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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sirena Huang: An 11-year-old's magical violin | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/sirena_huang_an_11_year_old_s_magical_violin

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

siren

n. a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger

synonym : alarm, warning, alert

(1) fire truck **siren**, (2) police **siren**

I heard the **siren** of an ambulance and moved my car to the side of the road.

entertainment

n. public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people

synonym : amusement, recreation, enjoyment

(1) an elegant **entertainment**, (2) hour of **entertainment**

The hotel is famous for its **entertainment**, including the casino.

cell-phone

n. a portable electronic device used for making and receiving phone calls, sending text messages, and accessing the internet wirelessly

synonym : mobile, smartphone

(1) **cell-phone** signal, (2) **cell-phone** battery

I left my **cell-phone** at home, and now I feel lost.

memorize

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

synonym: learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

violin

n. a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings

synonym: fiddle

(1) **violin** soloist, (2) play the **violin**

The cello is a member of the **violin** family.

metal

n. a solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and ductile, with good electrical and thermal conductivity, and often used as a structural material, a conductor of heat or electricity, or for decorative purposes

synonym: alloy, metalloid

(1) **metal** fabrication, (2) precious **metal**

The construction worker used a **metal** saw to cut through the stubborn sheet metal.

string

n. long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads

synonym: line, wire, rope

(1) retie the **string** and make it strong, (2) tense piano **strings**

She wore a **string** of pearls around her neck.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym: oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

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.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym : intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

frequency

n. an ordered array of colors into which a light beam can be split

synonym : recurrence, repetition, regularity

(1) **frequency** band, (2) high **frequency**

The oscillator hunts for the correct **frequency**.

fascinating

adj. extremely interesting

synonym : alluring, intriguing, captivating

(1) **fascinating** story, (2) completely **fascinating** to me

The museum houses a **fascinating** collection of Celtic artifacts.

transmission

n. the act or process of sending something from one person or place to another; the process of broadcasting over the airwaves, as in radio or television

synonym : transportation, communication, broadcast

(1) **transmission** speed, (2) the **transmission** gears of a car

Education is the **transmission** of civilization.

nowadays

adv. at the current time, in comparison to the past

synonym : currently, presently, today

(1) young people **nowadays**, (2) not to be seen **nowadays**

People can clone a sheep **nowadays**.

principle

n. a fundamental law or truth that explains or controls how something happens or works

synonym : rule, creed, code

(1) **principle** of treatment, (2) **principle** in business

Efficiency isn't an essential **principle** here; fairness is.

giant

adj. enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are

synonym : big, gigantic, huge

(1) **giant** trees, (2) **giant** tech company

The **giant** jets gradually dominate the world's airlines.

monster

n. an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful

synonym : giant, freak, behemoth

(1) horde of **monsters**, (2) **monster** film

This car has a **monster** engine.

bench

n. a long, flat surface, often elevated and supported by legs, used for sitting, working, or displaying objects; persons who administer justice

synonym : seat, terrace, judiciary

(1) **bench** conference, (2) **bench board**

I sat on the **bench** in the park and enjoyed the beautiful scenery.

lightweight

adj. composed of thinner and lighter material than average; not severe or impressive

(1) **lightweight** aircraft, (2) **lightweight** structure

Powder coating protects the **lightweight** aluminum alloy components.

standing

adj. existing or remaining upright; having a vertical position;
(noun) social, financial, or professional status or reputation

synonym : upright, vertical, (noun) position

(1) **standing** water, (2) his social **standing**
The **standing** concert was packed with fans.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym: murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves
He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

relate

v. to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something

synonym: connect, link, associate

(1) **relate** a story, (2) **relate** a message

He tried to **relate** his experience to the group, but they couldn't understand.

modern

adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times

synonym: contemporary, stylish, current

(1) **modern** poetry, (2) pre-**modern** agricultural society

Their headquarters are in a **modern** skyscraper.

dated

adj. having a style or quality that is no longer fashionable or relevant; old-fashioned; belonging to a particular time period in the past

synonym: outdated, antiquated, obsolete

(1) **dated** technology, (2) **dated** fashion

The documents were difficult to read due to their **dated** language.

unique

adj. being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else

synonym: one-of-a-kind, unparalleled, incomparable

(1) a **unique** teacher, (2) **unique** design

The painting is **unique**, and there is no other like it.

