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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lemn Sissay: A child of the state | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

locomotive

n. a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks

synonym: train, engine, motor

(1) **locomotive** engine, (2) diesel **locomotive**

The powerful **locomotive** chugged along the tracks, hauling a long line of freight cars.

thatch

n. a material, such as straw or reeds, used to cover the roofs of houses or other buildings

synonym: straw, grass, reed

(1) cover with **thatch**, (2) **thatch** of hair

The **thatch** roof was made from local grasses and was a traditional design.

breastfeeding

n. the act of feeding a baby with milk produced by the mother's breasts

synonym: nursing, lactation, suckling

(1) **breastfeeding** mother, (2) **breastfeeding** support

Getting the hang of **breastfeeding** at first can be challenging, but with patience and practice, it gets easier.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

orphan

n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them

synonym : waif, stray, fatherless child

(1) **orphan** care, (2) asylum for **orphan** children

The little girl was a war **orphan** and lived in a group home.

peach

n. juicy, sweet fruit with fuzzy, pinkish-yellow skin; a person or thing that is particularly pleasing or attractive

synonym : fruit, nectarine, apricot

(1) **peach** cobbler, (2) juicy **peaches**

The **peach** tree in my backyard produced a bountiful harvest this year.

foe

n. an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another

synonym : enemy, adversary, opponent

(1) a political **foe**, (2) bitter **foe**

The superhero's arch- **foe** was an evil mastermind who always got away.

concubine

n. a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife

synonym : paramour, doxy

(1) **concubine** system, (2) his favorite **concubine**

The Sultan's wives and **concubines** lived in the harem together.

spawn

v. to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop

synonym : beget, breed, generate

(1) **spawn** in spring, (2) **spawn** a new concept
The salmon swims upstream to **spawn** in the place they were released.

millionaire

n. a person who has material wealth that is valued at more than a million dollars, pounds, euros, etc.

(1) **millionaire** capitalist, (2) become a **millionaire**
The Internet **millionaire** was captivated by the artist's paintings.

hairstylist

n. a person who cuts and styles hair for a living
synonym: stylist, coiffeur, beauty professional

(1) personal **hairstylist**, (2) get a haircut at a **hairstylist**
The world-famous **hairstylist** transformed her client's dull hair into a shiny and stylish new look.

foreground

n. the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer

(1) **foreground** segmentation, (2) **foreground** galaxy
A happy group of friends occupies the **foreground** of the picture.

nun

n. a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community

synonym: sister, religious, monastic

(1) **nun** habit, (2) meditating **nun**
The cloistered **nun** devoted her life to serving the poor and marginalized.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**
The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

utilitarian

adj. designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious

synonym : functional, practical, pragmatic

(1) **utilitarian** design, (2) **utilitarian** economics

The kitchen is designed with a **utilitarian** approach, focusing on practicality rather than aesthetics.

patronize

v. to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner

synonym : condescend, belittle, patronize

(1) **patronize** a restaurant, (2) **patronize** local businesses

Wealthy benefactors often **patronize** the arts by donating to museums, theaters, and galleries.

forego

v. to precede or go before something in time or order; to give up, relinquish or do without something, usually by choice or obligation

synonym : antecede, precede, relinquish

(1) **forego** dessert, (2) **forego** the privilege

The company decided to **forego** the expensive advertising campaign and instead rely on word of mouth.

jubilee

n. a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year

synonym : anniversary, celebration, commemorative event

(1) **jubilee** procession, (2) golden **jubilee**

The royal family celebrated their **jubilee** with a parade and a special concert.

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.

Norman

adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period

synonym: medieval, antique, archaic

(1) **norman** cathedral, (2) **norman** invasion

The **Norman** architecture in the old city was a sight to behold.

kneel

v. to rest on someone's knee or knees

synonym: genuflect, crouch, bend

(1) **kneel** down and worship, (2) **kneel** in protest

The players are **kneeling** during the national anthem.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

cusp

n. a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved

synonym: point, apex, tip

(1) **cusp** of change, (2) a single **cusp**

The project was on the **cusp** of success and needed a little more funding.

naivete

n. lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment; innocence or simplicity, often perceived as a flaw or weakness in dealing with real-world situations

synonym : innocence, simplicity, naturalness

(1) **naivete** about love, (2) **naivete** honesty

His **naivete** about the dangers of the wilderness nearly got him killed on his first camping trip.

conceive

v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

synonym : imagine, envision, concoct

(1) **conceive** of an idea, (2) **conceive** a child

I can't **conceive** he'd want to harm us.

scripture

n. the sacred writings of a particular religion or belief system, often regarded as authoritative and containing moral or spiritual teachings

synonym : religious text, Bible, holy writ

(1) **scripture** study, (2) biblical **scripture**

Many people find comfort in reading **scripture** during times of hardship.

