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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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

quest

n. a long or challenging search for something

synonym: exploration, inquisition, pursuit

(1) the **quest** for truth, (2) on a **quest** for happiness

That adventurer traveled in **quest** of buried treasure.

scrap

n. a small piece or amount of something, especially leftover from a larger whole

synonym: fragment, piece, remnant

(1) **scrap** metal, (2) a broken piece of **scrap**

She made a collage from **scraps** of paper and fabric from the art supply store.

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.

collapse

v. to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart

synonym: tumble, spill, bankruptcy

(1) the stock market **collapsed**, (2) ready to **collapse**

The roof finally **collapsed** after three days and three nights of heavy snowfall.

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.

heal

v. to make a wound or injury to become well again
synonym : recover, bring around, mend

(1) **heal** a broken bone, (2) **heal** the hurt mind

It will take time for her mental scars to **heal**.

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.

hollow

adj. having a hole, empty space inside, or indentation on the surface

synonym : cavity, depression, concavity

(1) have **hollow** legs, (2) **hollow** sound

The tree had a **hollow** trunk, which made it easy for animals to take shelter inside.

endless

adj. having no end or conclusion; infinitely very large in size or amount

synonym : infinite, ceaseless, boundless

(1) **endless** possibilities, (2) **endless** hours

He looked out the window at the **endless** stream of people.

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.

puffy

adj. swollen or distended, especially with air or gas;

synonym: swollen, distended, inflated

(1) **puffy** off-shore winds, (2) **puffy** eyes

His cheeks looked **puffy** after he overate junk food.

stare

v. to gaze or look fixedly and intently at someone or something, often in a questioning, curious, or suspicious manner; (noun) a fixed, intense, and prolonged gaze or look

synonym: gaze, look, gawk

(1) **stare** blankly, (2) give a menacing **stare**

He couldn't help but **stare** at the beautiful sunset over the ocean.

miracle

n. an act or occurrence that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore believed to be caused by God

synonym: wonder, marvel, phenomenon

(1) **miracle** person, (2) economic **miracle**

The doctors said that her recovery was a **miracle**.

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.

fluorescent

adj. emitting or reflecting vibrant and vivid light, especially under ultraviolet light; describing a type of lamp or bulb that produces such light

synonym: luminescent, phosphorescent, radiant

(1) **fluorescent** bulb, (2) **fluorescent** material

The office installed new **fluorescent** lighting to save energy.

sweat

n. the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress

synonym: perspiration, steam, hardwork

(1) all in a **sweat**, (2) **sweat** bath

She wiped the **sweat** off her forehead with a towel.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. mi_____e person | <i>n.</i> an act or occurrence that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore believed to be caused by God |
| 2. on a qu__t for happiness | <i>n.</i> a long or challenging search for something |
| 3. sc__p metal | <i>n.</i> a small piece or amount of something, especially leftover from a larger whole |
| 4. economic wre_____ess | <i>n.</i> the state of being miserable, unhappy, or distressed; the quality of being unfortunate or deeply distressed |
| 5. pu__y eyes | <i>adj.</i> swollen or distended, especially with air or gas; |
| 6. age-old cl___e | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 7. flu_____nt material | <i>adj.</i> emitting or reflecting vibrant and vivid light, especially under ultraviolet light; describing a type of lamp or bulb that produces such light |
| 8. en_____s hours | <i>adj.</i> having no end or conclusion; infinitely very large in size or amount |
| 9. lac_____er appearance | <i>adj.</i> lacking in luster or sheen; dull, uninspired, or lacking in energy or vitality; lacking brightness or sparkle |

ANSWERS: 1. miracle, 2. quest, 3. scrap, 4. wretchedness, 5. puffy, 6. cliché, 7. fluorescent, 8. endless, 9. lackluster

