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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

The Intellectual Devotional: Revive Your Mind, Complete Your Education, and Roam Confidently with the Cultured Class Week 14 Day 6, Skepticism | Rodale Books
<https://amzn.to/3VftFFx>

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

skepticism

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

synonym: distrust, doubt, suspicion

(1) natural **skepticism**, (2) **skepticism** toward bureaucracy

This party expresses **skepticism** about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

matrix

n. a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops

synonym: grid, cast, table

(1) the **matrix** of Western civilization, (2) **matrix** multiplication

The **matrix** of numbers on the spreadsheet allowed the accountant to track the company's profits and losses easily.

simulate

v. to make a pretense of someone's behavior or looks; to reproduce something that exists in real life using computers, models, etc., usually for study or training

purposes

synonym : pretend, imitate, mimic

(1) **simulate** climate change, (2) **simulate** a future scenario
He had painted the wood to **simulate** stone.

brain

n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling

synonym : intellect, mind, encephalon

(1) basic **brain** function, (2) permanent **brain** damage
X-rays revealed a small tumor in his **brain**.

dilemma

n. a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more options, especially that are equally unfavorable ones

synonym : difficulty, plight, predicament

(1) chicken-and-egg **dilemma**, (2) be in a **dilemma**
The choice between bureaucracy and adhococracy represents a common **dilemma**.

external

adj. belonging to or situated outside of someone or something

synonym : outside, exterior, foreign

(1) **external** factors, (2) **external** commerce
When a company discloses information to the market, an **external** auditor verifies them.

philosophy

n. the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind

synonym : doctrine, attitude, creed

(1) **philosophy** of education, (2) western **philosophy**
Ethics is a branch of **philosophy**.

argument

n. a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute

synonym : debate, discourse, discussion

(1) a blazing **argument**, (2) the **argument** against capital punishment

The **argument** between the two sides over the proposed policy was heated.

intention

n. something you want to do and are going to do
synonym: purpose, connotation, will

(1) **intention** behind his decision, (2) clear **intention**

Our CEO's **intentions** are always transparent and straightforward.

undermine

v. to make someone or something less powerful, less effective, weaker gradually; to make someone's fame, confidence, or authority less effective or weaker gradually

synonym: damage, subvert, weaken

(1) **undermine** a good relationship, (2) **undermine** their adversary's reputation

They tried to **undermine** her position by slandering her.

allege

v. to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence

synonym: claim, assert, state

(1) **allege** abuse, (2) **allege** wrongdoing

The prosecution **alleged** that the defendant was guilty of the crime.

skeptic

n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

synonym: doubter, disbeliever, questioner

(1) an ingrained **skeptic**, (2) climate **skeptic**

He was a **skeptic** who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym: doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists
His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

ordinary

adj. not different, exceptional, or unexpected in any way,
especially in quality, ability, size, or degree
synonym : mundane, prosaic, average

(1) an **ordinary** school, (2) **ordinary** annual revenue
The **ordinary** session of the Diet opened.

reinterpretation

n. a new or different interpretation or explanation of
something, especially a text or piece of artwork
synonym : re-evaluation, re-assessment, re-examination

(1) **reinterpretation** of history, (2) **reinterpretation** of the
Constitution
The artist's **reinterpretation** of the classic painting received
mixed reviews.

elaborate

adj. containing a lot of carefully prepared and organized or
many complicated and detailed parts
synonym : detailed, intricate, complicated

(1) an **elaborate** hat, (2) **elaborate** Ponzi scheme
He proposed an **elaborate** program of public works.

resolve

v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
synonym : decide, determine, fix

(1) **resolve** a dispute, (2) **resolve** the computer error
This company **resolves** its battery problem completely.

defeat

v. to win against somebody in a fight, war, or attempt
synonym : conquer, beat, overpower

(1) **defeat** a global power, (2) **defeat** body odor
Despite his best efforts, he was unable to **defeat** the enemy.

influential

adj. having significant impact or power on someone or
something
synonym : potent, significant, meaningful

(1) an **influential** newspaper, (2) an **influential** politician
Early childhood experiences are very **influential** for people.

meditation

n. the act of focusing one's mind on a particular object or thought; activity to train attention and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state

synonym: contemplation, reflection, introspection

(1) **meditation** training, (2) religious **meditation**

The **meditation** instructor guided the group through the relaxation and breathing exercises.

