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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Rasmus Ankersen: How to outthink your competition

-- with a lesson from sports | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

indestructible

adj. impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair

synonym: unbreakable, sturdy, durable

(1) **indestructible** warrior, (2) **indestructible** object

The vault was advertised as **indestructible** but was eventually broken into.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

embody

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

synonym: represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity
The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym: robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population
She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

gadget

n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

synonym: appliance, gimmick, device

(1) a handy **gadget**, (2) time-saving **gadget**
I found the kitchen **gadget** that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.

graveyard

n. a cemetery, especially one in a churchyard

synonym: cemetery, burial ground, churchyard

(1) **graveyard** of life, (2) bodies in a **graveyard**
The ancestral **graveyard** was peaceful, with rows of headstones and tall trees.

mojo

n. personal magic or charm that gives someone a sense of power, good luck, or confidence; a quality of being attractive, confident, and effective

synonym: charm, magic, charisma

(1) **mojo** energy, (2) **mojo** charisma
He believed that his lucky **mojo** would help him win the big game.

die-hard

adj. (of a person) extremely loyal, dedicated, or enthusiastic; unwilling to give up

synonym: dedicated, committed, steadfast

(1) **die-hard** fanatic, (2) **die-hard** militarist
He was a **die-hard** football team fan and never missed a

game.

instinctively

adv. as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training

synonym: inherently, intuitively, naturally

(1) **instinctively** grabbed the knife, (2) **instinctively** bad with children

Some researchers claim that even humans can **instinctively** sense earthquakes.

billionaire

n. a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars

synonym: mega-rich, wealthy, tycoon

(1) Silicon Valley **billionaire**, (2) oil **billionaire**

The self-made **billionaire** donated millions to charity.

sensational

adj. extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement

synonym: amazing, incredible, phenomenal

(1) **sensational** crime, (2) **sensational** news

The performance was **sensational**, with standing ovations throughout.

relegate

v. to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote

synonym: demote, assign, transfer

(1) **relegate** a matter to another authority, (2) **relegate** task

The underperforming team was **relegated** to a lower division.

unbreakable

adj. not able to be broken or damaged

synonym: indestructible, durable, sturdy

(1) **unbreakable** bond, (2) **unbreakable** commitment

This titanium bike frame is advertised as **unbreakable**.

gamble

v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

synonym: bet, venture, wager

(1) **gamble** \$100 on the race, (2) **gamble** away my fortune
Will you **gamble** on the result of the fight?

adrenaline

n. a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger

synonym: epinephrine

(1) **adrenaline** receptor, (2) **adrenaline** addiction

The band has released a lot of **adrenaline-pumping** rock music.

statistician

n. a person who studies or is an expert in statistics

synonym: actuary

(1) professional **statisticians**, (2) environmental **statistician**

The firm employs several **statisticians** to develop a recommendation engine.

outspend

v. to spend more money than someone else or more than has been budgeted

synonym: overspend, exceed, surpass

(1) **outspend** budget, (2) **outspend** the opponent

The company plans to **outspend** its competitors on advertising this year.

outthink

v. to think more effectively, creatively, or strategically than someone else

synonym: outwit, outsmart, outmaneuver

(1) **outthink** the competition, (2) **outthink** the opposing team

The chess master was able to **outthink** his opponents and win the tournament.

chairperson

n. the officer who presides over organization meetings

synonym: director, head, leader

(1) vice **chairperson**, (2) the meeting elected a

chairperson

The **chairperson** has the authority to approve or deny any request.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project
He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

synonym: articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name
She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

deflect

v. to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone

synonym: deter, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **deflect** a blow, (2) **deflect** his criticism

The soccer player was able to **deflect** the ball away from the goal.

referee

n. a person who controls the game in some sports by making players follow the rules

synonym: judge, arbiter, umpire

(1) a fair **referee**, (2) assistant **referee**

The **referee** blew his whistle.

revisit

v. to go to a place again, especially after a long period

synonym: reexplore, review, reexamine

(1) **revisit** a place, (2) **revisit** an old friend

We need to **revisit** this proposal as soon as the budget is more apparent than before.

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**.

concede

v. to acknowledge or admit the truth or existence of something often reluctantly

synonym : admit, acknowledge, allow

(1) **concede** a territory, (2) **concede** a point

He had to **concede** defeat after losing the game.

freaky

adj. strange or unusual in a way that is frightening or unsettling

synonym : weird, strange, unusual

(1) **freaky** accident, (2) **freaky-deaky**

The **freaky** clown at the haunted house scared the children.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym : imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

reframe

v. to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way

synonym : redefine, restructure, reposition

(1) **reframe** resource allocation, (2) **reframe** problem

The therapist tried to **reframe** his negative thoughts.

downturn

n. a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment

synonym : decline, fall, drop

(1) the **downturn** in auto sales, (2) **downturn** in health

The global economy experienced a sharp **downturn** in the

wake of the pandemic.

