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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Yang Lan: The generation that's remaking China | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

singe

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

synonym: sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

interrogate

v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

synonym: question, examine, probe

(1) **interrogate** an enemy soldier, (2) **interrogated** by police

The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately **interrogate** the witness.

yang

n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

synonym: masculine, positive, active

(1) the **yang** principle, (2) embody **yang** energy

He saw the balance between the yin and **yang** as crucial for a harmonious life.

summon

v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
synonym: call for, muster, assemble

(1) **summon** a lawyer, (2) **summon** a city council

The chairperson was responsible for **summoning** committees.

poise

n. a calm, confident, and graceful manner with control of your feelings or behavior

synonym: confidence, grace, calmness

(1) aesthetic **poise**, (2) with easy **poise**

He took a deep breath and recovered a little of his **poise**.

audition

n. a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position

synonym: tryout, test

(1) music **audition**, (2) dance **audition**

I have an **audition** for a role in a play tomorrow.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

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.

thoughtless

adj. lacking consideration for others; inconsiderate; not reflecting on one's actions or words; showing a lack of thought or intelligence

synonym: unthinking, careless, insensitive

(1) **thoughtless** comment, (2) **thoughtless** mistake

The **thoughtless** actions of the students caused damage to

the school property.

olympiad

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

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

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

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.

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**.

arouse

v. to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response

synonym: excite, stimulate, stir

(1) **arouse** desire, (2) **arouse** suspicion

The rousing speech by the politician **aroused** the audience to action.

turmoil

n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions

synonym: chaos, confusion, disorder

(1) political **turmoil**, (2) the **turmoil** of the war
The company experienced financial **turmoil** after the CEO was arrested.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

mistrust

v. to have doubts or suspicions about the honesty or sincerity of someone

synonym: doubt, suspect, question

(1) **mistrust** a young man, (2) **mistrust** the government

He **mistrusted** her apology because of her past lies.

illiterate

adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

synonym: unlettered, uneducated, unschooled

(1) **illiterate** population, (2) computer- **illiterate**

Despite attending school, he remained **illiterate** and unable to read or write.

supple

adj. flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas

synonym: flexible, pliable, bendable

(1) **supple** muscles, (2) **supple** leather

The ballerina's **supple** movements left the audience mesmerized.

skyrocket

v. to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;

synonym: rocket, soar, shoot up

(1) **skyrocket** the cost, (2) price **skyrocketed**

Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have **skyrocketed** dramatically.

migrant

n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

synonym: immigrant, itinerant, transient

(1) **migrant** worker, (2) the movement of **migrant** birds

The government revoked his license to employ **migrant** labor crews.

appalling

adj. causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant

synonym: shocking, horrifying, alarming

(1) **appalling** crimes, (2) **appalling** behavior

The condition of that old house was **appalling**.

contagious

adj. able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

synonym: infectious, transmissible, communicable

(1) **contagious** enthusiasm, (2) **contagious** virus

The disease is highly **contagious** and spreads quickly.

outcry

n. a strong expression of public protest, anger, or dissent

synonym: protest, objection, dissent

(1) a great **outcry**, (2) national **outcry**

The **outcry** against the new policy was heard loud and clear by the government.

passee

adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym: outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passee** entertainment, (2) **passee** trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passee** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

bitterness

n. a strong and persistent feeling of resentment, hostility, or anger; a state of being bitter or having a sour taste; the quality or taste of something sharp or unpleasant

synonym: resentment, acrimony, hostility

(1) lingering **bitterness**, (2) underlying **bitterness**

The **bitterness** they felt towards each other prevented any chance of reconciliation.

resentment

n. bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly

synonym: bitterness, enmity, animosity

(1) abiding **resentment**, (2) bitter **resentment**

She felt **resentment** towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.

accusation

n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone

synonym: charge, indictment, imputation

(1) criminal **accusation**, (2) false **accusation**

The **accusation** of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.

backdoor

adj. a term used to describe an unauthorized or concealed means of accessing a computer system or network, typically through a loophole or vulnerability in the system

synonym: hidden, secret, covert

(1) **backdoor** access, (2) **backdoor** software

The public was outraged to discover that the company had made a **backdoor** deal with the government to avoid taxes.

unrest

n. a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace

synonym: disturbance, agitation, turmoil

(1) **unrest** in the city, (2) cause **unrest**

The recent political **unrest** in the country has led to widespread protests and civil disobedience.

urbanization

n. the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture

synonym : urban development, urban growth, urban expansion
(1) **urbanization** process, (2) non- **urbanization** area
Rapid **urbanization** has led to many environmental and social issues in cities.

requisition

n. an official demand or request, typically made by an authority or governing body, for something to be provided or supplied; the act of requisitioning or taking possession of something

synonym : order, demand, claim

(1) **requisition** approval, (2) legal **requisition**

The military commander issued a **requisition** for additional supplies and reinforcements.

polluted

adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances

synonym : contaminated, poisoned, unclean

(1) **polluted** air, (2) cadmium- **polluted** area

The river was **polluted** with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.

sloppy

adj. characterized by a lack of order or neatness; careless, disorganized, or careless in appearance or performance

synonym : messy, untidy, disheveled

(1) **sloppy** writing, (2) **sloppy** appearance

She looked **sloppy** in her wrinkled shirt and mismatched socks.

policymaker

n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.

synonym : lawmaker, legislator

(1) education **policymaker**, (2) regional **policymaker**

Policymakers struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.

