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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tony Porter: A call to men | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

courageous

adj. able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching

synonym: brave, valiant, fearless

(1) make a **courageous** decision, (2) **courageous** rescue attempt

He was a **courageous** soldier who had served his country with honor.

deconstruct

v. to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning

synonym: break down, interpret, assay

(1) **deconstruct** the existing system, (2) **deconstruct** his method

She employed a rigorous intellectual framework to **deconstruct** various categories of literature.

redefine

v. to change the meaning or interpretation of something; to make people think about something in a new or different way

synonym: reconsider, reformulate, alter

(1) **redefine** customer experience, (2) **redefine** our role

The video telephony application has **redefined** the way we work.

snot

n. mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing

synonym : mucus, phlegm, nasal discharge

(1) runny **snot**, (2) excess **snot** production

The child wiped away the sticky **snot** from his nose with a tissue.

limousine

n. a large, luxurious car usually driven by a chauffeur, often used for special occasions or for transporting important people

(1) **limousine** service, (2) **limousine** driver

The wealthy businessman arrived at the gala in his luxurious **limousine**.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym : immobilize, disable, numb

(1) **paralyze** a city, (2) **paralyze** a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

hostage

n. a person who is held by another as security, typically to fulfill certain conditions or demands; a person who is forcibly confined or controlled

synonym : captive, prisoner, detainee

(1) political **hostage**, (2) **hostage** negotiations

The terrorists took several tourists as **hostages** in a bid to advance their demands.

tenement

n. a run-down and often overcrowded apartment building or dwelling, typically found in urban areas and housing lower-income families or individuals

synonym : apartment, dwelling, residence

(1) crumbling **tenement**, (2) rent-controlled **tenement**

The **tenement** building was overcrowded and needed better living conditions.

jeopardy

n. the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss
synonym: danger, risk, peril

(1) put his life in **jeopardy**, (2) tax in **jeopardy**

The project is in **jeopardy** of being canceled due to a lack of funding.

secrecy

n. the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others

synonym: confidentiality, clandestineness, closeness

(1) government **secrecy**, (2) maintain **secrecy**

The company's **secrecy** surrounding its new product launch has created consumer excitement and anticipation.

prowl

v. to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly

synonym: creep, sneak, lurch

(1) **prowl** the streets, (2) **prowl** for food

The predator began to **prowl** around the forest's edge, searching for prey.

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.

petrify

v. to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding

synonym: fossilize, mineralize, calcify

(1) **petrify** with fear, (2) **petrify** into stone

The thought of public speaking will **petrify** her.

remorse

n. a feeling of deep regret and sorry, usually for something you have done

synonym: guilt, anguish, regret

(1) **remorse** of conscience, (2) sincere **remorse**

I always remember that event with bitter **remorse**.

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.

envelop

v. to surround and cover completely; to encase
synonym: wrap, cover, surround

(1) **envelop** the whole world, (2) **envelop** her in a bear hug

The fog **enveloped** the city, making it difficult to see.

objectify

v. to treat or represent someone or something as an object, without regard for their dignity or worth; to view or depict someone as a mere physical entity rather than as a complex person with feelings, thoughts, and desires

synonym: treat as an object, dehumanize, depersonalize

(1) **objectify** the individual, (2) sexually **objectify**

The media tends to **objectify** women by focusing on their physical appearance rather than accomplishments.

envision

v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

synonym: anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success

We cannot **envision** her as President.

liberate

v. to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression

synonym: emancipate, release, set free

(1) **liberate** people from oppression, (2) **liberate** potential

The prisoners were **liberated** after the war ended.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. ex___e the crowd | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 2. pr__l the streets | <i>v.</i> to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly |
| 3. tax in je____dy | <i>n.</i> the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss |
| 4. put his life in je____dy | <i>n.</i> the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss |
| 5. pa____ze a person | <i>v.</i> to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel |
| 6. li____te potential | <i>v.</i> to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression |
| 7. en____on the future | <i>v.</i> to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future |
| 8. cou____us rescue attempt | <i>adj.</i> able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching |
| 9. pa____ze a city | <i>v.</i> to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel |
| 10. political ho____e | <i>n.</i> a person who is held by another as security, typically to fulfill certain conditions or demands; a person who is forcibly confined or controlled |
| 11. make a cou____us decision | <i>adj.</i> able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching |

ANSWERS: 1. excite, 2. prowl, 3. jeopardy, 4. jeopardy, 5. paralyze, 6. liberate, 7. envision, 8. courageous, 9. paralyze, 10. hostage, 11. courageous

12. crumbling te_____nt *n.* a run-down and often overcrowded apartment building or dwelling, typically found in urban areas and housing lower-income families or individuals
13. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
15. ex_____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
16. maintain se_____y *n.* the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others
17. en_____on the project's success *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
18. pr__l for food *v.* to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly
19. dec_____ct his method *v.* to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning
20. dec_____ct the existing system *v.* to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning

ANSWERS: 12. tenement, 13. opportune, 14. opportune, 15. excite, 16. secrecy, 17. envision, 18. prowl, 19. deconstruct, 20. deconstruct

21. rent-controlled te____nt *n.* a run-down and often overcrowded apartment building or dwelling, typically found in urban areas and housing lower-income families or individuals
22. li____te people from oppression *v.* to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
23. pe____y into stone *v.* to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding
24. government se____y *n.* the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others
25. sincere re____e *n.* a feeling of deep regret and sorry, usually for something you have done
26. excess s__t production *n.* mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing
27. en____p the whole world *v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
28. re____e of conscience *n.* a feeling of deep regret and sorry, usually for something you have done
29. en____p her in a bear hug *v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
30. re____ne our role *v.* to change the meaning or interpretation of something; to make people think about something in a new or different way
31. sexually ob____fy *v.* to treat or represent someone or something as an object, without regard for their dignity or worth; to view or depict someone as a mere physical entity rather than as a complex person with feelings, thoughts, and desires

ANSWERS: 21. tenement, 22. liberate, 23. petrify, 24. secrecy, 25. remorse, 26. snot, 27. envelop, 28. remorse, 29. envelop, 30. redefine, 31. objectify

32. ho____e negotiations *n.* a person who is held by another as security, typically to fulfill certain conditions or demands; a person who is forcibly confined or controlled
33. pe____y with fear *v.* to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding
34. runny s__t *n.* mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing
35. ob_____fy the individual *v.* to treat or represent someone or something as an object, without regard for their dignity or worth; to view or depict someone as a mere physical entity rather than as a complex person with feelings, thoughts, and desires
36. li_____ne service *n.* a large, luxurious car usually driven by a chauffeur, often used for special occasions or for transporting important people
37. li_____ne driver *n.* a large, luxurious car usually driven by a chauffeur, often used for special occasions or for transporting important people
38. re____ne customer experience *v.* to change the meaning or interpretation of something; to make people think about something in a new or different way

ANSWERS: 32. hostage, 33. petrify, 34. snot, 35. objectify, 36. limousine, 37. limousine, 38. redefine

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The video telephony application has _____ the way we work.
 - v. to change the meaning or interpretation of something; to make people think about something in a new or different way

2. The wealthy businessman arrived at the gala in his luxurious _____.
 - n. a large, luxurious car usually driven by a chauffeur, often used for special occasions or for transporting important people

3. The terrorists took several tourists as _____ in a bid to advance their demands.
 - n. a person who is held by another as security, typically to fulfill certain conditions or demands; a person who is forcibly confined or controlled

4. The predator began to _____ around the forest's edge, searching for prey.
 - v. to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly

5. The child wiped away the sticky _____ from his nose with a tissue.
 - n. mucus produced by the nose, often mixed with saliva or other secretions that can be expelled by blowing the nose or sneezing

6. He was a _____ soldier who had served his country with honor.
 - adj. able to face and deal with danger or fear without flinching

7. The fog _____ the city, making it difficult to see.
 - v. to surround and cover completely; to encase

ANSWERS: 1. redefined, 2. limousine, 3. hostages, 4. prowl, 5. snot, 6. courageous, 7. enveloped

8. The venom from the snake bite _____ his arm.
- v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
9. The project is in _____ of being canceled due to a lack of funding.
- n. the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss
10. The prisoners were _____ after the war ended.
- v. to set free; to release or rescue from captivity or oppression
11. The thought of public speaking will _____ her.
- v. to turn to stone; to make hard and unyielding
12. We cannot _____ her as President.
- v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
13. The company's _____ surrounding its new product launch has created consumer excitement and anticipation.
- n. the state or quality of being kept hidden or private; the act of keeping something confidential or unknown to others
14. She employed a rigorous intellectual framework to _____ various categories of literature.
- v. to break something down into its separate parts to interpret or analyze it; to interpret or analyze a text, an artwork, etc. to show that there is no fixed meaning
15. The media tends to _____ women by focusing on their physical appearance rather than accomplishments.
- v. to treat or represent someone or something as an object, without regard for their dignity or worth; to view or depict someone as a mere physical entity rather than as a complex person with feelings, thoughts, and desires

ANSWERS: 8. paralyzed, 9. jeopardy, 10. liberated, 11. petrify, 12. envision, 13. secrecy, 14. deconstruct, 15. objectify

16. The news of her promotion _____ her.

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

17. I always remember that event with bitter _____.

n. a feeling of deep regret and sorry, usually for something you have done

18. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

19. The _____ building was overcrowded and needed better living conditions.

n. a run-down and often overcrowded apartment building or dwelling, typically found in urban areas and housing lower-income families or individuals

ANSWERS: 16. excited, 17. remorse, 18. opportune, 19. tenement