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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tom Wujec: Build a tower, build a team | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_wujec_build_a_tower_build_a_team

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship

He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

marshmallow

n. a spongy confection made from sugar, corn syrup, and gelatin, often flavored with vanilla and molded into shapes or used as a topping or decoration for desserts

(1) **marshmallow** fluff, (2) **marshmallow** treat

She roasted **marshmallows** over the campfire.

orient

v. to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia

synonym: position, align, adjust

(1) **orient** my thinking, (2) the exotic flavor of the **Orient**

She took a moment to **orient** herself in the unfamiliar city.

jockey

n. a person who rides horses in races, typically as a professional occupation; a person who manipulates or tries to gain an advantage through skillful maneuvering or persuasion

synonym: rider, horseman, equestrian

(1) **jockey** hat, (2) professional **jockey**

The **jockey** on the winning horse was showered with praise and applause from the crowd.

gingerly

adv. carefully or cautiously, often done with delicate handling or light touch; done with extreme care or gentleness to avoid causing damage or pain

synonym : carefully, cautiously, delicately

(1) walk **gingerly**, (2) speak **gingerly**

She **gingerly** placed the fragile vase on the shelf to avoid breaking it.

buckle

v. to bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat;
(*noun*) a device used for fastening two loose ends of a belt or strap

synonym : bend, crumple, contort

(1) **buckle** down to study, (2) **buckle** shoe

The severe heat wave **buckled** railway tracks.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym : preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

iterate

v. to repeat or do something again, often to make improvements or correct errors; to go over or revisit something repeatedly; to restate or emphasize a point or idea

synonym : repeat, reiterate, echo

(1) **iterate** results, (2) **iterate** an experiment

We need to **iterate** on this design to improve its functionality.

beforehand

adv. ahead of time; in advance

synonym : in advance, preceding, earlier

(1) take a seat **beforehand**, (2) three months **beforehand**

She packed her sunscreen **beforehand** to remember it on the beach trip.

facilitation

n. the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something

synonym: assistance, support, aid

(1) trade **facilitation**, (2) **facilitation** services

The **facilitation** of teamwork and collaboration is crucial for the success of any project.

ante

n. a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor

synonym: bet, wager, stake

(1) up the **ante**, (2) penny- **ante** trade

We need to raise the **ante** to win this poker game.

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.

tweak

v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

synonym: nip, pinch, fine-tune

(1) **tweak** his cheek, (2) **tweak** the economy

He didn't **tweak** the plan, even though he had time.

Session 2: Spelling

1. take a seat bef_____nd *adv.* ahead of time; in advance
2. walk gi_____ly *adv.* carefully or cautiously, often done with delicate handling or light touch; done with extreme care or gentleness to avoid causing damage or pain
3. mar_____ow fluff *n.* a spongy confection made from sugar, corn syrup, and gelatin, often flavored with vanilla and molded into shapes or used as a topping or decoration for desserts
4. the exotic flavor of the Or____t *v.* to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia
5. or____t my thinking *v.* to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia
6. dis_____ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
7. speak gi_____ly *adv.* carefully or cautiously, often done with delicate handling or light touch; done with extreme care or gentleness to avoid causing damage or pain
8. tw__k the economy *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

ANSWERS: 1. beforehand, 2. gingerly, 3. marshmallow, 4. orient, 5. orient, 6. distracted, 7. gingerly, 8. tweak

9. jo___y hat *n.* a person who rides horses in races, typically as a professional occupation; a person who manipulates or tries to gain an advantage through skillful maneuvering or persuasion
10. get dis_____ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
11. se__r a rope *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
12. bu___e down to study *v.* to bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat; (noun) a device used for fastening two loose ends of a belt or strap
13. up the a__e *n.* a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor
14. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
15. fac_____ion services *n.* the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something
16. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
17. three months bef_____nd *adv.* ahead of time; in advance

ANSWERS: 9. jockey, 10. distracted, 11. sever, 12. buckle, 13. ante, 14. writ, 15. facilitation, 16. writ, 17. beforehand

18. professional jo___y *n.* a person who rides horses in races, typically as a professional occupation; a person who manipulates or tries to gain an advantage through skillful maneuvering or persuasion
19. it_____e an experiment *v.* to repeat or do something again, often to make improvements or correct errors; to go over or revisit something repeatedly; to restate or emphasize a point or idea
20. tw__k his cheek *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
21. bu___e shoe *v.* to bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat; (noun) a device used for fastening two loose ends of a belt or strap
22. penny-a__e trade *n.* a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor
23. it_____e results *v.* to repeat or do something again, often to make improvements or correct errors; to go over or revisit something repeatedly; to restate or emphasize a point or idea
24. trade fac_____ion *n.* the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something

ANSWERS: 18. jockey, 19. iterate, 20. tweak, 21. buckle, 22. ante, 23. iterate, 24. facilitation

25. mar_____ow treat

n. a spongy confection made from sugar, corn syrup, and gelatin, often flavored with vanilla and molded into shapes or used as a topping or decoration for desserts

26. se__r a positive relationship

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

ANSWERS: 25. marshmallow, 26. sever

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She took a moment to _____ herself in the unfamiliar city.
 - v. to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia

2. We need to _____ on this design to improve its functionality.
 - v. to repeat or do something again, often to make improvements or correct errors; to go over or revisit something repeatedly; to restate or emphasize a point or idea

3. The severe heat wave _____ railway tracks.
 - v. to bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat; (noun) a device used for fastening two loose ends of a belt or strap

4. He didn't _____ the plan, even though he had time.
 - v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

5. We need to raise the _____ to win this poker game.
 - n. a mandatory bet or contribution made by all players in a game of cards or gambling as a prerequisite for participation; any initial or essential action or investment required for a particular endeavor

6. The _____ on the winning horse was showered with praise and applause from the crowd.
 - n. a person who rides horses in races, typically as a professional occupation; a person who manipulates or tries to gain an advantage through skillful maneuvering or persuasion

7. She _____ placed the fragile vase on the shelf to avoid breaking it.
 - adv. carefully or cautiously, often done with delicate handling or light touch; done with extreme care or gentleness to avoid causing damage or pain

ANSWERS: 1. orient, 2. iterate, 3. buckled, 4. tweak, 5. ante, 6. jockey, 7. gingerly

8. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
9. The _____ of teamwork and collaboration is crucial for the success of any project.
n. the act of making a process or task easier or smoother; providing assistance or support to enable the accomplishment of something
10. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.
v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
11. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command
12. She roasted _____ over the campfire.
n. a spongy confection made from sugar, corn syrup, and gelatin, often flavored with vanilla and molded into shapes or used as a topping or decoration for desserts
13. She packed her sunscreen _____ to remember it on the beach trip.
adv. ahead of time; in advance

ANSWERS: 8. distracted, 9. facilitation, 10. severed, 11. writ, 12. marshmallows, 13. beforehand