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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Maz Jobrani: Did you hear the one about the Iranian-American? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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 no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym: outdated, old-fashioned, antique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.

overdue

adj. past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed

synonym: late, delinquent, outstanding

(1) **overdue** bill, (2) **overdue** task

Her library books were **overdue**, so she had to pay a fine to check out more.

hijack

v. to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence

synonym: commandeer, seize, pirate

(1) **hijack** a helicopter, (2) **hijack** a phone number

He made a desperate effort to **hijack** an airliner.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym : torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

beep

v. to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning

synonym : bleep, honk, buzz

(1) **beep** out a warning, (2) **beep** the horn

The timer **beeped**, reminding me that the cake was ready to come out of the oven.

recession

n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

synonym : downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**

The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

whoosh

n. a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound

synonym : swoosh, swish, whizz

(1) **whoosh** of a falling object, (2) hear a **whoosh**

The **whoosh** of the wind through the trees was the only sound in the forest.

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.

mustache

n. an unshaved growth of hair on the upper lip

synonym: whisker

(1) a gray **mustache**, (2) big **mustache**

The actor's **mustache** has become an icon.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
2. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
3. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
4. recover from a re_____on *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
5. hear a wh___h *n.* a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound
6. hi___k a helicopter *v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence
7. ov_____e task *adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
8. re_____on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
9. negative ste_____pes *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: 1. passe, 2. creditor, 3. obsess, 4. recession, 5. whoosh, 6. hijack, 7. overdue, 8. recession, 9. stereotype

10. 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
11. big mu_____he *n.* an unshaved growth of hair on the upper lip
12. ov_____e bill *adj.* past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
13. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
14. b__p the horn *v.* to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning
15. a gray mu_____he *n.* an unshaved growth of hair on the upper lip
16. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
17. wh____h of a falling object *n.* a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound
18. b__p out a warning *v.* to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning
19. hi____k a phone number *v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence

ANSWERS: 10. stereotype, 11. mustache, 12. overdue, 13. passe, 14. beep, 15. mustache, 16. creditor, 17. whoosh, 18. beep, 19. hijack

20. he is ob___sed with the fear

v. to fill the mind of someone continually
so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 20. obsess

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The timer _____ reminding me that the cake was ready to come out of the oven.
v. to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning
2. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
3. 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
4. The _____ of the wind through the trees was the only sound in the forest.
n. a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound
5. Her library books were _____ so she had to pay a fine to check out more.
adj. past the expected or scheduled time; not completed or paid on time; delayed, tardy, or postponed
6. He made a desperate effort to _____ an airliner.
v. to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence
7. The country is facing a _____ with high unemployment and low GDP.
n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

ANSWERS: 1. beeped, 2. obsessed, 3. passe, 4. whoosh, 5. overdue, 6. hijack, 7. recession,

8. 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
9. The actor's _____ has become an icon.
- n.* an unshaved growth of hair on the upper lip
10. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 8. stereotypes, 9. mustache, 10. creditor