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**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. an international exp_____on | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 2. cadmium-po_____ed area | <i>adj.</i> contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances |
| 3. ba_____or software | <i>adj.</i> a term used to describe an unauthorized or concealed means of accessing a computer system or network, typically through a loophole or vulnerability in the system |
| 4. music au_____on | <i>n.</i> a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position |
| 5. of____d a customer | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed |
| 6. tho_____ss mistake | <i>adj.</i> lacking consideration for others; inconsiderate; not reflecting on one's actions or words; showing a lack of thought or intelligence |
| 7. co____r degree | <i>v.</i> to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something |
| 8. sk_____et the cost | <i>v.</i> to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly; |
| 9. national ou_____y | <i>n.</i> a strong expression of public protest, anger, or dissent |

ANSWERS: 1. exposition, 2. polluted, 3. backdoor, 4. audition, 5. offend, 6. thoughtless, 7. confer, 8. skyrocket, 9. outcry

10. sl___y appearance *adj.* characterized by a lack of order or neatness; careless, disorganized, or careless in appearance or performance
11. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
12. urb_____ion process *n.* the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture
13. si__e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
14. po_____ed air *adj.* contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
15. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
16. the tu_____l of the war *n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions
17. underlying bit_____ss *n.* a strong and persistent feeling of resentment, hostility, or anger; a state of being bitter or having a sour taste; the quality or taste of something sharp or unpleasant
18. of___d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
19. mi_____st a young man *v.* to have doubts or suspicions about the honesty or sincerity of someone

ANSWERS: 10. sloppy, 11. confer, 12. urbanization, 13. singe, 14. polluted, 15. passe, 16. turmoil, 17. bitterness, 18. offend, 19. mistrust

20. a great ou___y *n.* a strong expression of public protest, anger, or dissent
21. su___n a lawyer *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
22. si___e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
23. with easy po___e *n.* a calm, confident, and graceful manner with control of your feelings or behavior
24. tho_____ss comment *adj.* lacking consideration for others; inconsiderate; not reflecting on one's actions or words; showing a lack of thought or intelligence
25. mi_____st the government *v.* to have doubts or suspicions about the honesty or sincerity of someone
26. embody y___g energy *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
27. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
28. ap_____ng crimes *adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
29. the modern ol_____ad *n.* a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years

ANSWERS: 20. outcry, 21. summon, 22. singe, 23. poise, 24. thoughtless, 25. mistrust, 26. yang, 27. aft, 28. appalling, 29. olympiad

30. ap_____ng behavior *adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
31. aesthetic po__e *n.* a calm, confident, and graceful manner with control of your feelings or behavior
32. ba_____or access *adj.* a term used to describe an unauthorized or concealed means of accessing a computer system or network, typically through a loophole or vulnerability in the system
33. mi_____t worker *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
34. political tu_____l *n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions
35. 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
36. the y__g principle *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
37. ar___e desire *v.* to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response

ANSWERS: 30. appalling, 31. poise, 32. backdoor, 33. migrant, 34. turmoil, 35. steppe, 36. yang, 37. arouse

38. legal req_____on *n.* an official demand or request, typically made by an authority or governing body, for something to be provided or supplied; the act of requisitioning or taking possession of something
39. 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
40. kid_____ng attempt *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
41. su___n a city council *v.* to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
42. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
43. sl___y writing *adj.* characterized by a lack of order or neatness; careless, disorganized, or careless in appearance or performance
44. regional pol_____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
45. education pol_____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
46. req_____on approval *n.* an official demand or request, typically made by an authority or governing body, for something to be provided or supplied; the act of requisitioning or taking possession of something

ANSWERS: 38. requisition, 39. steppe, 40. kidnapping, 41. summon, 42. illiterate, 43. sloppy, 44. policymaker, 45. policymaker, 46. requisition

47. cause un___t *n.* a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace
48. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
49. price sk_____eted *v.* to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;
50. int_____te an enemy soldier *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
51. mass kid_____ng *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
52. summer ol_____ad *n.* a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
53. non-urb_____ion area *n.* the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture
54. 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
55. con_____us enthusiasm *adj.* able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

ANSWERS: 47. unrest, 48. aft, 49. skyrocket, 50. interrogate, 51. kidnapping, 52. olympiad, 53. urbanization, 54. exposition, 55. contagious

56. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
57. criminal acc_____on *n.* a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
58. bitter res_____nt *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
59. lingering bit_____ss *n.* a strong and persistent feeling of resentment, hostility, or anger; a state of being bitter or having a sour taste; the quality or taste of something sharp or unpleasant
60. int_____ted by police *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
61. un___t in the city *n.* a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace
62. dance au_____on *n.* a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position
63. ar___e suspicion *v.* to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response
64. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

ANSWERS: 56. passe, 57. accusation, 58. resentment, 59. bitterness, 60. interrogate, 61. unrest, 62. audition, 63. arouse, 64. illiterate

65. the movement of mi_____t birds *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
66. con_____us virus *adj.* able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease
67. su___e leather *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
68. su___e muscles *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
69. false acc_____on *n.* a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
70. abiding res_____nt *n.* bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly

ANSWERS: 65. migrant, 66. contagious, 67. supple, 68. supple, 69. accusation, 70. resentment

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She looked _____ in her wrinkled shirt and mismatched socks.
adj. characterized by a lack of order or neatness; careless, disorganized, or careless in appearance or performance
2. She felt _____ towards her boss for not giving her a promotion.
n. bitterness or indignation at being treated unfairly
3. She won a gold medal in the physics _____ and was praised by her teachers and peers.
n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
4. The condition of that old house was _____.
adj. causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
5. The chairperson was responsible for _____ committees.
v. to order someone to come to or be present at a specific place such as a court, or to arrange a meeting formally
6. The public was outraged to discover that the company had made a _____ deal with the government to avoid taxes.
adj. a term used to describe an unauthorized or concealed means of accessing a computer system or network, typically through a loophole or vulnerability in the system
7. I have an _____ for a role in a play tomorrow.
n. a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position

ANSWERS: 1. sloppy, 2. resentment, 3. olympiad, 4. appalling, 5. summoning, 6. backdoor, 7. audition

8. 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
9. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
- v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
10. The rousing speech by the politician _____ the audience to action.
- v.* to awaken strong feelings or emotions in someone; to excite or inspire a physical or emotional response
11. 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
12. He took a deep breath and recovered a little of his _____.
- n.* a calm, confident, and graceful manner with control of your feelings or behavior
13. The government revoked his license to employ _____ labor crews.
- n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
14. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and _____ my dress.
- v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
15. He saw the balance between the yin and _____ as crucial for a harmonious life.
- n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

ANSWERS: 8. exposition, 9. offended, 10. aroused, 11. steppe, 12. poise, 13. migrant, 14. singed, 15. yang

16. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered _____ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.
adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
17. Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have _____ dramatically.
v. to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly;
18. _____ struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.
n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
19. The _____ of theft was unfounded, and the suspect was eventually cleared of all charges.
n. a statement or claim alleging that someone has committed a crime, offense, or wrongdoing; a charge or indictment made against someone
20. Rapid _____ has led to many environmental and social issues in cities.
n. the process of population growth and physical expansion of cities, often involving increased migration from rural areas and the development of urban infrastructure and culture
21. 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
22. The disease is highly _____ and spreads quickly.
adj. able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

ANSWERS: 16. passe, 17. skyrocketed, 18. Policymakers, 19. accusation, 20. urbanization, 21. aft, 22. contagious

23. The recent political _____ in the country has led to widespread protests and civil disobedience.
n. a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace
24. He _____ her apology because of her past lies.
v. to have doubts or suspicions about the honesty or sincerity of someone
25. The _____ they felt towards each other prevented any chance of reconciliation.
n. a strong and persistent feeling of resentment, hostility, or anger; a state of being bitter or having a sour taste; the quality or taste of something sharp or unpleasant
26. She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated _____.
n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
27. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
28. The ballerina's _____ movements left the audience mesmerized.
adj. flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
29. The _____ actions of the students caused damage to the school property.
adj. lacking consideration for others; inconsiderate; not reflecting on one's actions or words; showing a lack of thought or intelligence
30. The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately _____ the witness.
v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

ANSWERS: 23. unrest, 24. mistrusted, 25. bitterness, 26. kidnapping, 27. confer, 28. supple, 29. thoughtless, 30. interrogate

31. The company experienced financial _____ after the CEO was arrested.
n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions
32. The military commander issued a _____ for additional supplies and reinforcements.
n. an official demand or request, typically made by an authority or governing body, for something to be provided or supplied; the act of requisitioning or taking possession of something
33. The _____ against the new policy was heard loud and clear by the government.
n. a strong expression of public protest, anger, or dissent
34. The river was _____ with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.
adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
35. Despite attending school, he remained _____ and unable to read or write.
adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

ANSWERS: 31. turmoil, 32. requisition, 33. outcry, 34. polluted, 35. illiterate