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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michael McDaniel: Cheap, effective shelter for disaster relief | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

buzzkill

n. an event, person, or thing that dampens the excitement or pleasure of a situation, typically by introducing an unwelcome or unpleasant element

synonym: party pooper, killjoy, wet blanket

(1) party **buzzkill**, (2) financial **buzzkill**

Bob's negative attitude was a real **buzzkill** at the party.

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.

impoverished

adj. reduced to poverty or destitution; lacking in resources, means, or vitality; depleted or exhausted

synonym: destitute, bankrupt, famished

(1) **impoverished** nation, (2) **impoverished** family

The **impoverished** villagers struggled to make ends meet with little access to food and clean water.

wildfire

n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

synonym : blaze, bonfire, flame

(1) **wildfire** spread, (2) arson-caused **wildfire**

The **wildfire** destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

cram

v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

synonym : stuff, pack, jam

(1) **cram** more circuits into chips, (2) **cram** five people into a car

She had to **cram** for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.

cot

n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out

synonym : bed, bunk, pallet

(1) **cot** in the tent, (2) baby's **cot**

The hospital provides **cots** for patients' families who want to stay overnight.

gymnasium

n. a large room or building equipped for indoor sports and physical exercise, typically including weights and exercise machines; a school or institution that emphasizes physical education and athletics

synonym : athletic facility, sports center, fitness center

(1) **gymnasium** equipment, (2) high school **gymnasium**

I go to the local **gymnasium** three times a week to stay in shape.

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.

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

brainstorming

n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

(1) **brainstorming** session, (2) do a **brainstorming** about a new product

Many companies employ **brainstorming** as a good way of generating innovative ideas.

congeal

v. to solidify or thicken, especially by cooling or freezing; to become firm or solid, often referring to a liquid or substance

synonym: solidify, coagulate, freeze

(1) **congeal** into a solid mass, (2) **congeal** liquid

The blood began to **congeal** as it dried in the wound.

asphalt

n. a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen

synonym: tar, road surface, blacktop

(1) **asphalt** pavement, (2) **asphalt** driveway

The road crew was laying fresh **asphalt** on the highway.

encampment

n. a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes

synonym: campsite, bivouac, settlement

(1) military **encampment**, (2) temporary **encampment**
The **encampment** of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.

obsessive

adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors

synonym: compulsive, fixated, besetting

(1) **obsessive-compulsive** disorder, (2) **obsessive** thoughts

Her **obsessive** behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.

bunk

n. a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting

synonym: nonsense, rubbish, bunkum

(1) bunch of **bunk**, (2) military **bunk**

The crowded dorm room had **bunk** beds to accommodate all the students.

shelve

v. to put or arrange something, especially books, on a shelf; to decide not to take action on something either for a short time or permanently

synonym: defer, postpone, freeze

(1) **shelve** a book, (2) **shelve** a bill

Considering the recent increase in interest rates, we must **shelve** our plans to buy a new house.

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.

rave

v. to talk in a noisy, excited, or uncontrolled manner; to praise someone or something enthusiastically

synonym: babble, freak out, be enthusiastic

(1) **rave** against the politician, (2) **rave** myself hoarse

You can rant and **rave** at the arrest, but you'll still have to accept it.

plethora

n. an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something

synonym: abundance, excess, surplus

(1) **plethora** of information, (2) **plethora** of opportunities

The restaurant's menu offered a **plethora** of options for vegetarians.

olympiad

n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years

(1) the modern **olympiad**, (2) summer **olympiad**

She won a gold medal in the physics **olympiad** and was praised by her teachers and peers.

destine

v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

synonym: ordain, doom, predestine

(1) **destine** us to meet again, (2) be **destined** to become a great artist

Some people believe that we are all **destined** for greatness.

Session 2: Spelling

1. imp_____hed family *adj.* reduced to poverty or destitution; lacking in resources, means, or vitality; depleted or exhausted
2. temporary enc_____nt *n.* a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
3. co_____l into a solid mass *v.* to solidify or thicken, especially by cooling or freezing; to become firm or solid, often referring to a liquid or substance
4. de_____e us to meet again *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
5. arson-caused wi_____re *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
6. 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
7. co_____l liquid *v.* to solidify or thicken, especially by cooling or freezing; to become firm or solid, often referring to a liquid or substance

ANSWERS: 1. impoverished, 2. encampment, 3. congeal, 4. destine, 5. wildfire, 6. displace, 7. congeal

8. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
9. sh___e a book *v.* to put or arrange something, especially books, on a shelf; to decide not to take action on something either for a short time or permanently
10. party bu_____ll *n.* an event, person, or thing that dampens the excitement or pleasure of a situation, typically by introducing an unwelcome or unpleasant element
11. bunch of b__k *n.* a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting
12. pl_____ra of opportunities *n.* an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something
13. as_____t driveway *n.* a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen
14. c__m five people into a car *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