instrument

n. an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work

synonym: apparatus, tool, device

(1) musical **instruments**, (2) surgical **instruments**

This electronic **instrument** is required to undergo periodic inspections to ensure precision.

entertaining

adj. providing enjoyment or amusement, especially through being lively or amusing

synonym: amusing, diverting, engaging

(1) **entertaining** puppet show, (2) very **entertaining** book

The magician's act was **entertaining** and kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

horrible

adj. extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust

synonym: dreadful, terrible, awful

(1) **horrible** accident, (2) **horrible** smell

The experience was **horrible** and left a lasting impression.

scratch

v. to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object

synonym: claw, rub, scrape

(1) **scratch** off a name, (2) **scratch** my signature

Don't **scratch** your mosquito bites.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

concert

n. a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers

synonym: gig, musical, show

(1) have a **concert** again, (2) a benefit **concert**

This artist always packs the **concert** halls.

compliment

n. an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good

synonym : praise, acclamation, tribute

(1) a backhanded **compliment**, (2) accept a **compliment**

Her **compliment** made my day; I felt so competent and appreciated.

artistic

adj. of or relating to art or artist; satisfying aesthetic standards and sensibilities

synonym : beautiful, aesthetic, creative

(1) an **artistic** photograph, (2) cultural and **artistic** activity

Promising entrepreneurs often have a high **artistic** sensibility.

legendary

adj. famous or well-known, especially through long-standing popular stories or tradition

synonym : mythical, fabled, storied

(1) **legendary** actor, (2) achieve a **legendary** status

The **legendary** stories of King Arthur have been passed down for centuries.

unexpected

adj. not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen

synonym : surprising, unanticipated, incredible

(1) an **unexpected** visitor, (2) some **unexpected** events

The **unexpected** rainstorm caused the collapse of the corral.

dimension

n. a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length

synonym : extent, measurement, size

(1) new **dimension**, (2) the crosswise **dimension**

Overall **dimensions** are approximately 400x200mm.

impressive

adj. arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill

synonym : impactful, remarkable, exceptional

(1) **impressive** performances, (2) an **impressive** array of facts

The budget reduction was an **impressive** feat for our nation.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. gi__t tech company | <i>adj.</i> enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are |
| 2. ent_____ing puppet show | <i>adj.</i> providing enjoyment or amusement, especially through being lively or amusing |
| 3. have a co_____t again | <i>n.</i> a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers |
| 4. some une_____ed events | <i>adj.</i> not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen |
| 5. da__d fashion | <i>adj.</i> having a style or quality that is no longer fashionable or relevant; old-fashioned; belonging to a particular time period in the past |
| 6. am_____y the effect | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 7. am_____y a signal | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 8. retie the st____g and make it strong | <i>n.</i> long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads |
| 9. horde of mo_____rs | <i>n.</i> an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful |
| 10. tra_____ion speed | <i>n.</i> the act or process of sending something from one person or place to another; the process of broadcasting over the airwaves, as in radio or television |

ANSWERS: 1. giant, 2. entertaining, 3. concert, 4. unexpected, 5. dated, 6. amplify, 7. amplify, 8. string, 9. monster, 10. transmission

11. accept a com_____nt *n.* an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good
12. young people no_____ys *adv.* at the current time, in comparison to the past
13. me__l fabrication *n.* a solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and ductile, with good electrical and thermal conductivity, and often used as a structural material, a conductor of heat or electricity, or for decorative purposes
14. be__h board *n.* a long, flat surface, often elevated and supported by legs, used for sitting, working, or displaying objects; persons who administer justice
15. da__d technology *adj.* having a style or quality that is no longer fashionable or relevant; old-fashioned; belonging to a particular time period in the past
16. new di_____on *n.* a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length
17. pr_____le of treatment *n.* a fundamental law or truth that explains or controls how something happens or works
18. surgical ins_____nts *n.* an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work
19. vi___n soloist *n.* a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings

ANSWERS: 11. compliment, 12. nowadays, 13. metal, 14. bench, 15. dated, 16. dimension, 17. principle, 18. instrument, 19. violin

