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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michael Anti: Behind the Great Firewall of China | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

oversea

adj. situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries

synonym: foreign, abroad, international

(1) **oversea** shipments, (2) for **oversea** use

The company enhanced **oversea** operations to tap into new markets.

wasteland

n. a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value

synonym: desert, barren, wild

(1) post-apocalyptic **wasteland**, (2) nuclear **wasteland**

The abandoned industrial site is now a **wasteland** of decaying buildings and rusted machinery.

cancel

n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

synonym: suppressor, scrutineer, examiner

(1) **cancel** a book, (2) **cancel** a TV program

The newspaper editor decided to **cancel** the controversial headline to avoid backlash.

copycat

n. a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

synonym: imitator, mimic, copyist

(1) **copycat** behavior, (2) **copycat** website

The company accused their competitor of being a **copycat** and stealing its design.

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**.

topple

v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing

synonym: overturn, capsize, upset

(1) **topple** communist rule, (2) **topple** off a ledge

The statue was old and unstable, so it easily **toppled** over.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym: peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

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.

sack

v. to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place;
(noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things

synonym : discharge, remove, (noun) bag

(1) **sack** an employee, (2) a sleep **sack**

He was **sacked** from his job for stealing company property.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

hamlet

n. a small village or settlement, often without a church

synonym : village, settlement, community

(1) **hamlet** village, (2) historic **hamlet**

The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small **hamlet**.

mindset

n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

synonym : attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

voiceless

adj. without a voice or the ability to speak

synonym : mute, silent, speechless

(1) **voiceless** consonant, (2) **voiceless** minority

The **voiceless** screams of the victims could be heard in the distance.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym: ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

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.

peasant

n. a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

synonym: farmer, laborer, rustic

(1) **peasant** class, (2) exploited **peasant**

Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a **peasant**, but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym: joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

meme

n. a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online

synonym : buzzword, trend

(1) pronounce **meme**, (2) religious **meme**

This cute dog's photo spread around the world as an Internet **meme**.

phonogram

n. a symbol or character representing a sound, word, or phrase, particularly in the context of a writing system or musical notation

synonym : phonics, sound symbol

(1) different **phonograms**, (2) ancient **phonogram**

The **phonogram** on the record indicated which song would play when it was spun on the turntable.

harmonize

v. to bring into agreement or concord; to make compatible

synonym : reconcile, balance, match

(1) **harmonize** with others, (2) **harmonize** two different opinions

The musicians attempted to **harmonize** their voices for the chorus.

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.

crackdown

n. a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior

synonym : clampdown, sweep, repression

(1) a citywide **crackdown**, (2) strict **crackdown**

The government announced a **crackdown** on illegal activities in the city.

bribe

v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements

synonym : graft, corrupt

(1) **bribe** a politician, (2) **bribe** him with food

He tries to **bribe** the ship's captain to export illegal products.

principality

n. a territory ruled by a prince or duke

synonym : kingdom, nation, territory

(1) a landlocked **principality**, (2) a type of **principality**

The **principality** of Monaco is a small, independent state in Europe.

rumor

n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym : gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false **rumor**, (2) **rumor** mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

purge

v. to remove or get rid of something, especially that is unwanted or impure

synonym : cleanse, clear, eliminate

(1) **purge** the system, (2) **purge** his sins

The government tried to **purge** corrupt officials from the bureaucracy.

chairperson

n. the officer who presides over organization meetings

synonym : director, head, leader

(1) vice **chairperson**, (2) the meeting elected a **chairperson**

The **chairperson** has the authority to approve or deny any request.

mobilize

v. to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

synonym : activate, rally, marshal

(1) **mobilize** cooperation, (2) **mobilize** a stiff joint
The military **mobilized** troops to the border.

birthright

n. a right or privilege that is considered to be a natural or inherent possession, often as a result of birth or ancestry

synonym: heritage, legacy, inheritance

(1) **birthright** citizenship, (2) claim **birthright**

It was his **birthright** to inherit his father's estate.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. historic ha___t *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
2. a sleep s__k *v.* to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things
3. 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
4. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
5. different ph_____ams *n.* a symbol or character representing a sound, word, or phrase, particularly in the context of a writing system or musical notation
6. pu__e the system *v.* to remove or get rid of something, especially that is unwanted or impure
7. pu__e his sins *v.* to remove or get rid of something, especially that is unwanted or impure
8. co_____t behavior *n.* a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

ANSWERS: 1. hamlet, 2. sack, 3. dissident, 4. pun, 5. phonogram, 6. purge, 7. purge, 8. copycat

9. 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
10. bir_____ht citizenship *n.* a right or privilege that is considered to be a natural or inherent possession, often as a result of birth or ancestry
11. s__k an employee *v.* to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things
12. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
13. br__e him with food *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
14. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
15. a type of pri_____ity *n.* a territory ruled by a prince or duke
16. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
17. mo_____ze cooperation *v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 9. dissident, 10. birthright, 11. sack, 12. tweet, 13. bribe, 14. aft, 15. principality, 16. tweet, 17. mobilize

18. to___e communist rule *v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
19. ce___r a TV program *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
20. ov_____a shipments *adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries
21. ru__r mill *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
22. post-apocalyptic wa_____nd *n.* a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value
23. mo_____ze a stiff joint *v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
24. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
25. co_____t website *n.* a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

