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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ganesh Pai: Can you solve the passcode riddle? |

Ted Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

dystopia

n. an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

synonym : anti-utopia

(1) a crumbling **dystopia**, (2) the escape from **dystopia**

The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into **dystopias**.

resistance

n. the act of defending oneself from an aggressor or refusing to accept something

synonym : opposition, antagonism, defiance

(1) **resistance** movement, (2) **resistance** to insulin

The bill to increase the consumption tax had passed despite much **resistance** from the public.

unfortunately

adv. by bad luck; unluckily

synonym : regrettably, unluckily, alas

(1) **unfortunately** caught in a shower, (2) even more **unfortunately**

The treatments were done but, **unfortunately**, were unsuccessful.

capture

v. to catch a person or an animal and confine them in an area which they cannot escape

synonym : catch, arrest, imprison

(1) **capture** a glimpse, (2) **capture** customers' hearts

I was able to **capture** the moment on film.

tyrannical

adj. using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way

synonym : despotic, oppressive, authoritarian

(1) a **tyrannical** government, (2) a **tyrannical** parent

Tyrannical Hollywood film moguls can easily rule the movie star's career.

ancient

adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old

synonym : archaic, age-old, obsolete

(1) pre-Christian **ancient**, (2) **ancient** stories

They have been living near water since **ancient** times.

colosseum

n. a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

(1) build a **colosseum** for gladiators, (2) **Colosseum** area

Rome's **Colosseum** gets busy in peak season.

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.

dungeon

n. a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground

synonym : prison, cell, lockup

(1) medieval **dungeon**, (2) a murky **dungeon**

The prisoner has been languishing for years in the castle **dungeon**.

hallway

n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
synonym: foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor

He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

barrier

n. a fence or other obstruction that makes it hard to move or get in; any condition that makes it difficult to make progress or to achieve an objective

synonym: border, barricade, fence

(1) cost **barrier**, (2) information **barrier**

The police placed a **barrier** across the street to halt traffic.

combination

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

synonym: blend, hybrid, compounding

(1) genic **combinations**, (2) **combination** number

The **combination** to the safe was a secret.

keypad

n. a small set of keys with an arrangement of numbers, symbols, or alphabetical letters

synonym: keyboard

(1) use the numeric **keypad**, (2) **keypad** device

Punch your credit card number into this external **keypad**.

mutant

n. an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)

(1) **mutant** Omicron strain, (2) **mutant** animal

The biologist thinks this **mutant** gene links to cancer.

salamander

n. any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed

synonym: amphibian

(1) terrestrial **salamander**, (2) semiaquatic **salamander**
We plan to raise a giant **salamander** as a pet.

obvious

adj. easy to see, discover or understand

synonym: apparent, conspicuous, evident

(1) **obvious** reasons, (2) his conclusion was **obvious**

There are **obvious** differences between the two wine-producing regions.

conceal

v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered

synonym: hide, keep secret, camouflage

(1) **conceal** my identity, (2) **conceal** a close relationship

Despite the intense verbal abuse, she **concealed** her anger well.

transmitter

n. a piece of equipment used for generating and sending electronic signals, especially radio or television signals

synonym: sender

(1) a **transmitter** of a family line, (2) radio **transmitter**

This substance acts as a neural **transmitter** substance.

footstep

n. a step, or the sound generated by a person walking when their foot hits the ground

synonym: footfall, step

(1) **footsteps** in the corridor, (2) approaching **footsteps**

The sound of oncoming **footsteps** grew louder, closer.

echo

n. a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff

synonym: reverberate, repeat, reflection

(1) the **echo** of a person's footsteps, (2) sound **echo**

A thunderous boom **echoed** throughout the valley.

announce

v. to make something known or officially inform people about something

synonym:

disclose, declare, broadcast

(1) **announce** candidacy, (2) **announce** the award winners
The third season of the anime show has been **announced**.

consist

v. to be composed or made up of

synonym: lie in, comprise, exist

(1) **consist** mainly of cells, (2) **consist** only in knowing facts
This examination **consists** of five problems to solve.

ascending

adj. changing location in an upward direction; increasing in size or value

synonym: rising, climbing, growing

(1) the **ascending** plane, (2) **ascending** trend line

Please sort the list of names of employees in **ascending** order.

clue

n. an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery

synonym: hint, indication, inkling

(1) a **clue** about the crime, (2) a **clue** to the diagnosis

The police couldn't find a **clue** to her whereabouts.

passcode

n. a combination of letters, numbers, movements, etc., usually used to confirm a user's identity and access a computer or other electronic device

synonym: password

(1) 4-digit **passcode**, (2) **passcode** generator

We need a six-digit one-time **passcode** to log into this system.