possibility

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

synonym: chance, prospect, likelihood

(1) **possibility** for growth, (2) **possibility** of a major earthquake

The **possibility** of getting the disease will drastically increase.

malevolent

adj. having or showing a desire to cause harm or evil to others

synonym: evil, malicious, wicked

(1) **malevolent** stars, (2) **malevolent** act

She had a **malevolent** intention to harm her enemy.

deceive

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression

synonym: mislead, dupe, hoodwink

(1) **deceive** to lie, (2) **deceive** skillfully

The magician's illusions were designed to **deceive** the audience into believing they saw something impossible.

regard

v. to think about or consider somebody or something in a specified way

synonym: consider, see, reckon

(1) **regard** him as an enemy, (2) **regard** the situation as unfortunate

Frugality and industry are still **regarded** as virtues.

scandal

n. an action or event regarded as morally or legally wrong and causing general public outrage

synonym: controversy, outrage, uproar

(1) **scandal** magazine, (2) a corruption **scandal**

The political **scandal** rocked the nation and led to the resignation of several high-ranking officials.

Session 2: Spelling

1. permanent br__n damage *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
2. clear in_____on *n.* something you want to do and are going to do
3. an or_____ry school *adj.* not different, exceptional, or unexpected in any way, especially in quality, ability, size, or degree
4. de___t body odor *v.* to win against somebody in a fight, war, or attempt
5. phi_____hy of education *n.* the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind
6. rei_____ion of history *n.* a new or different interpretation or explanation of something, especially a text or piece of artwork
7. re___d the situation as unfortunate *v.* to think about or consider somebody or something in a specified way
8. un_____ne a good relationship *v.* to make someone or something less powerful, less effective, weaker gradually; to make someone's fame, confidence, or authority less effective or weaker gradually
9. mal_____nt stars *adj.* having or showing a desire to cause harm or evil to others

ANSWERS: 1. brain, 2. intention, 3. ordinary, 4. defeat, 5. philosophy, 6. reinterpretation, 7. regard, 8. undermine, 9. malevolent

10. un_____ne their adversary's reputation
v. to make someone or something less powerful, less effective, weaker gradually; to make someone's fame, confidence, or authority less effective or weaker gradually
11. re_____e a dispute
v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
12. in_____on behind his decision
n. something you want to do and are going to do
13. chicken-and-egg di_____a
n. a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more options, especially that are equally unfavorable ones
14. an inf_____al politician
adj. having significant impact or power on someone or something
15. a corruption sc_____l
n. an action or event regarded as morally or legally wrong and causing general public outrage
16. a sk_____al attitude
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
17. the ar_____nt against capital punishment
n. a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute
18. re_____e the computer error
v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
19. climate sk_____c
n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

ANSWERS: 10. undermine, 11. resolve, 12. intention, 13. dilemma, 14. influential, 15. scandal, 16. skeptical, 17. argument, 18. resolve, 19. skeptic

20. re___d him as an enemy *v.* to think about or consider somebody or something in a specified way
21. an ingrained sk____c *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
22. the ma___x of Western civilization *n.* a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops
23. al___e abuse *v.* to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence
24. ex____al commerce *adj.* belonging to or situated outside of someone or something
25. an inf____al newspaper *adj.* having significant impact or power on someone or something
26. western phi____hy *n.* the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind
27. sk____al scientists *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
28. or____ry annual revenue *adj.* not different, exceptional, or unexpected in any way, especially in quality, ability, size, or degree
29. pos____ty for growth *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
30. religious med____on *n.* the act of focusing one's mind on a particular object or thought; activity to train attention and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state

ANSWERS: 20. regard, 21. skeptic, 22. matrix, 23. allege, 24. external, 25. influential, 26. philosophy, 27. skeptical, 28. ordinary, 29. possibility, 30. meditation

31. be in a di____a *n.* a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more options, especially that are equally unfavorable ones
32. ex____al factors *adj.* belonging to or situated outside of someone or something
33. ske_____sm toward bureaucracy *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
34. ma____x multiplication *n.* a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops
35. el_____te Ponzi scheme *adj.* containing a lot of carefully prepared and organized or many complicated and detailed parts
36. an el_____te hat *adj.* containing a lot of carefully prepared and organized or many complicated and detailed parts
37. mal_____nt act *adj.* having or showing a desire to cause harm or evil to others
38. a blazing ar_____nt *n.* a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute
39. si_____te climate change *v.* to make a pretense of someone's behavior or looks; to reproduce something that exists in real life using computers, models, etc., usually for study or training purposes