delusion

n. a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary

synonym: hallucination, illusion, fantasy

(1) grand **delusion**, (2) labor under a **delusion**

He had a **delusion** that he was a millionaire.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

brilliantly

adv. in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively

synonym: brightly, radiantly, excellently

(1) **brilliantly** executed, (2) **brilliantly** lit

He played the piano **brilliantly** at the concert.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. a sk_____al attitude | <i>adj.</i> doubting that something is accurate or useful |
| 2. di_____rd militarist | <i>adj.</i> (of a person) extremely loyal, dedicated, or enthusiastic; unwilling to give up |
| 3. natural ske_____sm | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 4. ske_____sm toward bureaucracy | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 5. de_____t his criticism | <i>v.</i> to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone |
| 6. sk_____al scientists | <i>adj.</i> doubting that something is accurate or useful |
| 7. assistant re_____e | <i>n.</i> a person who controls the game in some sports by making players follow the rules |
| 8. pr_____ce a judgment | <i>v.</i> to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way |
| 9. em____y a spirit of charity | <i>v.</i> to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea |

ANSWERS: 1. skeptical, 2. die-hard, 3. skepticism, 4. skepticism, 5. deflect, 6. skeptical, 7. referee, 8. pronounce, 9. embody

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 10. ins_____ely bad with children | <i>adv.</i> as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training |
| 11. ind_____ble object | <i>adj.</i> impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair |
| 12. bri_____ly executed | <i>adv.</i> in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively |
| 13. di_____rd fanatic | <i>adj.</i> (of a person) extremely loyal, dedicated, or enthusiastic; unwilling to give up |
| 14. the meeting elected a cha_____on | <i>n.</i> the officer who presides over organization meetings |
| 15. a handy ga____t | <i>n.</i> a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job |
| 16. labor under a de_____on | <i>n.</i> a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary |
| 17. time-saving ga____t | <i>n.</i> a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job |
| 18. adr_____ne receptor | <i>n.</i> a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger |
| 19. co_____e a point | <i>v.</i> to acknowledge or admit the truth or existence of something often reluctantly |
| 20. de_____t a blow | <i>v.</i> to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone |
| 21. em_____ss political enemy | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed |
| 22. adr_____ne addiction | <i>n.</i> a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger |

ANSWERS: 10. instinctively, 11. indestructible, 12. brilliantly, 13. die-hard, 14. chairperson, 15. gadget, 16. delusion, 17. gadget, 18. adrenaline, 19. concede, 20. deflect, 21. embarrass, 22. adrenaline

23. fr___y-deaky *adj.* strange or unusual in a way that is frightening or unsettling
24. ga___e away my fortune *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
25. unb_____le commitment *adj.* not able to be broken or damaged
26. a hard and re_____nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
27. ou_____nd the opponent *v.* to spend more money than someone else or more than has been budgeted
28. the do_____rn in auto sales *n.* a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment
29. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
30. m__o energy *n.* personal magic or charm that gives someone a sense of power, good luck, or confidence; a quality of being attractive, confident, and effective
31. environmental sta_____ian *n.* a person who studies or is an expert in statistics
32. re_____t an old friend *v.* to go to a place again, especially after a long period
33. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
34. sen_____al news *adj.* extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement

ANSWERS: 23. freaky, 24. gamble, 25. unbreakable, 26. resilient, 27. outspend, 28. downturn, 29. confuse, 30. mojo, 31. statistician, 32. revisit, 33. smartphone, 34. sensational

35. sen_____al crime *adj.* extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement
36. re_____e resource allocation *v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
37. vi_____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
38. em____y my goal *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
39. ou_____nk the opposing team *v.* to think more effectively, creatively, or strategically than someone else
40. professional sta_____ians *n.* a person who studies or is an expert in statistics
41. do_____rn in health *n.* a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment
42. re_____te a matter to another authority *v.* to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
43. fr____y accident *adj.* strange or unusual in a way that is frightening or unsettling
44. a fair re_____e *n.* a person who controls the game in some sports by making players follow the rules
45. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
46. vice cha_____on *n.* the officer who presides over organization meetings

ANSWERS: 35. sensational, 36. reframe, 37. visualize, 38. embody, 39. outthink, 40. statistician, 41. downturn, 42. relegate, 43. freaky, 44. referee, 45. industrious, 46. chairperson

47. re_____e problem *v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
48. re_____t a place *v.* to go to a place again, especially after a long period
49. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
50. bodies in a gr_____rd *n.* a cemetery, especially one in a churchyard
51. ins_____ely grabbed the knife *adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
52. ou_____nk the competition *v.* to think more effectively, creatively, or strategically than someone else
53. gr_____rd of life *n.* a cemetery, especially one in a churchyard
54. ind_____ble warrior *adj.* impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair
55. Silicon Valley bil_____re *n.* a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars
56. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
57. re_____te task *v.* to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
58. grand de_____on *n.* a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
59. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
60. co_____e a territory *v.* to acknowledge or admit the truth or existence of something often reluctantly

