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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

JR: My wish: Use art to turn the world inside out | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

dictator

n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

synonym : autocrat, tyrant, despot

(1) military **dictator**, (2) a **dictator** with enormous powers

A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the **dictator**.

graffiti

n. writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place

synonym : street art, tagging, vandalism

(1) **graffiti** art, (2) **graffiti** tag

The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the **graffiti** on the buildings downtown.

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.

excursion

n. a short trip or outing, often for leisure or educational purposes, sometimes organized by a group or

institution; a deviation or departure from a usual or regular course of action or behavior

synonym : outing, trip, expedition

(1) **excursion** package, (2) weekend **excursion**

We went on an exciting **excursion** to explore the ancient ruins of a lost civilization.

photocopy

n. a duplicate of a document or image made by a process involving the use of light and photosensitive material; a copy made by a photocopier

synonym : duplicate, reproduction

(1) **photocopy** machine, (2) color **photocopy**

I need to make a **photocopy** of this document before I send it out.

exposition

n. a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display

synonym : explanation, description, account

(1) an international **exposition**, (2) rational **exposition**

The **exposition** in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.

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.

riot

n. a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals

synonym : disturbance, unrest, upheaval

(1) **riot** police, (2) **riot** control gas

The **riots** in the city have left many buildings damaged and several people injured.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym: agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

firefighter

n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires

(1) forest **firefighter**, (2) decided to be a **firefighter**

The **firefighter** broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.

loot

v. steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

synonym: plunder, pillage, rob

(1) **loot** the ship, (2) war **loot**

The bandits **looted** the small town, leaving it in ruins.

thug

n. a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang

synonym: gangster, hooligan, criminal

(1) local **thug**, (2) notorious **thug**

The police arrested the **thug** who robbed the convenience store.

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**.

bourgeois

n. a member of the middle class, typically with conservative or conformist attitudes or values; a person who seeks material wealth or social status through conventional means; a person concerned with conventional, materialistic pursuits

synonym: middle-class, capitalist, materialist

(1) **bourgeois** lifestyle, (2) **bourgeois** values

The **bourgeois** neighborhood was known for its upscale shops and trendy cafes.

distort

v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

synonym: fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

kidnapping

n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

synonym: abduction, snatch, kidnap

(1) **kidnapping** attempt, (2) mass **kidnapping**

She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated **kidnapping**.

curator

n. a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.

synonym: conservator, custodian, administrator

(1) **curator** of a library, (2) interim **curator**

The museum **curator** conserved the ancient manuscripts.

favela

n. a Brazilian shantytown or slum, typically located on the outskirts of a major city, characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and lack of basic services such as

sanitation and security

synonym : shantytown, slum, ghetto

(1) **favela** neighborhood, (2) people in the **favelas**

Many **favela** residents struggle to access basic amenities like running water and electricity.

detain

v. to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving

synonym : hold, keep, detainment

(1) **detain** a terrorist, (2) **detain** for investigation

The police **detained** the suspect for questioning.

chop

v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife

synonym : cut, hack, slice

(1) **chop** wood, (2) **chop** a meet with a knife

The cook **chopped** the vegetables for the soup.

cartel

n. a group of businesses or organizations that join together to control the production and distribution of a particular product or service, often to limit competition and increase profits

synonym : syndicate, trust, monopoly

(1) **cartel** agreement, (2) drug **cartel**

The chocolate **cartel** was formed to control the price and supply of cocoa to chocolate manufacturers.

eyewitness

n. someone who sees an event, especially a crime or accident, happen and can describe what happened

synonym : observer, spectator, witness

(1) a memory of an **eyewitness**, (2) **eyewitness** report

The **eyewitness** testimony was crucial in solving the case.

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.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

slum

n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

synonym: shantytown, slumdwelling, ghetto

(1) **slum** area, (2) **slum** dwellers

The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in **slums**.

commando

n. a member of a special military unit or elite force specializing in unconventional warfare or covert operations; a style of clothing or undergarments without a waistband or fabric covering the legs

synonym: ranger, soldier, warrior

(1) special forces **commando**, (2) navy **commando**

The fearless **commando** completed the mission successfully, undetected by the enemy.

minaret

n. a tall, slender tower attached to a mosque, from which the muezzin calls Muslims to prayer

synonym: tower, belfry

(1) **minaret** tower, (2) **minaret** call

The **minaret** of the mosque soared high above the city.

forbidding

adj. giving the impression that something is difficult or unpleasant; intimidating or uninviting

synonym: intimidating, uninviting, daunting

(1) **forbidding** atmosphere, (2) **forbidding** mountain

The teacher's stern expression and strict rules made her classroom feel **forbidding** to the students.

mafia

n. a secret criminal organization that engages in illegal activities such as gambling, extortion, racketeering, prostitution, and drug trafficking, typically maintains a strict code of loyalty, secrecy, and omertà (= silence or non-cooperation with authorities)

synonym: syndicate, gang

(1) organized crime **mafia**, (2) **mafia** activities

The boss of the **mafia** was finally caught after years on the run.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

presume

v. to suppose or assume something to be true, often without sufficient evidence or proof; to take liberties, behave impolitely, or overstep one's bounds, often due to arrogance or ignorance

synonym: assume, suppose, guess

(1) **presume** innocence, (2) **presume** on his tolerance

I **presume** you've already made plans for the weekend since you didn't respond to my invitation.

