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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Eric Whitacre: A virtual choir 2,000 voices strong | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/eric_whitacre_a_virtual_choir_2_000_voices_strong

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

synthesizer

n. an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds

synonym: sampler, sequencer, module

(1) **synthesizer** bass, (2) music **synthesizer**

The electronic **synthesizer** created a range of unique sounds for the music.

stun

v. to make a person or an animal unconscious or dizzy, especially by hitting them on the head; to make someone surprised or shocked greatly

synonym: shock, amaze, astound

(1) **stun** fish, (2) **stun** an audience

This sprinter **stunned** the world with his speed.

geeky

adj. characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests

synonym: nerdy, dorky

(1) **geeky** gadgets, (2) **geeky** interests

He had a **geeky** sense of humor and loved to make puns.

soprano

n. the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet

synonym : treble

(1) **soprano** singer, (2) dramatic **soprano**

The **soprano's** voice was so beautiful that it brought the audience to tears.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

downbeat

adj. having a negative or pessimistic attitude or outlook; lacking in enthusiasm or optimism; (noun, of music) the first beat, often emphasized more than the other beats

synonym : negative, pessimistic, gloomy

(1) **downbeat** mood, (2) **downbeat** figure

Her **downbeat** attitude made it difficult for others to feel optimistic.

requiem

n. a musical composition or liturgical celebration honoring the memory of someone who has died; a somber or mournful piece of music or artistic work

synonym : threnody, dirge, funeral song

(1) **requiem** mass, (2) Mozart's **requiem**

The orchestra performed a moving **requiem** for the late conductor.

technicolor

adj. relating to a vivid, colorful, or vibrant visual effect or display, often used to describe movies or images produced using this process

synonym : vibrant, colorful, vivid

(1) **technicolor** dream, (2) nostalgic **technicolor**

The film was known for its vibrant **technicolor** visuals, bringing the story to life.

dissonance

n. a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds

synonym: conflict, disharmony, disagreement

(1) cognitive **dissonance**, (2) musical **dissonance**

The **dissonance** between the two melodies created a sense of tension in the music.

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.

alto

n. the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone

synonym: contralto, countertenor, soprano

(1) **alto** saxophone, (2) an **alto** solo

The **alto** singer had a unique and powerful voice.

tenor

n. the general meaning, mood, or sense of something, often referring to the overall content, theme, or tone of a speech, written work, or musical performance; a person or vocal range typically having the highest natural adult male voice

synonym: tone, voice, pitch

(1) rich **tenor** voice, (2) the **tenor** of the company's annual report

The **tenor's** solo in the opera was incredibly moving, bringing many to tears.

lux *n.* a unit of measurement of the intensity of light equal to one lumen per square meter
synonym : lx, candlepower, brightness
(1) **lux** level, (2) ambient **lux**
The nighttime cityscape was illuminated with thousands of **lux** of lights from the buildings.

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.

scrub *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
synonym : clean, wash, sanitize
(1) **scrub** off graffiti, (2) **scrub** dirt from potatoes
She decided to **scrub** the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.

accepting *adj.* willing to receive or to take something offered
synonym : tolerant, open-minded, receptive
(1) **accepting** attitude, (2) **accepting** of diversity
He was an **accepting** person who believed in diversity and inclusiveness.

beau *n.* a male partner or companion, especially a boyfriend or suitor; a wealthy or fashionable man who is attractive to women
synonym : suitor, admirer, boyfriend
(1) charming **beau**, (2) online **beau**
She met her handsome **beau** at a coffee shop in the city.

lollipop *n.* a type of candy made of hard candy or toffee on a stick; a round or oval-shaped candy or sweet on a stick
synonym : sucker, candy, sweet

(1) **lollipop** candy, (2) giant **lollipop**

The child happily licked the rainbow-colored **lollipop**.

tally

n. a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers

synonym: count, record, score

(1) keep a **tally**, (2) **tally** sheet

Let's keep a **tally** of the votes to see who won the election.

testimonial

n. a statement or declaration that expresses support, admiration, or praise for someone or something; a written or spoken recommendation or endorsement

synonym: endorsement, recommendation, review

(1) personal **testimonial**, (2) **testimonial** letter

The company received a glowing **testimonial** from a satisfied customer.

airman

n. a man who serves in the air force

synonym: aviator, flyer, air-force member

(1) **airman** training, (2) notice to **airman**

The civilian **airman** was passionate about flying and had been a pilot for over 20 years.

esprit

n. lively or energetic spirit or attitude; enthusiasm or zest

synonym: spirit, liveliness, enthusiasm

(1) an **esprit** de corps among employees, (2) team **esprit**

The event was filled with artists and intellectuals, creating an atmosphere of cultural **esprit**.

synchronize

v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate

synonym: coordinate, accompany, harmonize

(1) **synchronize** movements, (2) **synchronize** our watches

The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly **synchronized**.

atrocious

adj. shockingly bad or unpleasant; extremely cruel or brutal

synonym : terrible, heinous, abominable

(1) **atrocious** weather, (2) **atrocious** manners

The food at the restaurant was **atrocious** and lacked any flavor.

dun

adj. having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed

synonym : dark, gloomy, somber

(1) **dun** horse, (2) **dun** him for the unpaid bills

The spider was camouflaged on the **dun-colored** rock, waiting for its next prey.