ANSWERS: 18. topple, 19. censor, 20. oversea, 21. rumor, 22. wasteland, 23. mobilize, 24. bury, 25. copycat

26. strict cr_____wn *n.* a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior
27. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
28. ha_____ze two different opinions *v.* to bring into agreement or concord; to make compatible
29. pe_____t class *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
30. in___e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
31. the meeting elected a cha_____on *n.* the officer who presides over organization meetings
32. ha_____ze with others *v.* to bring into agreement or concord; to make compatible
33. br___e a politician *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
34. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
35. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 26. crackdown, 27. invade, 28. harmonize, 29. peasant, 30. invade, 31. chairperson, 32. harmonize, 33. bribe, 34. aft, 35. germ

36. notorious t__g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang
37. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
38. pronounce m__e *n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
39. exploited pe____t *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
40. em____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
41. to___e off a ledge *v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
42. ha___t village *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
43. ancient ph____am *n.* a symbol or character representing a sound, word, or phrase, particularly in the context of a writing system or musical notation
44. claim bir____ht *n.* a right or privilege that is considered to be a natural or inherent possession, often as a result of birth or ancestry

ANSWERS: 36. thug, 37. rumor, 38. meme, 39. peasant, 40. emperor, 41. topple, 42. hamlet, 43. phonogram, 44. birthright

45. 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
46. religious m__e *n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online
47. former em____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
48. silly p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
49. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
50. a landlocked pri____ity *n.* a territory ruled by a prince or duke
51. military di____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
52. for ov____a use *adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries
53. vice cha____on *n.* the officer who presides over organization meetings

ANSWERS: 45. dictator, 46. meme, 47. emperor, 48. pun, 49. germ, 50. principality, 51. dictator, 52. oversea, 53. chairperson

54. vo_____ss minority *adj.* without a voice or the ability to speak
55. nuclear wa_____nd *n.* a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value
56. a citywide cr_____wn *n.* a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior
57. flexible mi_____t *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
58. the mi_____t in an education system *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
59. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
60. vo_____ss consonant *adj.* without a voice or the ability to speak
61. ce___r a book *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
62. local t__g *n.* a violent or criminal individual, especially one who is part of a group or gang

ANSWERS: 54. voiceless, 55. wasteland, 56. crackdown, 57. mindset, 58. mindset, 59. bury, 60. voiceless, 61. censor, 62. thug

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ on the record indicated which song would play when it was spun on the turntable.
 - n.* a symbol or character representing a sound, word, or phrase, particularly in the context of a writing system or musical notation

2. There was a baseless _____ that the company was going bankrupt.
 - n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

3. The company accused their competitor of being a _____ and stealing its design.
 - n.* a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

4. This cute dog's photo spread around the world as an Internet _____.
 - n.* a cultural idea, value, or pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to another by imitation rather than genetic means; (as an Internet meme) an image, a video, a piece of text, etc. that is remixed, copied, and circulated in a shared cultural experience online

5. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
 - v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

6. The musicians attempted to _____ their voices for the chorus.
 - v.* to bring into agreement or concord; to make compatible

7. It was his _____ to inherit his father's estate.
 - n.* a right or privilege that is considered to be a natural or inherent possession, often as a result of birth or ancestry

ANSWERS: 1. phonogram, 2. rumor, 3. copycat, 4. meme, 5. bury, 6. harmonize, 7. birthright

8. The newspaper editor decided to _____ the controversial headline to avoid backlash.
- n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
9. The statue was old and unstable, so it easily _____ over.
- v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
10. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.
- n.* the male ruler of an empire
11. The military _____ troops to the border.
- v.* to make something ready for action or use; to organize people or resources for a particular purpose
12. He tries to _____ the ship's captain to export illegal products.
- v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
13. 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
14. He was _____ from his job for stealing company property.
- v.* to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things
15. The government announced a _____ on illegal activities in the city.
- n.* a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior

ANSWERS: 8. censor, 9. toppled, 10. Emperor, 11. mobilized, 12. bribe, 13. dissident, 14. sacked, 15. crackdown

16. The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small _____.
- n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
17. The _____ of Monaco is a small, independent state in Europe.
- n.* a territory ruled by a prince or duke
18. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
- n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
19. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
- n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
20. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.
- n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
21. The company enhanced _____ operations to tap into new markets.
- adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries
22. The _____ has the authority to approve or deny any request.
- n.* the officer who presides over organization meetings
23. 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
24. 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

ANSWERS: 16. hamlet, 17. principality, 18. pun, 19. germ, 20. tweet, 21. oversea, 22. chairperson, 23. thug, 24. aft

25. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial _____ in each individual.
- n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
26. The government tried to _____ corrupt officials from the bureaucracy.
- v.* to remove or get rid of something, especially that is unwanted or impure
27. The _____ screams of the victims could be heard in the distance.
- adj.* without a voice or the ability to speak
28. The abandoned industrial site is now a _____ of decaying buildings and rusted machinery.
- n.* a barren or uncultivated area of land that has been left deserted or uninhabitable, typically due to a natural disaster, pollution, or human destruction; a place or situation that is devoid of life or anything of value
29. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
- v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
30. 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
31. Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a _____ but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.
- n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

ANSWERS: 25. mindset, 26. purge, 27. voiceless, 28. wasteland, 29. invade, 30. dictator, 31. peasant,