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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nirmalya Kumar: India's invisible innovation | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

angst

n. a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general

synonym: anxiety, worry, stress

(1) an endless stream of **angst**, (2) with no **angst**

He felt a sense of **angst** about the future and wasn't sure what would happen.

drudgery

n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant

synonym: tedium, laboriousness, grind

(1) office **drudgery**, (2) daily **drudgery**

The tedious **drudgery** of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.

veneer

n. a thin layer of material applied to the surface of something for decoration or protection; a superficial or

deceptive outward appearance that conceals the true nature of something beneath it

synonym : overlay, laminate, facing

(1) **veneer** knowledge, (2) **veneer** stone

The wooden table had a thin **veneer** of cherry wood on top, giving it a beautiful and glossy finish.

sophistication

n. the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined

synonym : refinement, culture, elegance

(1) cultural **sophistication**, (2) linguistic **sophistication**

The new technology added a level of **sophistication** to the manufacturing process.

regiment

n. a large military unit, usually consisting of several battalions and commanded by a colonel or higher-ranking officer; a strict or organized system or routine

synonym : unit, brigade, battalion

(1) logistics **regiment**, (2) marching **regiment**

The army **regiment** marched in perfect unison during the parade.

conceptualization

n. the process of forming or developing an abstract idea or concept, often through the use of language or other symbolic representations

synonym : conception, formulation, thought

(1) **conceptualization** of a problem, (2) the **conceptualization** of the sculpture

The **conceptualization** of the project took several weeks to complete.

headquarter

n. the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed

synonym : base, center, command

(1) administrative **headquarter**, (2) an emergency

headquarter

The company decided to move its **headquarters** to New York City.

localize

v. to restrict or confine something to a specific area or location; to adapt or translate something for a particular region or market

synonym: place, pinpoint, identify

(1) **localize** an infection, (2) **localize** the problem

It is crucial to quickly **localize** the source of the contamination to prevent further spread of the virus.

outsource

v. to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure

synonym: delegate, contract out, farm out

(1) **outsource** a non-core function, (2) **outsource** to India

The company decided to **outsource** its IT services to a third-party provider.

dropout

n. a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it

synonym: noncompleter, quitter, school leaver

(1) the **dropout** rate, (2) **dropout** student

The high school **dropout** rate has decreased significantly in recent years thanks to educational initiatives and support programs.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym: bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

iceberg

n. a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier

synonym : glacier, ice mass, floe

(1) hit an **iceberg**, (2) **iceberg** melting

The ship encountered a series of **icebergs** and had to change its course.

submerge

v. to put something under water or to go under water; to bury or hide something deeply or completely

synonym : deluge, drench, dunk

(1) **submerge** in a liquid, (2) **submerge** my head completely

The ship was **submerged** in the ocean for many years before it was finally discovered.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym : assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

perpetuate

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

synonym : eternalize, preserve, maintain

(1) **perpetuate** a myth, (2) **perpetuate** chronic pain

That work **perpetuates** his fame.

banker

n. a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank

synonym : dealer, broker, financier

(1) central **bankers**, (2) investment **banker**

Bankers are only willing to lend with good security.

caveat

n. a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing

synonym : warning, caution, admonition

(1) a **caveat** against unfair practices, (2) general **caveat**
We often ignore important **caveats** from nature.

paradoxical

adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
synonym: contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical**
it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

mirage

n. an optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of light in the Earth's atmosphere, creating a false or distorted image of distant objects or landscapes, often appears as a shimmering or floating appearance, typically seen in deserts or over hot surfaces

synonym: illusion, hallucination, phantasm

(1) **mirage** illusion, (2) **mirage** oasis

The shimmering heat created a **mirage** in the distance, fooling our eyes into seeing an oasis.

incapable

adj. unable to do, control, or achieve something

synonym: unable, incompetent, unskilled

(1) drunk and **incapable**, (2) **incapable** of being resisted

He seems **incapable** of understanding what she says.

absolve

v. (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

synonym: exempt, acquit, forgive

(1) **absolve** you from this responsibility, (2) **absolve** a person of a sin

The lender offered to **absolve** him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. linguistic sop_____ion | <i>n.</i> the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined |
| 2. hit an ic_____g | <i>n.</i> a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier |
| 3. the dr_____t rate | <i>n.</i> a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it |
| 4. low-r_v engine | <i>n.</i> a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute |
| 5. con_____ion of a problem | <i>n.</i> the process of forming or developing an abstract idea or concept, often through the use of language or other symbolic representations |
| 6. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 7. cultural sop_____ion | <i>n.</i> the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined |
| 8. lo_____ze the problem | <i>v.</i> to restrict or confine something to a specific area or location; to adapt or translate something for a particular region or market |

ANSWERS: 1. sophistication, 2. iceberg, 3. dropout, 4. rev, 5. conceptualization, 6. industrious, 7. sophistication, 8. localize

9. an emergency hea_____er *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
10. su_____ge in a liquid *v.* to put something under water or to go under water; to bury or hide something deeply or completely
11. ou_____ce a non-core function *v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
12. dr_____t student *n.* a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it
13. po__t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
14. ab_____e you from this responsibility *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
15. investment ba____r *n.* a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank
16. su_____ge my head completely *v.* to put something under water or to go under water; to bury or hide something deeply or completely
17. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
18. mi____e illusion *n.* an optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of light in the Earth's atmosphere, creating a false or distorted image of distant objects or landscapes, often appears as a shimmering or floating appearance, typically seen in deserts or over hot surfaces