20. an ar____ic photograph *adj.* of or relating to art or artist; satisfying aesthetic standards and sensibilities
21. police si__n *n.* a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger
22. mo____r film *n.* an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful
23. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
24. the crosswise di____on *n.* a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length
25. cel____ne signal *n.* a portable electronic device used for making and receiving phone calls, sending text messages, and accessing the internet wirelessly
26. an imp____ve array of facts *adj.* arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill
27. pre-mo___n agricultural society *adj.* of or belonging to the present time or recent times
28. high fr____cy *n.* an ordered array of colors into which a light beam can be split
29. his social st____ng *adj.* existing or remaining upright; having a vertical position; (noun) social, financial, or professional status or reputation

ANSWERS: 20. artistic, 21. siren, 22. monster, 23. aft, 24. dimension, 25. cell-phone, 26. impressive, 27. modern, 28. frequency, 29. standing

30. answer in a wh_____r
v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
31. an elegant ent_____ent
n. public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people
32. hour of ent_____ent
n. public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people
33. un___e design
adj. being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else
34. very ent_____ing book
adj. providing enjoyment or amusement, especially through being lively or amusing
35. re___e a story
v. to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something
36. lig_____ht aircraft
adj. composed of thinner and lighter material than average; not severe or impressive
37. mo___n poetry
adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times
38. sc_____h my signature
v. to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object
39. achieve a le_____ry status
adj. famous or well-known, especially through long-standing popular stories or tradition

ANSWERS: 30. whisper, 31. entertainment, 32. entertainment, 33. unique, 34. entertaining, 35. relate, 36. lightweight, 37. modern, 38. scratch, 39. legendary

40. sc_____h off a name	<i>v.</i> to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object
41. be__h conference	<i>n.</i> a long, flat surface, often elevated and supported by legs, used for sitting, working, or displaying objects; persons who administer justice
42. a backhanded com_____nt	<i>n.</i> an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good
43. an une_____ed visitor	<i>adj.</i> not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen
44. tense piano st____gs	<i>n.</i> long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads
45. cultural and ar_____ic activity	<i>adj.</i> of or relating to art or artist; satisfying aesthetic standards and sensibilities
46. ho_____le accident	<i>adj.</i> extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust
47. fas_____ng story	<i>adj.</i> extremely interesting
48. try hard to me_____ze the lines	<i>v.</i> to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
49. vi_____e at a regular frequency	<i>v.</i> to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
50. a benefit co_____t	<i>n.</i> a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers
51. st_____ng water	<i>adj.</i> existing or remaining upright; having a vertical position; (noun) social, financial, or professional status or reputation

ANSWERS: 40. scratch, 41. bench, 42. compliment, 43. unexpected, 44. string, 45. artistic, 46. horrible, 47. fascinating, 48. memorize, 49. vibrate, 50. concert, 51. standing

52. the wh_____r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
53. fr_____cy band *n.* an ordered array of colors into which a light beam can be split
54. ho_____le smell *adj.* extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust
55. pr_____le in business *n.* a fundamental law or truth that explains or controls how something happens or works
56. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
57. vi_____e with anger *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
58. play the vi____n *n.* a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings
59. me_____ze musical scores *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
60. the tra_____ion gears of a car *n.* the act or process of sending something from one person or place to another; the process of broadcasting over the airwaves, as in radio or television
61. le_____ry actor *adj.* famous or well-known, especially through long-standing popular stories or tradition

ANSWERS: 52. whisper, 53. frequency, 54. horrible, 55. principle, 56. passe, 57. vibrate, 58. violin, 59. memorize, 60. transmission, 61. legendary

62. a un___e teacher *adj.* being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else
63. not to be seen no____ys *adv.* at the current time, in comparison to the past
64. gi__t trees *adj.* enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are
65. precious me__l *n.* a solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and ductile, with good electrical and thermal conductivity, and often used as a structural material, a conductor of heat or electricity, or for decorative purposes
66. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
67. imp____ve performances *adj.* arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill
68. fire truck si__n *n.* a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger
69. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
70. completely fas____ng to me *adj.* extremely interesting
71. re___e a message *v.* to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something

ANSWERS: 62. unique, 63. nowadays, 64. giant, 65. metal, 66. aft, 67. impressive, 68. siren, 69. passe, 70. fascinating, 71. relate

72. lig_____ht structure

adj. composed of thinner and lighter material than average; not severe or impressive

73. musical ins_____nts

n. an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work

74. cel_____ne battery

n. a portable electronic device used for making and receiving phone calls, sending text messages, and accessing the internet wirelessly

