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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jen Gunter: How your sense of smell helps you savor flavor | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**
I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

stink

v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
synonym: reek, smell, odor
(1) **stink** up the place, (2) **stink** badly
The garbage in the alley began to **stink** after a few hot days.

olfactory

adj. relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
synonym: olfactive, scent-based, aromatic
(1) **olfactory** cortex, (2) **olfactory** memory
The **olfactory** senses play a key role in our taste and flavor perception.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
synonym: nerve cell
(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

categorize

v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.

synonym: classify, pigeonhole, sort

(1) **categorize** the image, (2) **categorize** the cause of failure

The biologist **categorized** the viruses into four groups.

disgust

n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

synonym: nauseate, hate, dislike

(1) public **disgust**, (2) show **disgust** at his actions

He was filled with **disgust** and fear for the threat of war.

sniff

v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

synonym: smell, inhale, scent

(1) **sniff** the air, (2) **sniff** the perfume

The dog stopped to **sniff** around the tree, looking for something interesting.

bud

n. a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot

synonym: shoot, sprout, germ

(1) pinch off a **bud**, (2) **bud** grafting

The flower was starting to show its **bud** and would soon bloom into a beautiful blossom.

whack

v. to hit someone or something hard or noisily

synonym: hit, strike, bash

(1) **whack** him with a stick, (2) **whack** up the volume

He **whacked** the ball out of the park with his home run.

attache

n. a person who works at an embassy, usually having a specialized area of responsibility; a shallow and rectangular briefcase

synonym : diplomat, envoy, briefcase

(1) a commercial **attache**, (2) black **attache** case

A prime minister talked with a military **attache** of the country's embassy.

saltiness

n. the quality or state of being salty

(1) the taste of **saltiness**, (2) enhance the **saltiness**

She tasted the dish and detected a slight **saltiness**.

umami

n. a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter

synonym : savory, delicious, meaty

(1) **umami** enhancer, (2) **umami** flavor

Japanese food lovers appreciate the **umami** taste of miso soup.

savory

adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet

synonym : delicious, tasty, appetizing

(1) **savory** dish, (2) a **savory** omelet

The **savory** aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.

stuffy

adj. lacking fresh air or ventilation; oppressively warm; lacking in excitement or variety; formal in manner or behavior

synonym : stuffy, suffocating, oppressive

(1) ventilate a **stuffy** office, (2) **stuffy** atmosphere

The **stuffy** classroom made it hard to breathe during the summer heat.

attest

v. to provide evidence or proof of something; to confirm or certify the authenticity of something; to bear witness to the truth of something

synonym : verify, confirm, certify

(1) **attest** to the truth, (2) **attest** to the facts

I can **attest** to his honesty and integrity, as I have known him for many years.

bland

adj. lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting

synonym : boring, insipid, flavorless

(1) make a **bland** reply, (2) **bland** novel

The dinner was rather **bland** and in need of some seasoning.

chew

v. to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it

synonym : masticate, crush, grind

(1) **chew** each word, (2) **chew** a stick of gum

My dog loves to **chew** on bones.

flavorless

adj. lacking in taste or flavor; bland or insipid

synonym : tasteless, bland, insipid

(1) **flavorless** tofu, (2) **flavorless** water

The bland, **flavorless** food left me feeling unsatisfied.

savor

v. to enjoy or appreciate something fully; to relish or delight in something delicious or enjoyable; to preserve or season with a savory flavor

synonym : enjoy, relish, appreciate

(1) **savor** the moment, (2) **savor** the taste

I always like to **savor** a good cup of coffee in the morning.

nuance

n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.

synonym : shading, refinement, subtlety

(1) rich in **nuance**, (2) subtle cultural **nuance**

The painter has tried to express every **nuance** of the woman's expression in his work.

Session 2: Spelling

1. at___t to the truth
v. to provide evidence or proof of something; to confirm or certify the authenticity of something; to bear witness to the truth of something
2. a sa___y omelet
adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
3. ventilate a st___y office
adj. lacking fresh air or ventilation; oppressively warm; lacking in excitement or variety; formal in manner or behavior
4. um__i enhancer
n. a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter
5. black at_____e case
n. a person who works at an embassy, usually having a specialized area of responsibility; a shallow and rectangular briefcase
6. sa__r the moment
v. to enjoy or appreciate something fully; to relish or delight in something delicious or enjoyable; to preserve or season with a savory flavor
7. rich in nu___e
n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.
8. st__k up the place
v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

