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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Natalie MacMaster: Fiddling in reel time | TED Talk
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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

upbringing

n. the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development

synonym: childhood, background, nurturing

(1) Catholic **upbringing**, (2) family **upbringing**

His strict **upbringing** instilled in him a strong sense of responsibility.

cape

n. a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water

synonym: shawl, cloak, mantle

(1) **cape** cod, (2) red **cape**

The superhero wore a flowing **cape** as part of their costume.

nova

n. a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth

synonym: supernova, exploding star, nova remnant

(1) **nova** explosion, (2) **nova** star

The astronomer spent months studying the **nova's** light spectrum to learn more about its properties.

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.

bloodline

n. the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species

synonym: ancestry, lineage, descent

(1) **bloodline** inheritance, (2) royal **bloodline**

The new champion racehorse came from a long line of strong **bloodlines**.

scot

n. a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant

synonym: tax, charge, toll

(1) pay annual **scot**, (2) traditional **Scot** attire

The **scot-free** suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.

fiddle

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

synonym: tinker, diddle, play

(1) **fiddle** with a PC, (2) **fiddle** away the whole afternoon

She was able to **fiddle** a free trip to the United States.

capita

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike

expansion on a structure, as on a bone

synonym : head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**
GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

chant

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

synonym : hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

nominate

v. to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

synonym : appoint, designate, elect

(1) **nominate** him for an award, (2) **nominate** government representatives

The organization **nominated** her to be the next president.

broth

n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

synonym : bouillon, consomme, soup

(1) chicken **broth**, (2) remains of **broth**

I always add a bit of **broth** to my soup to give it more flavor.

coincident

adj. happening or operating in the same place or at the same time

synonym : concurrent, accompanying, coextensive

(1) **coincident** indicators, (2) a series of **coincident** events

Coincident with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.

procession

n. a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose

synonym :

parade, cavalcade, march

(1) **procession** of cars, (2) religious **procession**

The funeral **procession** slowly made its way to the cemetery.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

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.

clap

v. to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

synonym: applaud, spat, acclaim

(1) **clap** my hands, (2) **clap** a book shut

We **clapped** along with the singer's song.

announcer

n. a person who introduces and speaks on television or radio programs or provides commentary or information at a live event

synonym: emcee, broadcaster, commentator

(1) public address **announcer**, (2) radio **announcer**

The sports **announcer** provided live commentary during the game.

downstairs

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

synonym: below

(1) creep **downstairs**, (2) escort him **downstairs**

Please get the desk **downstairs**.

rhythmic

adj. having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm

synonym : measured, metrical, cadenced

(1) a **rhythmic** stroking, (2) in a **rhythmic** pace

The **rhythmic** sound of the drums was mesmerizing.

congregate

v. to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area

synonym : assemble, converge, gather

(1) **congregate** at the park, (2) **congregate** in a mosque

The protesters plan to **congregate** in front of the city hall to raise awareness for their cause.

sleigh

n. a vehicle typically used in snowy conditions, with runners instead of wheels, horses or reindeer pull that; a platform on runners used for carrying loads over ice or snow

synonym : sled, toboggan, sledge

(1) festive **sleigh**, (2) wooden **sleigh**

The children went for a thrilling **sleigh** ride down the snowy hill.

blab

v. to reveal secrets or private information carelessly or indiscreetly

synonym : gossip, reveal, spill

(1) **blab** out a secret, (2) **blab** the answer

She was worried that her friends would **blab** about her surprise party.

sibling

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

synonym : brother, sister, relative

(1) have a **sibling** quarrel, (2) play with my **siblings**

Children often copy their parents or elder **siblings**.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. b__b the answer | <i>v.</i> to reveal secrets or private information carelessly or indiscreetly |
| 2. radio an____er | <i>n.</i> a person who introduces and speaks on television or radio programs or provides commentary or information at a live event |
| 3. fi___e with a PC | <i>v.</i> to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage |
| 4. in a rh____ic pace | <i>adj.</i> having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm |
| 5. no____te him for an award | <i>v.</i> to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor |
| 6. ex___e rebellion | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 7. ch__t in the chapel | <i>n.</i> a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation |
| 8. a series of coi_____nt events | <i>adj.</i> happening or operating in the same place or at the same time |
| 9. royal bl____ne | <i>n.</i> the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species |

ANSWERS: 1. blab, 2. announcer, 3. fiddle, 4. rhythmic, 5. nominate, 6. excite, 7. chant, 8. coincident, 9. bloodline