ANSWERS: 31. dilemma, 32. external, 33. skepticism, 34. matrix, 35. elaborate, 36. elaborate, 37. malevolent, 38. argument, 39. simulate

40. de_____e to lie *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
41. de_____e skillfully *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression
42. rei_____ion of the Constitution *n.* a new or different interpretation or explanation of something, especially a text or piece of artwork
43. natural ske_____sm *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
44. de____t a global power *v.* to win against somebody in a fight, war, or attempt
45. med_____on training *n.* the act of focusing one's mind on a particular object or thought; activity to train attention and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state
46. pos_____ty of a major earthquake *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
47. sc_____l magazine *n.* an action or event regarded as morally or legally wrong and causing general public outrage
48. al____e wrongdoing *v.* to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence
49. basic br__n function *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling

ANSWERS: 40. deceive, 41. deceive, 42. reinterpretation, 43. skepticism, 44. defeat, 45. meditation, 46. possibility, 47. scandal, 48. allege, 49. brain

50. si____te a future scenario

v. to make a pretense of someone's behavior or looks; to reproduce something that exists in real life using computers, models, etc., usually for study or training purposes

ANSWERS: 50. simulate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Our CEO's _____ are always transparent and straightforward.
n. something you want to do and are going to do
2. The choice between bureaucracy and adhocacy represents a common _____.
n. a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more options, especially that are equally unfavorable ones
3. X-rays revealed a small tumor in his _____.
n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
4. The political _____ rocked the nation and led to the resignation of several high-ranking officials.
n. an action or event regarded as morally or legally wrong and causing general public outrage
5. The artist's _____ of the classic painting received mixed reviews.
n. a new or different interpretation or explanation of something, especially a text or piece of artwork
6. He proposed an _____ program of public works.
adj. containing a lot of carefully prepared and organized or many complicated and detailed parts
7. Despite his best efforts, he was unable to _____ the enemy.
v. to win against somebody in a fight, war, or attempt

ANSWERS: 1. intentions, 2. dilemma, 3. brain, 4. scandal, 5. reinterpretation, 6. elaborate, 7. defeat

8. She had a _____ intention to harm her enemy.

adj. having or showing a desire to cause harm or evil to others

9. He was a _____ who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.

n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

10. The _____ of numbers on the spreadsheet allowed the accountant to track the company's profits and losses easily.

n. a rectangular array of numbers, symbols, or expressions, arranged in rows and columns and often enclosed in brackets; an enclosure within which something originates or develops

11. Frugality and industry are still _____ as virtues.

v. to think about or consider somebody or something in a specified way

12. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

13. The _____ of getting the disease will drastically increase.

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

14. The _____ session of the Diet opened.

adj. not different, exceptional, or unexpected in any way, especially in quality, ability, size, or degree

15. The magician's illusions were designed to _____ the audience into believing they saw something impossible.

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a lie or creating a false impression

ANSWERS: 8. malevolent, 9. skeptic, 10. matrix, 11. regarded, 12. skeptical, 13. possibility, 14. ordinary, 15. deceive

16. When a company discloses information to the market, an _____ auditor verifies them.

adj. belonging to or situated outside of someone or something

17. The _____ between the two sides over the proposed policy was heated.

n. a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute

18. The prosecution _____ that the defendant was guilty of the crime.

v. to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence

19. They tried to _____ her position by slandering her.

v. to make someone or something less powerful, less effective, weaker gradually; to make someone's fame, confidence, or authority less effective or weaker gradually

20. He had painted the wood to _____ stone.

v. to make a pretense of someone's behavior or looks; to reproduce something that exists in real life using computers, models, etc., usually for study or training purposes

21. This party expresses _____ about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

22. This company _____ its battery problem completely.

v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty

ANSWERS: 16. external, 17. argument, 18. alleged, 19. undermine, 20. simulate, 21. skepticism, 22. resolves

23. The _____ instructor guided the group through the relaxation and breathing exercises.

n. the act of focusing one's mind on a particular object or thought; activity to train attention and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state

24. Early childhood experiences are very _____ for people.

adj. having significant impact or power on someone or something

25. Ethics is a branch of _____.

n. the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind

ANSWERS: 23. meditation, 24. influential, 25. philosophy