ANSWERS: 1. attest, 2. savory, 3. stuffy, 4. umami, 5. attache, 6. savor, 7. nuance, 8. stink

9. fla_____ss water *adj.* lacking in taste or flavor; bland or insipid
10. excite the ne___ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
11. fla_____ss tofu *adj.* lacking in taste or flavor; bland or insipid
12. pinch off a b_d *n.* a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
13. cat_____ze the image *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
14. st__k badly *v.* to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
15. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
16. c__w each word *v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
17. at___t to the facts *v.* to provide evidence or proof of something; to confirm or certify the authenticity of something; to bear witness to the truth of something
18. make a bl__d reply *adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting
19. st___y atmosphere *adj.* lacking fresh air or ventilation; oppressively warm; lacking in excitement or variety; formal in manner or behavior
20. um__i flavor *n.* a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter

ANSWERS: 9. flavorless, 10. neuron, 11. flavorless, 12. bud, 13. categorize, 14. stink, 15. creditor, 16. chew, 17. attest, 18. bland, 19. stuffy, 20. umami

21. sa___y dish *adj.* pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
22. show di_____t at his actions *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
23. c__w a stick of gum *v.* to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
24. subtle cultural nu___e *n.* a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.
25. wh__k him with a stick *v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
26. enhance the sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
27. cat_____ze the cause of failure *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
28. ne___n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
29. b_d grafting *n.* a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
30. sn__f the perfume *v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath
31. the taste of sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
32. bl__d novel *adj.* lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting

ANSWERS: 21. savory, 22. disgust, 23. chew, 24. nuance, 25. whack, 26. saltiness, 27. categorize, 28. neuron, 29. bud, 30. sniff, 31. saltiness, 32. bland

33. a commercial at____e *n.* a person who works at an embassy, usually having a specialized area of responsibility; a shallow and rectangular briefcase
34. ol_____ry cortex *adj.* relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
35. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
36. sa__r the taste *v.* to enjoy or appreciate something fully; to relish or delight in something delicious or enjoyable; to preserve or season with a savory flavor
37. wh__k up the volume *v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily
38. ol_____ry memory *adj.* relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
39. public di_____t *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
40. sn__f the air *v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

ANSWERS: 33. attache, 34. olfactory, 35. creditor, 36. savor, 37. whack, 38. olfactory, 39. disgust, 40. sniff

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ classroom made it hard to breathe during the summer heat.
adj. lacking fresh air or ventilation; oppressively warm; lacking in excitement or variety; formal in manner or behavior
2. She tasted the dish and detected a slight _____.
n. the quality or state of being salty
3. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
4. The biologist _____ the viruses into four groups.
v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
5. My dog loves to _____ on bones.
v. to crush or grind something, especially food, with the teeth and then swallow it
6. The _____ aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.
adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
7. The dinner was rather _____ and in need of some seasoning.
adj. lacking in strong flavor, character, or interest; unremarkable or unexciting
8. I always like to _____ a good cup of coffee in the morning.
v. to enjoy or appreciate something fully; to relish or delight in something delicious or enjoyable; to preserve or season with a savory flavor
9. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

ANSWERS: 1. stuffy, 2. saltiness, 3. creditor, 4. categorized, 5. chew, 6. savory, 7. bland, 8. savor, 9. neuron

10. A prime minister talked with a military _____ of the country's embassy.
n. a person who works at an embassy, usually having a specialized area of responsibility; a shallow and rectangular briefcase
11. He was filled with _____ and fear for the threat of war.
n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
12. The flower was starting to show its ____ and would soon bloom into a beautiful blossom.
n. a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
13. The dog stopped to _____ around the tree, looking for something interesting.
v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath
14. I can _____ to his honesty and integrity, as I have known him for many years.
v. to provide evidence or proof of something; to confirm or certify the authenticity of something; to bear witness to the truth of something
15. The _____ senses play a key role in our taste and flavor perception.
adj. relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
16. Japanese food lovers appreciate the _____ taste of miso soup.
n. a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter
17. The bland, _____ food left me feeling unsatisfied.
adj. lacking in taste or flavor; bland or insipid

ANSWERS: 10. attache, 11. disgust, 12. bud, 13. sniff, 14. attest, 15. olfactory, 16. umami, 17. flavorless

18. The painter has tried to express every _____ of the woman's expression in his work.

- n.* a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.

19. The garbage in the alley began to _____ after a few hot days.

- v.* to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

20. He _____ the ball out of the park with his home run.

- v.* to hit someone or something hard or noisily

ANSWERS: 18. nuance, 19. stink, 20. whacked