Session 2: Spelling

1. dramatic so____o
n. the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet
2. d_n him for the unpaid bills
adj. having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed
3. s__n an audience
v. to make a person or an animal unconscious or dizzy, especially by hitting them on the head; to make someone surprised or shocked greatly
4. at_____us weather
adj. shockingly bad or unpleasant; extremely cruel or brutal
5. ai___n training
n. a man who serves in the air force
6. tes_____al letter
n. a statement or declaration that expresses support, admiration, or praise for someone or something; a written or spoken recommendation or endorsement
7. ta__y sheet
n. a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers
8. musical dis_____ce
n. a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds

ANSWERS: 1. soprano, 2. dun, 3. stun, 4. atrocious, 5. airman, 6. testimonial, 7. tally, 8. dissonance

9. do____at figure *adj.* having a negative or pessimistic attitude or outlook; lacking in enthusiasm or optimism; (noun, of music) the first beat, often emphasized more than the other beats
10. rich te__r voice *n.* the general meaning, mood, or sense of something, often referring to the overall content, theme, or tone of a speech, written work, or musical performance; a person or vocal range typically having the highest natural adult male voice
11. ac_____ng attitude *adj.* willing to receive or to take something offered
12. a__o saxophone *n.* the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone
13. personal tes_____al *n.* a statement or declaration that expresses support, admiration, or praise for someone or something; a written or spoken recommendation or endorsement
14. an es__t de corps among employees *n.* lively or energetic spirit or attitude; enthusiasm or zest
15. keep a ta__y *n.* a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers
16. ge__y gadgets *adj.* characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests

ANSWERS: 9. downbeat, 10. tenor, 11. accepting, 12. alto, 13. testimonial, 14. esprit, 15. tally, 16. geeky

17. ac_____ng of diversity *adj.* willing to receive or to take something offered
18. si__e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
19. the te__r of the company's annual report *n.* the general meaning, mood, or sense of something, often referring to the overall content, theme, or tone of a speech, written work, or musical performance; a person or vocal range typically having the highest natural adult male voice
20. nostalgic tec_____or *adj.* relating to a vivid, colorful, or vibrant visual effect or display, often used to describe movies or images produced using this process
21. sc__b dirt from potatoes *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
22. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
23. team es___t *n.* lively or energetic spirit or attitude; enthusiasm or zest
24. so_____o singer *n.* the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet
25. ambient l_x *n.* a unit of measurement of the intensity of light equal to one lumen per square meter

ANSWERS: 17. accepting, 18. singe, 19. tenor, 20. technicolor, 21. scrub, 22. sect, 23. esprit, 24. soprano, 25. lux

26. online b__u *n.* a male partner or companion, especially a boyfriend or suitor; a wealthy or fashionable man who is attractive to women
27. tec_____or dream *adj.* relating to a vivid, colorful, or vibrant visual effect or display, often used to describe movies or images produced using this process
28. sc__b off graffiti *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
29. giant lo_____op *n.* a type of candy made of hard candy or toffee on a stick; a round or oval-shaped candy or sweet on a stick
30. at_____us manners *adj.* shockingly bad or unpleasant; extremely cruel or brutal
31. syn_____ze our watches *v.* to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
32. Mozart's re_____m *n.* a musical composition or liturgical celebration honoring the memory of someone who has died; a somber or mournful piece of music or artistic work
33. music syn_____er *n.* an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds
34. d_n horse *adj.* having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed

ANSWERS: 26. beau, 27. technicolor, 28. scrub, 29. lollipop, 30. atrocious, 31. synchronize, 32. requiem, 33. synthesizer, 34. dun

35. 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
36. re____m mass *n.* a musical composition or liturgical celebration honoring the memory of someone who has died; a somber or mournful piece of music or artistic work
37. syn____er bass *n.* an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds
38. ge__y interests *adj.* characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests
39. l_x level *n.* a unit of measurement of the intensity of light equal to one lumen per square meter
40. lo____op candy *n.* a type of candy made of hard candy or toffee on a stick; a round or oval-shaped candy or sweet on a stick
41. si__e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
42. syn____ze movements *v.* to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
43. an a__o solo *n.* the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone

ANSWERS: 35. audition, 36. requiem, 37. synthesizer, 38. geeky, 39. lux, 40. lollipop, 41. singe, 42. synchronize, 43. alto

44. do____at mood *adj.* having a negative or pessimistic attitude or outlook; lacking in enthusiasm or optimism; (noun, of music) the first beat, often emphasized more than the other beats
45. cognitive dis_____ce *n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
46. charming b__u *n.* a male partner or companion, especially a boyfriend or suitor; a wealthy or fashionable man who is attractive to women
47. music 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
48. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
49. notice to ai___n *n.* a man who serves in the air force
50. s__n fish *v.* to make a person or an animal unconscious or dizzy, especially by hitting them on the head; to make someone surprised or shocked greatly

ANSWERS: 44. downbeat, 45. dissonance, 46. beau, 47. audition, 48. sect, 49. airman, 50. stun

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
2. The civilian _____ was passionate about flying and had been a pilot for over 20 years.
n. a man who serves in the air force
3. She met her handsome _____ at a coffee shop in the city.
n. a male partner or companion, especially a boyfriend or suitor; a wealthy or fashionable man who is attractive to women
4. The food at the restaurant was _____ and lacked any flavor.
adj. shockingly bad or unpleasant; extremely cruel or brutal
5. The company received a glowing _____ from a satisfied customer.
n. a statement or declaration that expresses support, admiration, or praise for someone or something; a written or spoken recommendation or endorsement
6. The electronic _____ created a range of unique sounds for the music.
n. an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds
7. Her _____ attitude made it difficult for others to feel optimistic.
adj. having a negative or pessimistic attitude or outlook; lacking in enthusiasm or optimism; (noun, of music) the first beat, often emphasized more than the other beats

ANSWERS: 1. sect, 2. airman, 3. beau, 4. atrocious, 5. testimonial, 6. synthesizer, 7. downbeat

8. The _____ between the two melodies created a sense of tension in the music.
- n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
9. The event was filled with artists and intellectuals, creating an atmosphere of cultural _____.
- n.* lively or energetic spirit or attitude; enthusiasm or zest
10. The _____ solo in the opera was incredibly moving, bringing many to tears.
- n.* the general meaning, mood, or sense of something, often referring to the overall content, theme, or tone of a speech, written work, or musical performance; a person or vocal range typically having the highest natural adult male voice
11. 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
12. Let's keep a _____ of the votes to see who won the election.
- n.* a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers
13. The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly _____.
- v.* to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
14. He had a _____ sense of humor and loved to make puns.
- adj.* characterized by an intense interest or expertise in a particular subject or hobby, sometimes to the detriment of social skills or other interests

ANSWERS: 8. dissonance, 9. esprit, 10. tenor's, 11. audition, 12. tally, 13. synchronized, 14. geeky

15. This sprinter _____ the world with his speed.

- v.* to make a person or an animal unconscious or dizzy, especially by hitting them on the head; to make someone surprised or shocked greatly

16. The ____ singer had a unique and powerful voice.

- n.* the second-highest vocal range in choral music, typically sung by the second-highest singers in a choir; a type of saxophone

17. The film was known for its vibrant _____ visuals, bringing the story to life.

- adj.* relating to a vivid, colorful, or vibrant visual effect or display, often used to describe movies or images produced using this process

18. The child happily licked the rainbow-colored _____.

- n.* a type of candy made of hard candy or toffee on a stick; a round or oval-shaped candy or sweet on a stick

19. The nighttime cityscape was illuminated with thousands of ____ of lights from the buildings.

- n.* a unit of measurement of the intensity of light equal to one lumen per square meter

20. The spider was camouflaged on the _____ rock, waiting for its next prey.

- adj.* having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed

21. She decided to _____ the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.

- v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

22. The orchestra performed a moving _____ for the late conductor.

- n.* a musical composition or liturgical celebration honoring the memory of someone who has died; a somber or mournful piece of music or artistic work

ANSWERS: 15. stunned, 16. alto, 17. technicolor, 18. lollipop, 19. lux, 20. dun-colored, 21. scrub, 22. requiem

23. He was an _____ person who believed in diversity and inclusiveness.

adj. willing to receive or to take something offered

24. The _____ voice was so beautiful that it brought the audience to tears.

n. the highest-pitched voice or vocal range of a female or child singer; a female or child singer with a soprano voice; the highest-pitched member of an instrumental family, such as a violin or clarinet

25. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and _____ my dress.

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

ANSWERS: 23. accepting, 24. soprano's, 25. singed