buzz

v. to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere

synonym: hum, murmur, whisper

(1) the **buzz** of a cicada, (2) **buzz** marketing

I heard the **buzz** of conversation from the next room.

pause

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

synonym: halt, break, intermit

(1) **pause** a moment, (2) **pause** for a reaction

The man **paused** before opening the door.

rejoin

v. to return to someone or something

synonym: come back, return, reunite

(1) **rejoin** their mother ship, (2) **rejoin** the party

After the battle, the soldier managed to **rejoin** his unit.

mathematics

n. the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement

synonym: arithmetic, calculation, calculus

(1) a good grounding in **mathematics**, (2) **mathematics** competition

He has a flair for **mathematics**.

logic

n. a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments

synonym: reasoning, reason, ratiocination

(1) an indisputable **logic**, (2) a demonstration in **logic**

There's no **logic** in his description.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| 1. the b__z of a cicada | v. | to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere |
| 2. a c__e to the diagnosis | n. | an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery |
| 3. the as_____ng plane | adj. | changing location in an upward direction; increasing in size or value |
| 4. medieval du_____n | n. | a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground |
| 5. co_____l my identity | v. | to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered |
| 6. pre-Christian an_____t | adj. | relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old |
| 7. co_____t only in knowing facts | v. | to be composed or made up of |
| 8. his conclusion was ob_____s | adj. | easy to see, discover or understand |
| 9. a tyr_____al government | adj. | using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way |
| 10. use the numeric ke____d | n. | a small set of keys with an arrangement of numbers, symbols, or alphabetical letters |
| 11. sound e__o | n. | a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff |

ANSWERS: 1. buzz, 2. clue, 3. ascending, 4. dungeon, 5. conceal, 6. ancient, 7. consist, 8. obvious, 9. tyrannical, 10. keypad, 11. echo

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 12. wax a ha_____y floor | <i>n.</i> an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open |
| 13. as_____ng trend line | <i>adj.</i> changing location in an upward direction; increasing in size or value |
| 14. a demonstration in lo__c | <i>n.</i> a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments |
| 15. b__z marketing | <i>v.</i> to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere |
| 16. approaching fo_____eps | <i>n.</i> a step, or the sound generated by a person walking when their foot hits the ground |
| 17. even more unf_____ely | <i>adv.</i> by bad luck; unluckily |
| 18. radio tra_____er | <i>n.</i> a piece of equipment used for generating and sending electronic signals, especially radio or television signals |
| 19. fo_____eps in the corridor | <i>n.</i> a step, or the sound generated by a person walking when their foot hits the ground |
| 20. a good grounding in mat_____cs | <i>n.</i> the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement |
| 21. com_____on number | <i>n.</i> a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities |
| 22. res_____ce to insulin | <i>n.</i> the act of defending oneself from an aggressor or refusing to accept something |

ANSWERS: 12. hallway, 13. ascending, 14. logic, 15. buzz, 16. footstep, 17. unfortunately, 18. transmitter, 19. footstep, 20. mathematics, 21. combination, 22. resistance

23. hour of ent_____ent *n.* public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people
24. a tra_____er of a family line *n.* a piece of equipment used for generating and sending electronic signals, especially radio or television signals
25. terrestrial sal_____er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
26. an indisputable lo__c *n.* a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments
27. build a co_____um for gladiators *n.* a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80
28. an_____t stories *adj.* relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
29. a tyr_____al parent *adj.* using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way
30. a murky du_____n *n.* a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground
31. genic com_____ons *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

ANSWERS: 23. entertainment, 24. transmitter, 25. salamander, 26. logic, 27. colosseum, 28. ancient, 29. tyrannical, 30. dungeon, 31. combination

32. pa____de generator *n.* a combination of letters, numbers, movements, etc., usually used to confirm a user's identity and access a computer or other electronic device
33. ca____e a glimpse *v.* to catch a person or an animal and confine them in an area which they cannot escape
34. a crumbling dy____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
35. an elegant ent____ent *n.* public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people
36. the head of a ha____y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
37. ke____d device *n.* a small set of keys with an arrangement of numbers, symbols, or alphabetical letters
38. unf____ely caught in a shower *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
39. an____ce the award winners *v.* to make something known or officially inform people about something
40. cost ba____r *n.* a fence or other obstruction that makes it hard to move or get in; any condition that makes it difficult to make progress or to achieve an objective
41. co____l a close relationship *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
42. the e__o of a person's footsteps *n.* a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff

ANSWERS: 32. passcode, 33. capture, 34. dystopia, 35. entertainment, 36. hallway, 37. keypad, 38. unfortunately, 39. announce, 40. barrier, 41. conceal, 42. echo

