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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nora York: Singing "What I Want" | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

ceaseless

adj. without stopping, pausing, or resting; persistent and unending

synonym : endless, unending, perpetual

(1) **ceaseless** rain, (2) **ceaseless** chatter

The **ceaseless** noise from the construction site kept me up all night.

yearn

v. to strongly desire or long for something

synonym : long, desire, crave

(1) **yearn** after my old days, (2) **yearn** for love

She **yearned** for the days when things were simpler.

poem

n. a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery

synonym : ballad, lyric, verse

(1) a narrative **poem**, (2) **poem** to the dead

A great **poem** is a fountain forever overflowing with the waters of wisdom and delight.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym : incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap
There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

naught

n. a numerical value representing zero or no quantity;
nothingness

synonym: zero, nil, nothing

(1) **naught** percent, (2) **naught** to fear

The company's profits were reduced to **naught** due to unexpected expenses.

seize

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

synonym: grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

fret

v. to feel or express worry, anxiety, or annoyance about something; to wear away or corrode a surface by rubbing repeatedly; to form a series of parallel ridges or grooves in a material

synonym: worry, agonize, fuss

(1) **fret** over every little thing, (2) **fret** about the future

I couldn't help but **fret** over the presentation I have to give tomorrow.

fake

adj. not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit

synonym: affected, bogus, counterfeit

(1) **fake** police officer, (2) spread of **fake** news

The prime minister was not well prepared for the debate and **faked** it

take-it-or-leave-it

adj. indicating that an offer or proposition is not negotiable and must be accepted or rejected entirely as is

synonym: non-negotiable, uncompromising, inflexible

(1) **take-it-or-leave-it** policy, (2) a **take-it-or-leave-it** attitude

I'm giving you a **take-it-or-leave-it** offer - this is the best I can do.

tame

v. to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training

synonym: domesticate, soften, (adjective) harmless

(1) **tame** a wild beast, (2) a **tame** animal

We have to **tame** substantial financial deficits at first.

claim

v. to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true

synonym: assert, declare, maintain

(1) **claim** responsibility, (2) false **claim**

He wants to **claim** ownership of the abandoned property.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a tak _____-it attitude *adj.* indicating that an offer or proposition is not negotiable and must be accepted or rejected entirely as is
2. French pa _____x *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
3. spread of f__e news *adj.* not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit
4. na__t percent *n.* a numerical value representing zero or no quantity; nothingness
5. tak _____-it policy *adj.* indicating that an offer or proposition is not negotiable and must be accepted or rejected entirely as is
6. na__t to fear *n.* a numerical value representing zero or no quantity; nothingness
7. f__e police officer *adj.* not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit
8. ce_____ss rain *adj.* without stopping, pausing, or resting; persistent and unending
9. se__e a person's property *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
10. a narrative p__m *n.* a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery

ANSWERS: 1. take-it-or-leave-it, 2. paradox, 3. fake, 4. naught, 5. take-it-or-leave-it, 6. naught, 7. fake, 8. ceaseless, 9. seize, 10. poem

11. ce_____ss chatter *adj.* without stopping, pausing, or resting; persistent and unending
12. false cl__m *v.* to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true
13. ye__n after my old days *v.* to strongly desire or long for something
14. cl__m responsibility *v.* to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true
15. se__e the day *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
16. f__t over every little thing *v.* to feel or express worry, anxiety, or annoyance about something; to wear away or corrode a surface by rubbing repeatedly; to form a series of parallel ridges or grooves in a material
17. the pa_____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
18. ye__n for love *v.* to strongly desire or long for something

ANSWERS: 11. ceaseless, 12. claim, 13. yearn, 14. claim, 15. seize, 16. fret, 17. paradox, 18. yearn

19. f__t about the future *v.* to feel or express worry, anxiety, or annoyance about something; to wear away or corrode a surface by rubbing repeatedly; to form a series of parallel ridges or grooves in a material
20. p__m to the dead *n.* a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery
21. t__e a wild beast *v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training
22. a t__e animal *v.* to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training

ANSWERS: 19. fret, 20. poem, 21. tame, 22. tame

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We have to _____ substantial financial deficits at first.
 - v. to make wild animals domesticated or controlled, especially through specific training; (adjective) not dangerous or afraid of people, either naturally or because of specific training

2. The _____ noise from the construction site kept me up all night.
 - adj. without stopping, pausing, or resting; persistent and unending

3. The company's profits were reduced to _____ due to unexpected expenses.
 - n. a numerical value representing zero or no quantity; nothingness

4. He wants to _____ ownership of the abandoned property.
 - v. to assert that something is true; to demand or request something as one's own; to lay legal or moral right to something; (noun) a demand or assertion of a right or something that one believes to be true

5. She _____ for the days when things were simpler.
 - v. to strongly desire or long for something

6. A great _____ is a fountain forever overflowing with the waters of wisdom and delight.
 - n. a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas by paying particular attention to diction (sometimes rhyme), rhythm, and imagery

7. I'm giving you a _____ offer - this is the best I can do.
 - adj. indicating that an offer or proposition is not negotiable and must be accepted or rejected entirely as is

ANSWERS: 1. tame, 2. ceaseless, 3. naught, 4. claim, 5. yearned, 6. poem, 7. take-it-or-leave-it

8. The prime minister was not well prepared for the debate and _____ it
adj. not genuine; fraudulent or counterfeit
9. There are many theories to explain this _____.
n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
10. I couldn't help but _____ over the presentation I have to give tomorrow.
v. to feel or express worry, anxiety, or annoyance about something; to wear away or corrode a surface by rubbing repeatedly; to form a series of parallel ridges or grooves in a material
11. He has the superpower to _____ a business opportunity.
v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

ANSWERS: 8. faked, 9. paradox, 10. fret, 11. seize