ANSWERS: 9. headquarter, 10. submerge, 11. outsource, 12. dropout, 13. posit, 14. absolve, 15. banker, 16. submerge, 17. rev, 18. mirage

19. ou_____ce to India *v.* to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure
20. in_____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
21. lo_____ze an infection *v.* to restrict or confine something to a specific area or location; to adapt or translate something for a particular region or market
22. in_____te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
23. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
24. daily dr_____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
25. office dr_____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
26. po__t the premise *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
27. a ca__t against unfair practices *n.* a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing
28. mi___e oasis *n.* an optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of light in the Earth's atmosphere, creating a false or distorted image of distant objects or landscapes, often appears as a shimmering or floating appearance, typically seen in deserts or over hot surfaces

ANSWERS: 19. outsource, 20. innovate, 21. localize, 22. innovate, 23. industrious, 24. drudgery, 25. drudgery, 26. posit, 27. caveat, 28. mirage

29. per_____te chronic pain *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
30. in_____le of being resisted *adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something
31. an endless stream of an__t *n.* a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general
32. logistics re_____nt *n.* a large military unit, usually consisting of several battalions and commanded by a colonel or higher-ranking officer; a strict or organized system or routine
33. marching re_____nt *n.* a large military unit, usually consisting of several battalions and commanded by a colonel or higher-ranking officer; a strict or organized system or routine
34. per_____te a myth *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
35. a par_____al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
36. central ba____rs *n.* a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank
37. ic_____g melting *n.* a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier
38. apparently par_____al *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

ANSWERS: 29. perpetuate, 30. incapable, 31. angst, 32. regiment, 33. regiment, 34. perpetuate, 35. paradoxical, 36. banker, 37. iceberg, 38. paradoxical

39. administrative hea_____er *n.* the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed
40. drunk and in_____le *adj.* unable to do, control, or achieve something
41. general ca____t *n.* a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing
42. the con_____ion of the sculpture *n.* the process of forming or developing an abstract idea or concept, often through the use of language or other symbolic representations
43. ve____r knowledge *n.* a thin layer of material applied to the surface of something for decoration or protection; a superficial or deceptive outward appearance that conceals the true nature of something beneath it
44. ve____r stone *n.* a thin layer of material applied to the surface of something for decoration or protection; a superficial or deceptive outward appearance that conceals the true nature of something beneath it
45. with no an__t *n.* a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general
46. ab_____e a person of a sin *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

ANSWERS: 39. headquarter, 40. incapable, 41. caveat, 42. conceptualization, 43. veneer, 44. veneer, 45. angst, 46. absolve

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He seems _____ of understanding what she says.
adj. unable to do, control, or achieve something
2. He felt a sense of _____ about the future and wasn't sure what would happen.
n. a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general
3. The ship was _____ in the ocean for many years before it was finally discovered.
v. to put something under water or to go under water; to bury or hide something deeply or completely
4. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
5. It is crucial to quickly _____ the source of the contamination to prevent further spread of the virus.
v. to restrict or confine something to a specific area or location; to adapt or translate something for a particular region or market
6. The shimmering heat created a _____ in the distance, fooling our eyes into seeing an oasis.
n. an optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of light in the Earth's atmosphere, creating a false or distorted image of distant objects or landscapes, often appears as a shimmering or floating appearance, typically seen in deserts or over hot surfaces
7. The company decided to move its _____ to New York City.
n. the central office or location from which a business or organization is managed

ANSWERS: 1. incapable, 2. angst, 3. submerged, 4. industrious, 5. localize, 6. mirage, 7. headquarters

8. The wooden table had a thin _____ of cherry wood on top, giving it a beautiful and glossy finish.
- n.* a thin layer of material applied to the surface of something for decoration or protection; a superficial or deceptive outward appearance that conceals the true nature of something beneath it
9. The high school _____ rate has decreased significantly in recent years thanks to educational initiatives and support programs.
- n.* a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it
10. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
- v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
11. The new technology added a level of _____ to the manufacturing process.
- n.* the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined
12. The army _____ marched in perfect unison during the parade.
- n.* a large military unit, usually consisting of several battalions and commanded by a colonel or higher-ranking officer; a strict or organized system or routine
13. It is _____ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
- adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
14. The lender offered to _____ him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.
- v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

ANSWERS: 8. veneer, 9. dropout, 10. innovate, 11. sophistication, 12. regiment, 13. paradoxical, 14. absolve

15. The ship encountered a series of _____ and had to change its course.
n. a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier
16. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
17. _____ are only willing to lend with good security.
n. a person who is in charge of or has an important job in a bank
18. The tedious _____ of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.
n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
19. That work _____ his fame.
v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time
20. The _____ of the project took several weeks to complete.
n. the process of forming or developing an abstract idea or concept, often through the use of language or other symbolic representations
21. We often ignore important _____ from nature.
n. a warning against certain acts; (law) a formal notice filed with a court or officer to suspend a proceeding until the filer is given a hearing
22. The company decided to _____ its IT services to a third-party provider.
v. to contract out or transfer a job, task, or service to an external organization or party, often as a cost-saving measure

ANSWERS: 15. icebergs, 16. posit, 17. Bankers, 18. drudgery, 19. perpetuates, 20. conceptualization, 21. caveats, 22. outsource

23. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.

- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 23. rev