43. information ba____r *n.* a fence or other obstruction that makes it hard to move or get in; any condition that makes it difficult to make progress or to achieve an objective
44. mu___t Omicron strain *n.* an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)
45. the escape from dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
46. res_____ce movement *n.* the act of defending oneself from an aggressor or refusing to accept something
47. co_____t mainly of cells *v.* to be composed or made up of
48. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
49. semiaquatic sal_____er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
50. re___n their mother ship *v.* to return to someone or something
51. ob_____s reasons *adj.* easy to see, discover or understand
52. 4-digit pa_____de *n.* a combination of letters, numbers, movements, etc., usually used to confirm a user's identity and access a computer or other electronic device
53. mu___t animal *n.* an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)

ANSWERS: 43. barrier, 44. mutant, 45. dystopia, 46. resistance, 47. consist, 48. pause, 49. salamander, 50. rejoin, 51. obvious, 52. passcode, 53. mutant

54. re___n the party v. to return to someone or something
55. ca_____e customers' hearts v. to catch a person or an animal and confine them in an area which they cannot escape
56. a c__e about the crime n. an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery
57. Co_____um area n. a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80
58. an_____ce candidacy v. to make something known or officially inform people about something
59. mat_____cs competition n. the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement
60. pa__e for a reaction v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

ANSWERS: 54. rejoin, 55. capture, 56. clue, 57. colosseum, 58. announce, 59. mathematics, 60. pause

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The prisoner has been languishing for years in the castle _____.
n. a room or cell in which prisoners are held, especially underground
2. Despite the intense verbal abuse, she _____ her anger well.
v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
3. The bill to increase the consumption tax had passed despite much _____ from the public.
n. the act of defending oneself from an aggressor or refusing to accept something
4. The sound of oncoming _____ grew louder, closer.
n. a step, or the sound generated by a person walking when their foot hits the ground
5. There's no _____ in his description.
n. a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments
6. The hotel is famous for its _____ including the casino.
n. public shows, films, television, or other performances or activities of enjoying people
7. The biologist thinks this _____ gene links to cancer.
n. an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)
8. A thunderous boom _____ throughout the valley.
n. a sound heard after being reflected off a surface, such as a wall or a cliff

ANSWERS: 1. dungeon, 2. concealed, 3. resistance, 4. footsteps, 5. logic, 6. entertainment, 7. mutant, 8. echoed

9. The police placed a _____ across the street to halt traffic.
n. a fence or other obstruction that makes it hard to move or get in; any condition that makes it difficult to make progress or to achieve an objective
10. They have been living near water since _____ times.
adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
11. _____ Hollywood film moguls can easily rule the movie star's career.
adj. using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way
12. Please sort the list of names of employees in _____ order.
adj. changing location in an upward direction; increasing in size or value
13. There are _____ differences between the two wine-producing regions.
adj. easy to see, discover or understand
14. We need a six-digit one-time _____ to log into this system.
n. a combination of letters, numbers, movements, etc., usually used to confirm a user's identity and access a computer or other electronic device
15. This substance acts as a neural _____ substance.
n. a piece of equipment used for generating and sending electronic signals, especially radio or television signals
16. This examination _____ of five problems to solve.
v. to be composed or made up of

ANSWERS: 9. barrier, 10. ancient, 11. Tyrannical, 12. ascending, 13. obvious, 14. passcode, 15. transmitter, 16. consists

17. The police couldn't find a _____ to her whereabouts.

- n.* an object, a piece of evidence, or some information that helps someone to find the answer to a problem, question, or mystery

18. He dashed down a _____ to a bathroom.

- n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

19. The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into _____.

- n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

20. He has a flair for _____.

- n.* the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement

21. The man _____ before opening the door.

- v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

22. The treatments were done but, _____ were unsuccessful.

- adv.* by bad luck; unluckily

23. We plan to raise a giant _____ as a pet.

- n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed

24. I was able to _____ the moment on film.

- v.* to catch a person or an animal and confine them in an area which they cannot escape

ANSWERS: 17. clue, 18. hallway, 19. dystopias, 20. mathematics, 21. paused, 22. unfortunately, 23. salamander, 24. capture

25. I heard the _____ of conversation from the next room.

- v.* to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere

26. After the battle, the soldier managed to _____ his unit.

- v.* to return to someone or something

27. Rome's _____ gets busy in peak season.

- n.* a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

28. The _____ to the safe was a secret.

- n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

29. The third season of the anime show has been _____.

- v.* to make something known or officially inform people about something

30. Punch your credit card number into this external _____.

- n.* a small set of keys with an arrangement of numbers, symbols, or alphabetical letters

ANSWERS: 25. buzz, 26. rejoin, 27. Colosseum, 28. combination, 29. announced, 30. keypad