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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nadia Al-Sakkaf: See Yemen through my eyes | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym: amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

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.

jean

n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

synonym: denim, cotton, pants

(1) a **jean** skirt, (2) **jean** denim

She wore her favorite pair of **jeans** to the party.

gruesome

adj. causing horror or disgust

synonym: appalling, horrific, terrible

(1) hear **gruesome** details, (2) **gruesome** accident

The **gruesome** crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.

defy

v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

synonym : challenge, resist, disobey

(1) **defy** gravity, (2) **defy** authority

She tried to **defy** her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.

veil

n. a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure

synonym : cover, mask, (verb) conceal

(1) **veil** of mystery, (2) **veil** her face

He lifted her **veil** with both hands.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

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 no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym : outdated, old-fashioned, antique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.

boast

v. to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

synonym : show off, brag, bluster

(1) **boast** of his success, (2) **boast** a long history

This town **boasts** a national park.

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.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

assassin

n. a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money

synonym: killer, manslayer

(1) fall victim to an **assassin**, (2) would-be **assassin**

She hired an **assassin** to kill her opponent.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to

vacate the property.

parachute

n. a device used to slow the motion of people or objects through an atmosphere consisting of a large piece of thin cloth that is attached to them and opens out in the air

(1) **parachute** troops, (2) golden **parachute**

This training includes emergency escape drills with **parachutes**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. bo__t a long history
v. to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction
2. em____r my life
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
3. hear gr____me details
adj. causing horror or disgust
4. j__n denim
n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
5. avoid ste____pe
n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
6. d__y authority
v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
7. un____r the truth
v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
8. pa__e entertainment
adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
9. op____ne occasion
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. boast, 2. empower, 3. gruesome, 4. jean, 5. stereotype, 6. defy, 7. uncover, 8. passe, 9. opportune

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 10. would-be as_____in | <i>n.</i> a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money |
| 11. a w__t of summons | <i>n.</i> a written legal order or command |
| 12. negative ste_____pes | <i>n.</i> a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |
| 13. v__l of mystery | <i>n.</i> a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure |
| 14. person of gra_____nt age | <i>n.</i> a parent of one's father or mother |
| 15. in_____fy diplomatic efforts | <i>v.</i> to increase or make something increase in extent or strength |
| 16. gr_____me accident | <i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust |
| 17. in_____fy a good relationship | <i>v.</i> to increase or make something increase in extent or strength |
| 18. issue a w__t | <i>n.</i> a written legal order or command |
| 19. v__l her face | <i>n.</i> a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure |
| 20. bo__t of his success | <i>v.</i> to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction |
| 21. un_____r a potential problem | <i>v.</i> to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden |

ANSWERS: 10. assassin, 11. writ, 12. stereotype, 13. veil, 14. grandparent, 15. intensify, 16. gruesome, 17. intensify, 18. writ, 19. veil, 20. boast, 21. uncover

22. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
23. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
24. a j__n skirt *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
25. pa_____te troops *n.* a device used to slow the motion of people or objects through an atmosphere consisting of a large piece of thin cloth that is attached to them and opens out in the air
26. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
27. d__y gravity *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
28. fall victim to an as_____in *n.* a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money
29. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
30. golden pa_____te *n.* a device used to slow the motion of people or objects through an atmosphere consisting of a large piece of thin cloth that is attached to them and opens out in the air
31. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

ANSWERS: 22. grandparent, 23. opportune, 24. jean, 25. parachute, 26. confuse, 27. defy, 28. assassin, 29. empower, 30. parachute, 31. passe

32. co____e fantasy with reality

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

ANSWERS: 32. confuse

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

2. This town _____ a national park.
v. to talk about someone's accomplishments, wealth, or abilities excessively with undue pride and self-satisfaction

3. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command

4. She tried to _____ her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.
v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

5. 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

6. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

7. The _____ crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.
adj. causing horror or disgust

ANSWERS: 1. intensify, 2. boasts, 3. writ, 4. defy, 5. passe, 6. uncovered, 7. gruesome

8. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.
- v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
9. She wore her favorite pair of _____ to the party.
- n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
10. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
- n.* a parent of one's father or mother
11. He lifted her _____ with both hands.
- n.* a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure
12. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
13. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
14. She hired an _____ to kill her opponent.
- n.* a person who murders a prominent or well-known person for political reasons or in exchange for money
15. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
- n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

ANSWERS: 8. empowered, 9. jeans, 10. grandparents, 11. veil, 12. opportune, 13. confused, 14. assassin, 15. stereotypes

16. This training includes emergency escape drills with _____.

- n.* a device used to slow the motion of people or objects through an atmosphere consisting of a large piece of thin cloth that is attached to them and opens out in the air

ANSWERS: 16. parachutes