Session 2: Spelling

1. c__p a meet with a knife
v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
2. s__m dwellers
n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
3. c__p wood
v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
4. de___n a terrorist
v. to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
5. for_____ng mountain
adj. giving the impression that something is difficult or unpleasant; intimidating or uninviting
6. navy co_____do
n. a member of a special military unit or elite force specializing in unconventional warfare or covert operations; a style of clothing or undergarments without a waistband or fabric covering the legs
7. bo_____is values
n. a member of the middle class, typically with conservative or conformist attitudes or values; a person who seeks material wealth or social status through conventional means; a person concerned with conventional, materialistic pursuits

ANSWERS: 1. chop, 2. slum, 3. chop, 4. detain, 5. forbidding, 6. commando, 7. bourgeois

8. di____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
9. organized crime ma__a *n.* a secret criminal organization that engages in illegal activities such as gambling, extortion, racketeering, prostitution, and drug trafficking, typically maintains a strict code of loyalty, secrecy, and omertà (= silence or non-cooperation with authorities)
10. interim cu____r *n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.
11. ph____py machine *n.* a duplicate of a document or image made by a process involving the use of light and photosensitive material; a copy made by a photocopier
12. fa___a neighborhood *n.* a Brazilian shantytown or slum, typically located on the outskirts of a major city, characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and lack of basic services such as sanitation and security
13. cast fri____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
14. mass kid____ng *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
15. rational exp____on *n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
16. ro____p deck *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

ANSWERS: 8. disturb, 9. mafia, 10. curator, 11. photocopy, 12. favela, 13. frightening, 14. kidnapping, 15. exposition, 16. rooftop

17. di____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
18. ro____p live *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
19. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
20. a di____or with enormous powers *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
21. co____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
22. military di____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
23. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
24. di____t the economy *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
25. ma__a activities *n.* a secret criminal organization that engages in illegal activities such as gambling, extortion, racketeering, prostitution, and drug trafficking, typically maintains a strict code of loyalty, secrecy, and omertà (= silence or non-cooperation with authorities)
26. war l__t *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

ANSWERS: 17. disturb, 18. rooftop, 19. bury, 20. dictator, 21. confuse, 22. dictator, 23. aft, 24. distort, 25. mafia, 26. loot

27. r__t police *n.* a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals
28. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
29. a memory of an eye_____ss *n.* someone who sees an event, especially a crime or accident, happen and can describe what happened
30. gr_____ti tag *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
31. an international exp_____on *n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
32. decided to be a fir_____er *n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires
33. 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
34. de___n for investigation *v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving
35. notorious t__g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
36. s__m area *n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

ANSWERS: 27. riot, 28. motto, 29. eyewitness, 30. graffiti, 31. exposition, 32. firefighter, 33. rev, 34. detain, 35. thug, 36. slum

37. drug ca___l *n.* a group of businesses or organizations that join together to control the production and distribution of a particular product or service, often to limit competition and increase profits
38. kid_____ng attempt *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
39. weekend ex_____on *n.* a short trip or outing, often for leisure or educational purposes, sometimes organized by a group or institution; a deviation or departure from a usual or regular course of action or behavior
40. gr_____ti art *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
41. eye_____ss report *n.* someone who sees an event, especially a crime or accident, happen and can describe what happened
42. people in the fa___as *n.* a Brazilian shantytown or slum, typically located on the outskirts of a major city, characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and lack of basic services such as sanitation and security
43. bo_____is lifestyle *n.* a member of the middle class, typically with conservative or conformist attitudes or values; a person who seeks material wealth or social status through conventional means; a person concerned with conventional, materialistic pursuits

ANSWERS: 37. cartel, 38. kidnapping, 39. excursion, 40. graffiti, 41. eyewitness, 42. favela, 43. bourgeois

44. 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
45. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
46. cu_____r of a library *n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.
47. for_____ng atmosphere *adj.* giving the impression that something is difficult or unpleasant; intimidating or uninviting
48. pr_____e on his tolerance *v.* to suppose or assume something to be true, often without sufficient evidence or proof; to take liberties, behave impolitely, or overstep one's bounds, often due to arrogance or ignorance
49. ex_____on package *n.* a short trip or outing, often for leisure or educational purposes, sometimes organized by a group or institution; a deviation or departure from a usual or regular course of action or behavior
50. mi_____t tower *n.* a tall, slender tower attached to a mosque, from which the muezzin calls Muslims to prayer
51. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
52. forest fir_____er *n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires

ANSWERS: 44. rev, 45. confuse, 46. curator, 47. forbidding, 48. presume, 49. excursion, 50. minaret, 51. motto, 52. firefighter

