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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Imogen Heap: "Wait It Out" | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

shatter

v. to break suddenly into many pieces

synonym: break, crash, destroy

(1) **shatter** the plate, (2) **shatter** a world record

Her husband's death **shattered** her life entirely.

makeshift

adj. serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised

synonym: improvised, temporary, ad-hoc

(1) **makeshift** shelter, (2) a **makeshift** solution

The team set up a **makeshift** tent for shelter during the storm.

wretchedness

n. the state of being miserable, unhappy, or distressed; the quality of being unfortunate or deeply distressed

synonym: misery, unhappiness, distress

(1) emotional **wretchedness**, (2) economic **wretchedness**

The book delves into the **wretchedness** and misery of life in a war-torn country.

crumble

v. to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support

synonym: disintegrate, collapse, deteriorate

(1) **crumble** to dust, (2) began to **crumble** under financial pressure

The old building was starting to **crumble** due to years of

neglect and lack of maintenance.

cliche

n. a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

synonym: truism, platitude, stereotype

(1) **cliche** plot, (2) age-old **cliche**

Using the same **cliche** phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.

crumple

v. to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed

synonym: crinkle, crush, mash

(1) **crumple** paper, (2) **crumple** clothes

The car **crumpled** after colliding with the tree.

cynical

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

synonym: skeptical, mistrustful, doubtful

(1) **cynical** remarks, (2) **cynical** worldview

He was very **cynical** and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

lackluster

adj. lacking in luster or sheen; dull, uninspired, or lacking in energy or vitality; lacking brightness or sparkle

synonym: dull, uninspiring, lackadaisical

(1) **lackluster** economy, (2) **lackluster** appearance

The **lackluster** performance left the audience feeling disappointed and underwhelmed.

Session 2: Spelling

1. lac_____er economy *adj.* lacking in luster or sheen; dull, uninspired, or lacking in energy or vitality; lacking brightness or sparkle
2. sh_____r a world record *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
3. sh_____r the plate *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
4. cr_____e paper *v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed
5. economic wre_____ess *n.* the state of being miserable, unhappy, or distressed; the quality of being unfortunate or deeply distressed
6. began to cr_____e under financial pressure *v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
7. age-old cl____e *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
8. a ma_____ft solution *adj.* serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised
9. ma_____ft shelter *adj.* serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised
10. cl____e plot *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

ANSWERS: 1. lackluster, 2. shatter, 3. shatter, 4. crumple, 5. wretchedness, 6. crumble, 7. cliché, 8. makeshift, 9. makeshift, 10. cliché

11. cy____l worldview *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
12. cy____l remarks *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
13. lac_____er appearance *adj.* lacking in luster or sheen; dull, uninspired, or lacking in energy or vitality; lacking brightness or sparkle
14. emotional wre_____ess *n.* the state of being miserable, unhappy, or distressed; the quality of being unfortunate or deeply distressed
15. cr_____e to dust *v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
16. cr_____e clothes *v.* to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed

ANSWERS: 11. cynical, 12. cynical, 13. lackluster, 14. wretchedness, 15. crumble, 16. crumple

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The car _____ after colliding with the tree.
v. to collapse or crumple into a disordered or wrinkled mass; to fall apart or lose strength suddenly; to become emotionally distressed or overwhelmed
2. The team set up a _____ tent for shelter during the storm.
adj. serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised
3. The old building was starting to _____ due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance.
v. to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
4. Using the same _____ phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.
n. a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
5. The book delves into the _____ and misery of life in a war-torn country.
n. the state of being miserable, unhappy, or distressed; the quality of being unfortunate or deeply distressed
6. Her husband's death _____ her life entirely.
v. to break suddenly into many pieces
7. The _____ performance left the audience feeling disappointed and underwhelmed.
adj. lacking in luster or sheen; dull, uninspired, or lacking in energy or vitality; lacking brightness or sparkle

ANSWERS: 1. crumpled, 2. makeshift, 3. crumble, 4. cliché, 5. wretchedness, 6. shattered, 7. lackluster

8. He was very _____ and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

ANSWERS: 8. cynical