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.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

turret

n. a small tower or tall structure, often found on the corner of a building, typically used for defensive purposes; a rotating armored structure on a military vehicle or ship for mounting weapons

synonym: tower, fortification, bastion

(1) medieval **turret**, (2) **turret** lathe

The **turret** atop the castle provided a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

beech

n. a type of deciduous tree often used for timber or ornamental purposes

synonym: birch, maple, oak

(1) **beech** forest, (2) **beech** flooring

Beech bark is known for its medicinal properties and can be used to treat a variety of ailments.

incarcerate

v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape

synonym: confine, detain, imprison

(1) **incarcerate** the murderer, (2) **incarcerate** her for life

He was **incarcerated** for the duration of the war.

remand

v. to send someone accused of a crime, or a case, back into custody or back to a lower court, typically until a trial or further proceedings take place

synonym: detain, send back, return

(1) **remand** application, (2) **remand** in custody

The judge agreed to **remand** the juvenile offender to a rehabilitation facility.

dormitory

n. a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles

synonym: dorm, residence hall, hostel

(1) college **dormitory**, (2) shared **dormitory**

The girls' **dormitory** had a strict curfew of 11 p.m.

sympathize

v. to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences

synonym: empathize, understand, commiserate

(1) **sympathize** with a tragic hero, (2) **sympathize** with their situation

I **sympathize** with your struggles and am here to support you through them.

tuck

v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable

synonym: insert, wrap, pinch

(1) **tuck** a baby in the blanket, (2) **tuck** into another cigarette

You should **tuck** your shirt into your trousers.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. pa_____ze local businesses | <i>v.</i> to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner |
| 2. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 3. uti_____an design | <i>adj.</i> designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious |
| 4. bitter f_e | <i>n.</i> an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another |
| 5. a political f_e | <i>n.</i> an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another |
| 6. sp__n in spring | <i>v.</i> to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop |
| 7. t__k a baby in the blanket | <i>v.</i> to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable |
| 8. fo___o the privilege | <i>v.</i> to precede or go before something in time or order; to give up, relinquish or do without something, usually by choice or obligation |
| 9. bre_____ing mother | <i>n.</i> the act of feeding a baby with milk produced by the mother's breasts |

ANSWERS: 1. patronize, 2. opportune, 3. utilitarian, 4. foe, 5. foe, 6. spawn, 7. tuck, 8. forego, 9. breastfeeding

10. biblical sc_____re *n.* the sacred writings of a particular religion or belief system, often regarded as authoritative and containing moral or spiritual teachings
11. former em_____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
12. t__k into another cigarette *v.* to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
13. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
14. th___h of hair *n.* a material, such as straw or reeds, used to cover the roofs of houses or other buildings
15. na_____e honesty *n.* lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment; innocence or simplicity, often perceived as a flaw or weakness in dealing with real-world situations
16. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
17. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
18. golden ju_____e *n.* a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year

ANSWERS: 10. scripture, 11. emperor, 12. tuck, 13. institutionalize, 14. thatch, 15. naivete, 16. determinant, 17. determinant, 18. jubilee

19. fo_____nd segmentation *n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
20. co_____ve a child *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
21. personal hai_____er *n.* a person who cuts and styles hair for a living
22. kn__l in protest *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees
23. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
24. person of gra_____nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
25. re___d in custody *v.* to send someone accused of a crime, or a case, back into custody or back to a lower court, typically until a trial or further proceedings take place
26. diesel loc_____ve *n.* a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks
27. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
28. co_____ne system *n.* a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife
29. inc_____te her for life *v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
30. tu___t lathe *n.* a small tower or tall structure, often found on the corner of a building, typically used for defensive purposes; a rotating armored structure on a military vehicle or ship for mounting weapons