53. pr____e innocence *v.* to suppose or assume something to be true, often without sufficient evidence or proof; to take liberties, behave impolitely, or overstep one's bounds, often due to arrogance or ignorance
54. mi____t call *n.* a tall, slender tower attached to a mosque, from which the muezzin calls Muslims to prayer
55. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
56. r__t control gas *n.* a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals
57. local t__g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
58. di____t the facts *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
59. color ph____py *n.* a duplicate of a document or image made by a process involving the use of light and photosensitive material; a copy made by a photocopier
60. l__t the ship *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
61. ca___l agreement *n.* a group of businesses or organizations that join together to control the production and distribution of a particular product or service, often to limit competition and increase profits

ANSWERS: 53. presume, 54. minaret, 55. bury, 56. riot, 57. thug, 58. distort, 59. photocopy, 60. loot, 61. cartel

62. special forces co_____do

n. a member of a special military unit or elite force specializing in unconventional warfare or covert operations; a style of clothing or undergarments without a waistband or fabric covering the legs

63. fri_____ng experience

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

64. a_t view

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

ANSWERS: 62. commando, 63. frightening, 64. aft

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ neighborhood was known for its upscale shops and trendy cafes.
 - n.* a member of the middle class, typically with conservative or conformist attitudes or values; a person who seeks material wealth or social status through conventional means; a person concerned with conventional, materialistic pursuits

2. The boss of the _____ was finally caught after years on the run.
 - n.* a secret criminal organization that engages in illegal activities such as gambling, extortion, racketeering, prostitution, and drug trafficking, typically maintains a strict code of loyalty, secrecy, and omertà (= silence or non-cooperation with authorities)

3. The bandits _____ the small town, leaving it in ruins.
 - v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

4. Many _____ residents struggle to access basic amenities like running water and electricity.
 - n.* a Brazilian shantytown or slum, typically located on the outskirts of a major city, characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and lack of basic services such as sanitation and security

5. The police _____ the suspect for questioning.
 - v.* to keep someone in official custody; to prevent them from leaving

6. She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated _____.
 - n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

ANSWERS: 1. bourgeois, 2. mafia, 3. looted, 4. favela, 5. detained, 6. kidnapping

7. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
- v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
8. The cook _____ the vegetables for the soup.
- v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
9. I need to make a _____ of this document before I send it out.
- n. a duplicate of a document or image made by a process involving the use of light and photosensitive material; a copy made by a photocopier
10. We went on an exciting _____ to explore the ancient ruins of a lost civilization.
- n. a short trip or outing, often for leisure or educational purposes, sometimes organized by a group or institution; a deviation or departure from a usual or regular course of action or behavior
11. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
- v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
12. I _____ you've already made plans for the weekend since you didn't respond to my invitation.
- v. to suppose or assume something to be true, often without sufficient evidence or proof; to take liberties, behave impolitely, or overstep one's bounds, often due to arrogance or ignorance
13. The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in _____.
- n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

ANSWERS: 7. disturb, 8. chopped, 9. photocopy, 10. excursion, 11. bury, 12. presume, 13. slums

14. The fearless _____ completed the mission successfully, undetected by the enemy.
- n.* a member of a special military unit or elite force specializing in unconventional warfare or covert operations; a style of clothing or undergarments without a waistband or fabric covering the legs
15. A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the _____.
- n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
16. 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
17. The _____ testimony was crucial in solving the case.
- n.* someone who sees an event, especially a crime or accident, happen and can describe what happened
18. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
- n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
19. The _____ in the city have left many buildings damaged and several people injured.
- n.* a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals
20. The _____ broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.
- n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires

ANSWERS: 14. commando, 15. dictator, 16. aft, 17. eyewitness, 18. motto, 19. riots, 20. firefighter

21. The museum _____ conserved the ancient manuscripts.
- n.* a person whose job is to manage the objects or artworks in a museum, art gallery, etc.
22. The _____ in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.
- n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
23. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
24. The _____ of the mosque soared high above the city.
- n.* a tall, slender tower attached to a mosque, from which the muezzin calls Muslims to prayer
25. Economists contend that taxes _____ consumer behavior in general.
- v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
26. 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
27. 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

ANSWERS: 21. curator, 22. exposition, 23. confused, 24. minaret, 25. distort, 26. rev, 27. rooftop

28. The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the _____ on the buildings downtown.
- n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
29. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
- adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
30. The chocolate _____ was formed to control the price and supply of cocoa to chocolate manufacturers.
- n.* a group of businesses or organizations that join together to control the production and distribution of a particular product or service, often to limit competition and increase profits
31. The police arrested the _____ who robbed the convenience store.
- n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
32. The teacher's stern expression and strict rules made her classroom feel _____ to the students.
- adj.* giving the impression that something is difficult or unpleasant; intimidating or uninviting

ANSWERS: 28. graffiti, 29. frightening, 30. cartel, 31. thug, 32. forbidding