20. fact, 21. lifeless