10. Catholic upb_____ng *n.* the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development
11. red c__e *n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
12. bl_____ne inheritance *n.* the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species
13. religious pro_____on *n.* a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose
14. wooden sl____h *n.* a vehicle typically used in snowy conditions, with runners instead of wheels, horses or reindeer pull that; a platform on runners used for carrying loads over ice or snow
15. con_____te at the park *v.* to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area
16. creep dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
17. n__a explosion *n.* a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
18. play with my si_____gs *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

ANSWERS: 10. upbringing, 11. cape, 12. bloodline, 13. procession, 14. sleigh, 15. congregate, 16. downstairs, 17. nova, 18. sibling

19. c__p a book shut *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
20. remains of br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
21. chicken br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
22. c__e cod *n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
23. the agricultural yield per ca___a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
24. a rh____ic stroking *adj.* having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm
25. per ca___a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
26. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
27. coi_____nt indicators *adj.* happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
28. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 19. clap, 20. broth, 21. broth, 22. cape, 23. capita, 24. rhythmic, 25. capita, 26. excite, 27. coincident, 28. pretension

29. si__e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
30. c__p my hands *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
31. pay annual s__t *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
32. baseless pre____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
33. public address an____er *n.* a person who introduces and speaks on television or radio programs or provides commentary or information at a live event
34. b__b out a secret *v.* to reveal secrets or private information carelessly or indiscreetly
35. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
36. have a si____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
37. pro____on of cars *n.* a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose
38. no____te government representatives *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
39. si__e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

ANSWERS: 29. singe, 30. clap, 31. scot, 32. pretension, 33. announcer, 34. blab, 35. writ, 36. sibling, 37. procession, 38. nominate, 39. singe

40. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
41. traditional S__t attire *n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
42. fi___e away the whole afternoon *v.* to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage
43. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
44. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
45. con_____te in a mosque *v.* to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area
46. festive sl___h *n.* a vehicle typically used in snowy conditions, with runners instead of wheels, horses or reindeer pull that; a platform on runners used for carrying loads over ice or snow
47. family upb_____ng *n.* the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development
48. escort him dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

ANSWERS: 40. opportune, 41. scot, 42. fiddle, 43. writ, 44. opportune, 45. congregate, 46. sleigh, 47. upbringing, 48. downstairs

49. ch__t melodies

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

50. n__a star

n. a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth

ANSWERS: 49. chant, 50. nova

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His strict _____ instilled in him a strong sense of responsibility.
n. the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development
2. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
3. _____ with the negotiation, the bank was permitted to open a Beijing branch.
adj. happening or operating in the same place or at the same time
4. The superhero wore a flowing _____ as part of their costume.
n. a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
5. The astronomer spent months studying the _____ light spectrum to learn more about its properties.
n. a star that suddenly becomes brighter, typically because of an explosion in its interior; a sudden increase or burst of activity or growth
6. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
7. The children went for a thrilling _____ ride down the snowy hill.
n. a vehicle typically used in snowy conditions, with runners instead of wheels, horses or reindeer pull that; a platform on runners used for carrying loads over ice or snow

ANSWERS: 1. upbringing, 2. opportune, 3. Coincident, 4. cape, 5. nova's, 6. siblings, 7. sleigh

8. The _____ suspect was later apprehended for a different crime.
- n.* a tax or payment, particularly a share or portion of something; a person from Scotland or a Scottish immigrant
9. The funeral _____ slowly made its way to the cemetery.
- n.* a group of people or vehicles moving in an orderly, ceremonial manner, often for a religious or official purpose
10. The soccer game crowd broke into a _____ of "Go, team, go!"
- n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
11. We _____ along with the singer's song.
- v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
12. The sports _____ provided live commentary during the game.
- n.* a person who introduces and speaks on television or radio programs or provides commentary or information at a live event
13. The organization _____ her to be the next president.
- v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
14. I always add a bit of _____ to my soup to give it more flavor.
- n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
15. GDP per _____ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.
- n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

ANSWERS: 8. scot-free, 9. procession, 10. chant, 11. clapped, 12. announcer, 13. nominated, 14. broth, 15. capita

16. The _____ sound of the drums was mesmerizing.

adj. having a pattern of regular beats or a regular beat; characterized by rhythm

17. She was able to _____ a free trip to the United States.

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

18. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

n. a written legal order or command

19. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

20. The news of her promotion _____ her.

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

21. She was worried that her friends would _____ about her surprise party.

v. to reveal secrets or private information carelessly or indiscreetly

22. The protesters plan to _____ in front of the city hall to raise awareness for their cause.

v. to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area

23. The new champion racehorse came from a long line of strong _____.

n. the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species

ANSWERS: 16. rhythmic, 17. fiddle, 18. writ, 19. pretensions, 20. excited, 21. blab, 22. congregate, 23. bloodlines

24. Please get the desk _____.

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

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

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

ANSWERS: 24. downstairs, 25. singed