ANSWERS: 47. reframe, 48. revisit, 49. confuse, 50. graveyard, 51. instinctively, 52. outthink, 53. graveyard, 54. indestructible, 55. billionaire, 56. smartphone, 57. relegate, 58. delusion, 59. industrious, 60. concede

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 61. unb_____le bond | <i>adj.</i> not able to be broken or damaged |
| 62. re_____nt population | <i>adj.</i> able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions |
| 63. bri_____ly lit | <i>adv.</i> in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively |
| 64. vi_____ze flying through space | <i>v.</i> to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible |
| 65. ga___e \$100 on the race | <i>v.</i> to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes |
| 66. em_____ss my project | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed |
| 67. pr_____ce a name | <i>v.</i> to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way |
| 68. oil bil_____re | <i>n.</i> a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars |
| 69. ou_____nd budget | <i>v.</i> to spend more money than someone else or more than has been budgeted |
| 70. m__o charisma | <i>n.</i> personal magic or charm that gives someone a sense of power, good luck, or confidence; a quality of being attractive, confident, and effective |

ANSWERS: 61. unbreakable, 62. resilient, 63. brilliantly, 64. visualize, 65. gamble, 66. embarrass, 67. pronounce, 68. billionaire, 69. outspend, 70. mojo

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The chess master was able to _____ his opponents and win the tournament.
v. to think more effectively, creatively, or strategically than someone else
2. The band has released a lot of _____ rock music.
n. a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
3. We need to _____ this proposal as soon as the budget is more apparent than before.
v. to go to a place again, especially after a long period
4. He had to _____ defeat after losing the game.
v. to acknowledge or admit the truth or existence of something often reluctantly
5. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
6. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
7. He played the piano _____ at the concert.
adv. in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively
8. The vault was advertised as _____ but was eventually broken into.
adj. impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair
9. The _____ has the authority to approve or deny any request.
n. the officer who presides over organization meetings

ANSWERS: 1. outthink, 2. adrenaline-pumping, 3. revisit, 4. concede, 5. industrious, 6. skeptical, 7. brilliantly, 8. indestructible, 9. chairperson

10. I found the kitchen _____ that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.
n. a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
11. The underperforming team was _____ to a lower division.
v. to assign or dismiss to a lower or less important status or place; to demote
12. He believed that his lucky _____ would help him win the big game.
n. personal magic or charm that gives someone a sense of power, good luck, or confidence; a quality of being attractive, confident, and effective
13. He had a _____ that he was a millionaire.
n. a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary
14. The firm employs several _____ to develop a recommendation engine.
n. a person who studies or is an expert in statistics
15. Will you _____ on the result of the fight?
v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
16. The global economy experienced a sharp _____ in the wake of the pandemic.
n. a period of decline, typically in an economy, characterized by reduced trade and business activity and a fall in prices and employment
17. The performance was _____ with standing ovations throughout.
adj. extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement
18. The self-made _____ donated millions to charity.
n. a person who has a net worth of at least one billion dollars

ANSWERS: 10. gadget, 11. relegated, 12. mojo, 13. delusion, 14. statisticians, 15. gamble, 16. downturn, 17. sensational, 18. billionaire

19. Some researchers claim that even humans can _____ sense earthquakes.

adv. as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training

20. This titanium bike frame is advertised as _____.

adj. not able to be broken or damaged

21. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

22. The company's new products _____ the values of innovation and sustainability.

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

23. 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

24. She struggled to _____ the word in a foreign language.

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

25. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

26. The ancestral _____ was peaceful, with rows of headstones and tall trees.

n. a cemetery, especially one in a churchyard

ANSWERS: 19. instinctively, 20. unbreakable, 21. smartphones, 22. embody, 23. skepticism, 24. pronounce, 25. embarrass, 26. graveyard

27. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

28. He was a _____ football team fan and never missed a game.

adj. (of a person) extremely loyal, dedicated, or enthusiastic; unwilling to give up

29. The therapist tried to _____ his negative thoughts.

v. to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way

30. Her remarks _____ the debate.

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

31. The soccer player was able to _____ the ball away from the goal.

v. to cause something, especially a criticism or attack, to be directed away from someone

32. The company plans to _____ its competitors on advertising this year.

v. to spend more money than someone else or more than has been budgeted

33. The _____ clown at the haunted house scared the children.

adj. strange or unusual in a way that is frightening or unsettling

34. The _____ blew his whistle.

n. a person who controls the game in some sports by making players follow the rules

35. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

ANSWERS: 27. visualize, 28. die-hard, 29. reframe, 30. confused, 31. deflect, 32. outspend, 33. freaky, 34. referee, 35. resilient

ANSWERS: