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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Srdja Popovic: How to topple a dictator | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

anecdote

n. a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

synonym : story, account, tale

(1) personal **anecdote**, (2) funny **anecdote**

She entertained the guests with **anecdotes** about her travels and experiences.

prosecute

v. to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement

synonym : charge, sue, bring to trial

(1) **prosecute** criminal, (2) **prosecute** case

The attorney decided to **prosecute** the suspect for stealing from the store.

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym : group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer

The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

nonviolence

n. the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social

change

synonym : pacifism, nonresistance, peacekeeping

(1) **nonviolence** movement, (2) **nonviolence** protest

Martin Luther King Jr. was a champion of **nonviolence** in the fight for civil rights.

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**.

theocracy

n. a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance

synonym : ecclesiocracy, priest-dominated state

(1) Christian **theocracy**, (2) modern **theocracy**

The **theocracy** debate has taken center stage in many academic circles due to the rise of religious movements worldwide.

amaze

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym : astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

steppe

n. a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America

synonym : prairie, savannah, grassland

(1) **steppe** climate, (2) barren **steppe**

The nomadic tribes set up camp on the vast **steppe**.

awaken

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
synonym : rouse, arouse, revive

(1) **awaken** at daybreak, (2) **awaken** a child

The friend's death **awakens** them.

profess

v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm

synonym : declare, claim, confess

(1) **profess** innocence, (2) **profess** law

He **professes** his love for her every day, showering her with gifts and affection.

oppressive

adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way

synonym : stifling, overwhelming, depressing

(1) the atmosphere was **oppressive**, (2) **oppressive** governments

The political situation has become increasingly **oppressive**.

fraternity

n. a group of people, especially men, who are associated with each other through a common interest or occupation

synonym : brotherhood, association, society

(1) the medical **fraternity**, (2) **fraternity** party

My college students join a **fraternity** to make connections and build a sense of community.

provocateur

n. a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy

synonym : inciter, agitator, instigator

(1) political **provocateur**, (2) social media **provocateur**

The movie director is considered a **provocateur** for his controversial films that often address taboo subjects.

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.

disperse

v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

synonym: dissipate, spread, scatter

(1) **disperse** false information, (2) **disperse** the protesters

Before authorities **dispersed** the protesters, they yelled slogans.

oppress

v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people

synonym: antagonize, distress, burden

(1) **oppress** the minority, (2) **oppress** the people with force

Historically, many countries have often **oppressed** certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.

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.

overtake

v. to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else

synonym: surpass, outstrip, catch up with

(1) **overtake** a rival, (2) **overtake** a milestone

The race car driver knew he had to **overtake** the other drivers to win the race.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym : Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

apathy

n. lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm

synonym : affectlessness, dispassion, indifference

(1) **apathy** in the election, (2) political **apathy**

The global economic crisis has led to pervasive **apathy** and powerlessness.

quo

n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

synonym : status, condition, state

(1) status **quo** politician, (2) **quo** warranto

The company has been successful in maintaining the status **quo**.

skit

n. a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance

synonym : sketch, parody, routine

(1) comedy **skit**, (2) political **skit**

The comedy group performed a hilarious **skit** about life in quarantine.

espresso

n. a strong, concentrated, and finely ground coffee beverage, typically served in a small cup or demitasse originating in Italy, which is characterized by its rich, dark flavor and thick, foamy crema on top

synonym : coffee, java, cappuccino

(1) double **espresso**, (2) **espresso** machine

I ordered an **espresso** shot to add to my latte.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym : rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

majesty

n. regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness

synonym: grandeur, royalty, eminence

(1) morning **majesty**, (2) **majesty** of nature

The king's **majesty** was apparent in his elegant attire and powerful presence.

anonymity

n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information

synonym: obscurity, secrecy, namelessness

(1) comment with **anonymity**, (2) protect **anonymity**

The use of pseudonyms allows individuals to maintain their **anonymity** online.

mutilate

v. to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably

synonym: maim, disfigure, deform

(1) **mutilate** a document, (2) **mutilate** a body

It is cruel for anyone to **mutilate** an animal for any reason.

extremist

n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views

synonym: radical, fanatic, zealot

(1) **extremist** political views, (2) radical **extremist**

The **extremist** group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. comment with an _____ty | <i>n.</i> the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information |
| 2. op_____s the people with force | <i>v.</i> to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people |
| 3. funny an_____te | <i>n.</i> a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person |
| 4. comedy s__t | <i>n.</i> a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance |
| 5. di_____se false information | <i>v.</i> to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so |
| 6. es_____so machine | <i>n.</i> a strong, concentrated, and finely ground coffee beverage, typically served in a small cup or demitasse originating in Italy, which is characterized by its rich, dark flavor and thick, foamy crema on top |
| 7. morning ma_____y | <i>n.</i> regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness |
| 8. a di_____or with enormous powers | <i>n.</i> a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force |

ANSWERS: 1. anonymity, 2. oppress, 3. anecdote, 4. skit, 5. disperse, 6. espresso, 7. majesty, 8. dictator

9. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
10. modern th_____cy *n.* a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance
11. military di_____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
12. opp_____ve governments *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
13. q_o warranto *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
14. di_____se the protesters *v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
15. double es_____so *n.* a strong, concentrated, and finely ground coffee beverage, typically served in a small cup or demitasse originating in Italy, which is characterized by its rich, dark flavor and thick, foamy crema on top
16. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
17. barren st____e *n.* a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America

ANSWERS: 9. smashing, 10. theocracy, 11. dictator, 12. oppressive, 13. quo, 14. disperse, 15. espresso, 16. creditor, 17. steppe

18. st___e climate *n.* a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America
19. a tr__p of deer *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
20. personal an_____te *n.* a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
21. radical ex_____st *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
22. social media pro_____ur *n.* a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy
23. the medical fra_____ty *n.* a group of people, especially men, who are associated with each other through a common interest or occupation
24. op_____s the minority *v.* to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
25. the members of a military tr__p *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

ANSWERS: 18. steppe, 19. troop, 20. anecdote, 21. extremist, 22. provocateur, 23. fraternity, 24. oppress, 25. troop

26. pr____s law
v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
27. ov____ke a milestone
v. to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
28. protect an____ty
n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
29. pr____s innocence
v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
30. fra____ty party
n. a group of people, especially men, who are associated with each other through a common interest or occupation
31. ex___e rebellion
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
32. aw___n a child
v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
33. teaching of Ch___t
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
34. ex___e the crowd
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 26. profess, 27. overtake, 28. anonymity, 29. profess, 30. fraternity, 31. excite, 32. awaken, 33. Christ, 34. excite

35. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
36. am__e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
37. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
38. mu_____te a body *v.* to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably
39. the atmosphere was opp_____ve *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
40. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
41. ex_____st political views *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
42. ov_____ke a rival *v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
43. mu_____te a document *v.* to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably

ANSWERS: 35. doe, 36. amaze, 37. frightening, 38. mutilate, 39. oppressive, 40. creditor, 41. extremist, 42. overtake, 43. mutilate

44. gr____ti art *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
45. give sm____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
46. political ap____y *n.* lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm
47. non____ce movement *n.* the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change
48. ap____y in the election *n.* lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm
49. pr____te case *v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
50. am__e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
51. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
52. Christian th____cy *n.* a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance
53. political pro____ur *n.* a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy

ANSWERS: 44. graffiti, 45. smashing, 46. apathy, 47. nonviolence, 48. apathy, 49. prosecute, 50. amaze, 51. doe, 52. theocracy, 53. provocateur

54. before Ch__t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
55. aw__n at daybreak *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
56. political s__t *n.* a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
57. ma____y of nature *n.* regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness
58. pr_____te criminal *v.* to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
59. fri_____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
60. status q_o politician *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
61. gr____ti tag *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
62. non_____ce protest *n.* the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change

ANSWERS: 54. Christ, 55. awaken, 56. skit, 57. majesty, 58. prosecute, 59. frightening, 60. quo, 61. graffiti, 62. nonviolence

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The attorney decided to _____ the suspect for stealing from the store.
v. to bring legal action against someone in a court of law; to pursue or carry out something to completion or achievement
2. She entertained the guests with _____ about her travels and experiences.
n. a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
3. The _____ debate has taken center stage in many academic circles due to the rise of religious movements worldwide.
n. a form of government in which religious leaders or institutions hold the ultimate authority and religious laws are the basis of governance
4. The political situation has become increasingly _____.
adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
5. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
6. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.
n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
7. I ordered an _____ shot to add to my latte.
n. a strong, concentrated, and finely ground coffee beverage, typically served in a small cup or demitasse originating in Italy, which is characterized by its rich, dark flavor and thick, foamy crema on top

ANSWERS: 1. prosecute, 2. anecdotes, 3. theocracy, 4. oppressive, 5. smashing, 6. troop, 7. espresso

8. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
9. The race car driver knew he had to _____ the other drivers to win the race.
v. to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
10. The _____ group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.
n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
11. The use of pseudonyms allows individuals to maintain their _____ online.
n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
12. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
13. The global economic crisis has led to pervasive _____ and powerlessness.
n. lack of emotion, concern, or enthusiasm
14. The comedy group performed a hilarious _____ about life in quarantine.
n. a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
15. The movie director is considered a _____ for his controversial films that often address taboo subjects.
n. a person who deliberately behaves in a way to provoke or challenge others, often to incite strong reactions or controversy

ANSWERS: 8. excited, 9. overtake, 10. extremist, 11. anonymity, 12. creditor, 13. apathy, 14. skit, 15. provocateur

16. It is cruel for anyone to _____ an animal for any reason.
v. to cause severe damage, disfigurement, or injury, usually to a person or an animal; to destroy, alter, or damage something severely or irreparably
17. The king's _____ was apparent in his elegant attire and powerful presence.
n. regal or royal dignity; grandeur or greatness
18. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
19. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
20. My college students join a _____ to make connections and build a sense of community.
n. a group of people, especially men, who are associated with each other through a common interest or occupation
21. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.
v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
22. Historically, many countries have often _____ certain religions to gain the support of the majority of the population.
v. to treat people in a cruel and authoritarian way, especially by denying them the same freedoms, rights, etc. as other people
23. The company has been successful in maintaining the status _____.
n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

ANSWERS: 16. mutilate, 17. majesty, 18. frightening, 19. doe, 20. fraternity, 21. amazed, 22. oppressed, 23. quo

24. The friend's death _____ them.
- v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
25. 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
26. He _____ his love for her every day, showering her with gifts and affection.
- v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
27. Martin Luther King Jr. was a champion of _____ in the fight for civil rights.
- n. the use of peaceful means, such as civil disobedience or passive resistance, rather than violence to achieve a goal, especially in the context of political or social change
28. The nomadic tribes set up camp on the vast _____.
- n. a vast, wide, and usually treeless plain, typically found in semi-arid or arid regions, characterized by fertile soil and grassy vegetation, often used for grazing livestock; an expansive and open grassland ecosystem found in Eurasia and North America
29. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
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

ANSWERS: 24. awakens, 25. graffiti, 26. professes, 27. nonviolence, 28. steppe, 29. Christmas, 30. dictator

31. Before authorities _____ the protesters, they yelled slogans.

v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

ANSWERS: 31. dispersed