ANSWERS: 19. foreground, 20. conceive, 21. hairdresser, 22. kneel, 23. institutionalize, 24. grandparent, 25. remand, 26. locomotive, 27. industrious, 28. concubine, 29. incarcerate, 30. turret

31. loc_____ve engine *n.* a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks
32. for_____nd galaxy *n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
33. turn out to be all s__m *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
34. medieval tu____t *n.* a small tower or tall structure, often found on the corner of a building, typically used for defensive purposes; a rotating armored structure on a military vehicle or ship for mounting weapons
35. asylum for or____n children *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
36. mil_____re capitalist *n.* a person who has material wealth that is valued at more than a million dollars, pounds, euros, etc.
37. become a mil_____re *n.* a person who has material wealth that is valued at more than a million dollars, pounds, euros, etc.
38. no____n invasion *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period

ANSWERS: 31. locomotive, 32. foreground, 33. sham, 34. turret, 35. orphan, 36. millionaire, 37. millionaire, 38. Norman

39. be__h forest *n.* a type of deciduous tree often used for timber or ornamental purposes
40. inc_____te the murderer *v.* to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
41. a single c__p *n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
42. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
43. cover with th___h *n.* a material, such as straw or reeds, used to cover the roofs of houses or other buildings
44. college do_____ry *n.* a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
45. uti_____an economics *adj.* designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious
46. ju_____e procession *n.* a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year
47. em_____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
48. or___n care *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
49. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
50. sp__n a new concept *v.* to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop
51. sc_____re study *n.* the sacred writings of a particular religion or belief system, often regarded as authoritative and containing moral or spiritual teachings

ANSWERS: 39. beech, 40. incarcerate, 41. cusp, 42. grandparent, 43. thatch, 44. dormitory, 45. utilitarian, 46. jubilee, 47. emperor, 48. orphan, 49. industrious, 50. spawn, 51. scripture

52. bre_____ing support *n.* the act of feeding a baby with milk produced by the mother's breasts
53. kn__l down and worship *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees
54. re___d application *v.* to send someone accused of a crime, or a case, back into custody or back to a lower court, typically until a trial or further proceedings take place
55. na_____e about love *n.* lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment; innocence or simplicity, often perceived as a flaw or weakness in dealing with real-world situations
56. be__h flooring *n.* a type of deciduous tree often used for timber or ornamental purposes
57. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
58. fo___o dessert *v.* to precede or go before something in time or order; to give up, relinquish or do without something, usually by choice or obligation
59. meditating n_n *n.* a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
60. sym_____ze with a tragic hero *v.* to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences
61. pe__h cobbler *n.* juicy, sweet fruit with fuzzy, pinkish-yellow skin; a person or thing that is particularly pleasing or attractive

ANSWERS: 52. breastfeeding, 53. kneel, 54. remand, 55. naivete, 56. beech, 57. opportune, 58. forego, 59. nun, 60. sympathize, 61. peach

62. sym_____ze with their situation *v.* to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences
63. a s__m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
64. no___n cathedral *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period
65. c__p of change *n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
66. shared do_____ry *n.* a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
67. co_____ve of an idea *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
68. n_n habit *n.* a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
69. juicy pe__hes *n.* juicy, sweet fruit with fuzzy, pinkish-yellow skin; a person or thing that is particularly pleasing or attractive

ANSWERS: 62. sympathize, 63. sham, 64. Norman, 65. cusp, 66. dormitory, 67. conceive, 68. nun, 69. peach

70. pa_____ze a restaurant

v. to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner

71. get a haircut at a hai_____er

n. a person who cuts and styles hair for a living

72. his favorite co_____ne

n. a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife

ANSWERS: 70. patronize, 71. hairdresser, 72. concubine

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ tree in my backyard produced a bountiful harvest this year.
n. juicy, sweet fruit with fuzzy, pinkish-yellow skin; a person or thing that is particularly pleasing or attractive
2. The world-famous _____ transformed her client's dull hair into a shiny and stylish new look.
n. a person who cuts and styles hair for a living
3. The Internet _____ was captivated by the artist's paintings.
n. a person who has material wealth that is valued at more than a million dollars, pounds, euros, etc.
4. Getting the hang of _____ at first can be challenging, but with patience and practice, it gets easier.
n. the act of feeding a baby with milk produced by the mother's breasts
5. I can't _____ he'd want to harm us.
v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
6. The Sultan's wives and _____ lived in the harem together.
n. a woman who, in some societies, lives and has a sexual relationship with a man but cannot officially be his wife
7. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.
n. the male ruler of an empire
8. The judge agreed to _____ the juvenile offender to a rehabilitation facility.
v. to send someone accused of a crime, or a case, back into custody or back to a lower court, typically until a trial or further proceedings take place

ANSWERS: 1. peach, 2. hairdresser, 3. millionaire, 4. breastfeeding, 5. conceive, 6. concubines, 7. Emperor, 8. remand

9. His _____ about the dangers of the wilderness nearly got him killed on his first camping trip.
- n.* lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment; innocence or simplicity, often perceived as a flaw or weakness in dealing with real-world situations
10. _____ bark is known for its medicinal properties and can be used to treat a variety of ailments.
- n.* a type of deciduous tree often used for timber or ornamental purposes
11. The little girl was a war _____ and lived in a group home.
- n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
12. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
- n.* a parent of one's father or mother
13. I _____ with your struggles and am here to support you through them.
- v.* to express or feel compassion or understanding for someone else's pain, difficulty, or misfortune; to share in someone else's emotions or experiences
14. The royal family celebrated their _____ with a parade and a special concert.
- n.* a special anniversary or celebration, especially one marking a 25th, 50th, or 60th year
15. The kitchen is designed with a _____ approach, focusing on practicality rather than aesthetics.
- adj.* designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious
16. The salmon swims upstream to _____ in the place they were released.
- v.* to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop

ANSWERS: 9. naivete, 10. Beech, 11. orphan, 12. grandparents, 13. sympathize, 14. jubilee, 15. utilitarian, 16. spawn

17. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
18. Many people find comfort in reading _____ during times of hardship.
n. the sacred writings of a particular religion or belief system, often regarded as authoritative and containing moral or spiritual teachings
19. The players are _____ during the national anthem.
v. to rest on someone's knee or knees
20. The _____ atop the castle provided a panoramic view of the surrounding area.
n. a small tower or tall structure, often found on the corner of a building, typically used for defensive purposes; a rotating armored structure on a military vehicle or ship for mounting weapons
21. Wealthy benefactors often _____ the arts by donating to museums, theaters, and galleries.
v. to behave in a condescending or superior manner towards someone; to frequent or support a particular business, often in a loyal or regular manner
22. The superhero's arch-____ was an evil mastermind who always got away.
n. an enemy or opponent; someone or something that is opposed to or in conflict with another
23. You should _____ your shirt into your trousers.
v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
24. The data he prepared was completely _____.
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

ANSWERS: 17. industrious, 18. scripture, 19. kneeling, 20. turret, 21. patronize, 22. foe, 23. tuck, 24. sham

25. The cloistered ____ devoted her life to serving the poor and marginalized.
n. a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
26. The girls' _____ had a strict curfew of 11 p.m.
n. a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
27. The _____ architecture in the old city was a sight to behold.
adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period
28. He was _____ for the duration of the war.
v. to put or keep somebody in prison or in a place from which they cannot escape
29. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
30. A happy group of friends occupies the _____ of the picture.
n. the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
31. The _____ roof was made from local grasses and was a traditional design.
n. a material, such as straw or reeds, used to cover the roofs of houses or other buildings
32. The powerful _____ chugged along the tracks, hauling a long line of freight cars.
n. a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains or railway cars; an engine that produces the necessary power for the train to move on the tracks

ANSWERS: 25. nun, 26. dormitory, 27. Norman, 28. incarcerated, 29. opportune, 30. foreground, 31. thatch, 32. locomotive

33. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
34. The company decided to _____ the expensive advertising campaign and instead rely on word of mouth.
- v.* to precede or go before something in time or order; to give up, relinquish or do without something, usually by choice or obligation
35. The project was on the _____ of success and needed a little more funding.
- n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
36. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 33. institutionalize, 34. forego, 35. cusp, 36. determinant