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|--|------|--|
| 10. sh_____r the plate | v. | to break suddenly into many pieces |
| 11. the stock market co_____sed | v. | to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart |
| 12. 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 |
| 13. cr_____e to dust | v. | to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support |
| 14. ready to co_____se | v. | to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart |
| 15. cy_____l remarks | adj. | believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity |
| 16. economic mi_____e | n. | an act or occurrence that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore believed to be caused by God |
| 17. flu_____nt bulb | adj. | emitting or reflecting vibrant and vivid light, especially under ultraviolet light; describing a type of lamp or bulb that produces such light |
| 18. emotional wre_____ess | n. | the state of being miserable, unhappy, or distressed; the quality of being unfortunate or deeply distressed |
| 19. h__l the hurt mind | v. | to make a wound or injury to become well again |
| 20. lac_____er economy | adj. | lacking in luster or sheen; dull, uninspired, or lacking in energy or vitality; lacking brightness or sparkle |

ANSWERS: 10. shatter, 11. collapse, 12. crumble, 13. crumble, 14. collapse, 15. cynical, 16. miracle, 17. fluorescent, 18. wretchedness, 19. heal, 20. lackluster

21. ma_____ft shelter *adj.* serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised
22. en_____s possibilities *adj.* having no end or conclusion; infinitely very large in size or amount
23. a ma_____ft solution *adj.* serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised
24. 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
25. cy_____l worldview *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
26. pu__y off-shore winds *adj.* swollen or distended, especially with air or gas;
27. all in a sw__t *n.* the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress
28. a broken piece of sc__p *n.* a small piece or amount of something, especially leftover from a larger whole
29. give a menacing st__e *v.* to gaze or look fixedly and intently at someone or something, often in a questioning, curious, or suspicious manner; (noun) a fixed, intense, and prolonged gaze or look
30. the qu__t for truth *n.* a long or challenging search for something
31. 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: 21. makeshift, 22. endless, 23. makeshift, 24. crumple, 25. cynical, 26. puffy, 27. sweat, 28. scrap, 29. stare, 30. quest, 31. cliché

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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

2. The tree had a _____ trunk, which made it easy for animals to take shelter inside.
adj. having a hole, empty space inside, or indentation on the surface

3. His cheeks looked _____ after he overate junk food.
adj. swollen or distended, especially with air or gas;

4. 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

5. The doctors said that her recovery was a _____.
n. an act or occurrence that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore believed to be caused by God

6. 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

7. The roof finally _____ after three days and three nights of heavy snowfall.
v. to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart

ANSWERS: 1. cliché, 2. hollow, 3. puffy, 4. crumpled, 5. miracle, 6. crumble, 7. collapsed

8. He couldn't help but _____ at the beautiful sunset over the ocean.
v. to gaze or look fixedly and intently at someone or something, often in a questioning, curious, or suspicious manner; (noun) a fixed, intense, and prolonged gaze or look
9. The team set up a _____ tent for shelter during the storm.
adj. serving as a temporary substitute or solution; improvised
10. She wiped the _____ off her forehead with a towel.
n. the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress
11. Her husband's death _____ her life entirely.
v. to break suddenly into many pieces
12. 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
13. 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
14. He looked out the window at the _____ stream of people.
adj. having no end or conclusion; infinitely very large in size or amount
15. That adventurer traveled in _____ of buried treasure.
n. a long or challenging search for something

ANSWERS: 8. stare, 9. makeshift, 10. sweat, 11. shattered, 12. lackluster, 13. wretchedness, 14. endless, 15. quest

16. The office installed new _____ lighting to save energy.

adj. emitting or reflecting vibrant and vivid light, especially under ultraviolet light; describing a type of lamp or bulb that produces such light

17. 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

18. She made a collage from _____ of paper and fabric from the art supply store.

n. a small piece or amount of something, especially leftover from a larger whole

19. It will take time for her mental scars to _____.

v. to make a wound or injury to become well again

ANSWERS: 16. fluorescent, 17. cynical, 18. scraps, 19. heal