ANSWERS: 72. lightweight, 73. instrument, 74. cell-phone

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I sat on the _____ in the park and enjoyed the beautiful scenery.
n. a long, flat surface, often elevated and supported by legs, used for sitting, working, or displaying objects; persons who administer justice

2. The _____ concert was packed with fans.
adj. existing or remaining upright; having a vertical position; (noun) social, financial, or professional status or reputation

3. Overall _____ are approximately 400x200mm.
n. a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length

4. The painting is _____ and there is no other like it.
adj. being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else

5. She wore a _____ of pearls around her neck.
n. long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads

6. The construction worker used a _____ saw to cut through the stubborn sheet metal.
n. a solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and ductile, with good electrical and thermal conductivity, and often used as a structural material, a conductor of heat or electricity, or for decorative purposes

7. This car has a _____ engine.
n. an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful

ANSWERS: 1. bench, 2. standing, 3. dimensions, 4. unique, 5. string, 6. metal, 7. monster

8. The _____ stories of King Arthur have been passed down for centuries.
adj. famous or well-known, especially through long-standing popular stories or tradition
9. I left my _____ at home, and now I feel lost.
n. a portable electronic device used for making and receiving phone calls, sending text messages, and accessing the internet wirelessly
10. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.
v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
11. I heard the _____ of an ambulance and moved my car to the side of the road.
n. a device that emits a loud, piercing sound, typically used as a warning or to get attention; historically, a creature in Greek mythology whose enchanting voice would lure sailors toward danger
12. People can clone a sheep _____.
adv. at the current time, in comparison to the past
13. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.
v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
14. The _____ rainstorm caused the collapse of the corral.
adj. not anticipated or regarded as likely to happen
15. The oscillator hunts for the correct _____.
n. an ordered array of colors into which a light beam can be split

ANSWERS: 8. legendary, 9. cell-phone, 10. whispered, 11. siren, 12. nowadays, 13. vibrate, 14. unexpected, 15. frequency

16. Her _____ made my day; I felt so competent and appreciated.
- n.* an expression of praise, admiration, or approval; a polite or flattering statement intended to make someone feel good
17. Education is the _____ of civilization.
- n.* the act or process of sending something from one person or place to another; the process of broadcasting over the airwaves, as in radio or television
18. The cello is a member of the _____ family.
- n.* a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings
19. The ____ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
- adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
20. This electronic _____ is required to undergo periodic inspections to ensure precision.
- n.* an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work
21. The hotel is famous for its _____ including the casino.
- n.* public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people
22. Their headquarters are in a _____ skyscraper.
- adj.* of or belonging to the present time or recent times
23. He tried to _____ his experience to the group, but they couldn't understand.
- v.* to establish a connection or association between two or more things; to narrate or tell about an event, experience, or relationship; to empathize or feel sympathy with someone or something

ANSWERS: 16. compliment, 17. transmission, 18. violin, 19. aft, 20. instrument, 21. entertainment, 22. modern, 23. relate

24. The experience was _____ and left a lasting impression.

adj. extremely unpleasant or bad; causing fear or disgust

25. This artist always packs the _____ halls.

n. a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers

26. The budget reduction was an _____ feat for our nation.

adj. arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill

27. The magician's act was _____ and kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

adj. providing enjoyment or amusement, especially through being lively or amusing

28. Don't _____ your mosquito bites.

v. to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object

29. The documents were difficult to read due to their _____ language.

adj. having a style or quality that is no longer fashionable or relevant; old-fashioned; belonging to a particular time period in the past

30. Promising entrepreneurs often have a high _____ sensibility.

adj. of or relating to art or artist; satisfying aesthetic standards and sensibilities

31. The museum houses a _____ collection of Celtic artifacts.

adj. extremely interesting

32. Powder coating protects the _____ aluminum alloy components.

adj. composed of thinner and lighter material than average; not severe or impressive

ANSWERS: 24. horrible, 25. concert, 26. impressive, 27. entertaining, 28. scratch, 29. dated, 30. artistic, 31. fascinating, 32. lightweight

33. Efficiency isn't an essential _____ here; fairness is.

n. a fundamental law or truth that explains or controls how something happens or works

34. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

35. You might need to _____ this point.

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

36. 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

37. The _____ jets gradually dominate the world's airlines.

adj. enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are

ANSWERS: 33. principle, 34. memorize, 35. amplify, 36. passe, 37. giant