ANSWERS: 8. obsess, 9. shelve, 10. buzzkill, 11. bunk, 12. plethora, 13. asphalt, 14. cram

15. c__m more circuits into chips v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
16. 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
17. r__e against the politician v. to talk in a noisy, excited, or uncontrolled manner; to praise someone or something enthusiastically
18. co____r honor v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
19. the modern ol____ad n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
20. he is ob____sed with the fear v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
21. sh____e a bill v. to put or arrange something, especially books, on a shelf; to decide not to take action on something either for a short time or permanently
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. imp____hed nation *adj.* reduced to poverty or destitution; lacking in resources, means, or vitality; depleted or exhausted

ANSWERS: 15. cram, 16. displace, 17. rave, 18. confer, 19. olympiad, 20. obsess, 21. shelve, 22. confer, 23. impoverished

24. ob_____ve-compulsive disorder *adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
25. ob_____on with character *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
26. military b__k *n.* a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting
27. wi_____re spread *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
28. baby's c_t *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
29. summer ol_____ad *n.* a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
30. r__e myself hoarse *v.* to talk in a noisy, excited, or uncontrolled manner; to praise someone or something enthusiastically

ANSWERS: 24. obsessive, 25. obsession, 26. bunk, 27. wildfire, 28. cot, 29. olympiad, 30. rave

31. be de_____ed to become a great artist *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
32. bra_____ing session *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
33. gy_____um equipment *n.* a large room or building equipped for indoor sports and physical exercise, typically including weights and exercise machines; a school or institution that emphasizes physical education and athletics
34. financial bu_____ll *n.* an event, person, or thing that dampens the excitement or pleasure of a situation, typically by introducing an unwelcome or unpleasant element
35. pl_____ra of information *n.* an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something
36. c_t in the tent *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
37. do a bra_____ing about a new product *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

ANSWERS: 31. destine, 32. brainstorming, 33. gymnasium, 34. buzzkill, 35. plethora, 36. cot, 37. brainstorming

38. national ob_____on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
39. military enc_____nt *n.* a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
40. as_____t pavement *n.* a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen
41. ob_____ve thoughts *adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
42. high school gy_____um *n.* a large room or building equipped for indoor sports and physical exercise, typically including weights and exercise machines; a school or institution that emphasizes physical education and athletics

ANSWERS: 38. obsession, 39. encampment, 40. asphalt, 41. obsessive, 42. gymnasium

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. You can rant and _____ at the arrest, but you'll still have to accept it.
 - v. to talk in a noisy, excited, or uncontrolled manner; to praise someone or something enthusiastically

2. Some people believe that we are all _____ for greatness.
 - v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

3. Many companies employ _____ as a good way of generating innovative ideas.
 - n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

4. 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

5. Her _____ behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.
 - adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors

6. I go to the local _____ three times a week to stay in shape.
 - n. a large room or building equipped for indoor sports and physical exercise, typically including weights and exercise machines; a school or institution that emphasizes physical education and athletics

7. The _____ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.
 - n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

ANSWERS: 1. rave, 2. destined, 3. brainstorming, 4. confer, 5. obsessive, 6. gymnasium, 7. wildfire

8. 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
9. The _____ villagers struggled to make ends meet with little access to food and clean water.
- adj.* reduced to poverty or destitution; lacking in resources, means, or vitality; depleted or exhausted
10. The hospital provides _____ for patients' families who want to stay overnight.
- n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
11. She won a gold medal in the physics _____ and was praised by her teachers and peers.
- n.* a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
12. Bob's negative attitude was a real _____ at the party.
- n.* an event, person, or thing that dampens the excitement or pleasure of a situation, typically by introducing an unwelcome or unpleasant element
13. The restaurant's menu offered a _____ of options for vegetarians.
- n.* an overabundance or excess of something; a state of having too much of something
14. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
- v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 8. displace, 9. impoverished, 10. cots, 11. olympiad, 12. buzzkill, 13. plethora, 14. obsessed

15. The _____ of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.
- n.* a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
16. The road crew was laying fresh _____ on the highway.
- n.* a black, sticky substance that is used to surface roads, roofs, and other structures made from a mixture of sand, gravel, and a petroleum-based material called bitumen
17. Considering the recent increase in interest rates, we must _____ our plans to buy a new house.
- v.* to put or arrange something, especially books, on a shelf; to decide not to take action on something either for a short time or permanently
18. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.
- n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
19. The crowded dorm room had _____ beds to accommodate all the students.
- n.* a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting
20. She had to _____ for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.
- v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
21. The blood began to _____ as it dried in the wound.
- v.* to solidify or thicken, especially by cooling or freezing; to become firm or solid, often referring to a liquid or substance

ANSWERS: 15. encampment, 16. asphalt, 17. shelve, 18. obsession, 19. bunk, 20. cram, 21. congeal

ANSWERS: