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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Craig Richard: The brain science (and benefits) of ASMR | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

hairdresser

n. a person who cuts and styles hair for a living

synonym: stylist, coiffeur, beauty professional

(1) personal **hairdresser**, (2) get a haircut at a **hairdresser**

The world-famous **hairdresser** transformed her client's dull hair into a shiny and stylish new look.

hairstyle

n. the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head

synonym: hairdo, coiffure, haircut

(1) modern **hairstyle**, (2) bob **hairstyle**

My sister got a new **hairstyle** for her job interview.

snip

v. to trim or cut something, especially with scissors or shears; to remove a small part or piece from something with a quick cut or slice

synonym: clip, trim, cut

(1) **snip** a lock of hair, (2) **snip** the wire

I must **snip** the loose thread on my shirt before it becomes a bigger problem.

pretended

adj. feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated

synonym: feigned, assumed, simulated

(1) **pretended** illness, (2) make a **pretended** purchase

His **pretended** interest soon caught everyone's attention.

eyeball

n. the round part of the eye of a vertebrate that is usually inside the head and, therefore, cannot be seen

(1) **eyeball** motion, (2) redness of the **eyeball**

Increased **eyeball** pressure leads to the development of glaucoma.

eyelid

n. a thin fold of skin that covers and protects the human eye, which helps to keep the eye moist by spreading tears over the surface and prevents foreign objects from entering the eye

synonym: lid, palpebra, shield

(1) **eyelid** twitch, (2) drooping **eyelid**

Bright light can cause me to squint and strain my eyes, resulting in twitchy **eyelids**.

flutter

v. to wave or flap quickly and lightly; (noun) the act of moving back and forth

synonym: flit, hover, wave

(1) **flutter** around finding, (2) a **flutter** of a bird

The butterfly **fluttered** its wings gracefully.

sparkle

v. to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy

synonym: shine, glimmer, twinkle

(1) **sparkle** like a gem, (2) **sparkle** from receiving light

The diamond **sparkled** in the sunlight.

pleasurable

adj. giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable

synonym: comforting, enjoyable, gratifying

(1) a **pleasurable** experience, (2) have a very **pleasurable** time

Our marital life was full of happiness and **pleasurable** excitement.

tingle

v. to cause a stinging or prickling sensation; (noun) a feeling of slight numbness or a slight prickling or stinging sensation, typically as a result of cold or excitement

synonym: feel tickled, itch, prickle

(1) **tingle** up my spine, (2) **tingle** with anticipation

My nerves began to **tingle** before the show started.

paintbrush

n. a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle

synonym: brush, bristle brush, artist's brush

(1) **paintbrush** stroke, (2) **paintbrush** icon

She used a flat **paintbrush** to apply the final touches to the artwork.

meridian

n. a circle or imaginary line on the Earth's surface, running from north to south and passing through both poles

synonym: longitude, line of longitude, great circle

(1) **meridian** altitude, (2) prime **meridian**

The **meridian** lines on a globe help with navigation and determining location.

nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

bliss

n. extreme happiness or joy

synonym: delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

kneel

v. to rest on someone's knee or knees

synonym: genuflect, crouch, bend

(1) **kneel** down and worship, (2) **kneel** in protest

The players are **kneeling** during the national anthem.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym: murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves

He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

braid

n. a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

synonym: plait, twist, weave

(1) **braid** hair, (2) elastic cord **braid**

She always wore her hair in a single **braid** down her back.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

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.

insomnia

n. the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one

synonym: sleeplessness, wakefulness, restlessness

(1) medication for **insomnia**, (2) alcohol-dependent

insomnia

He suffered **insomnia** and loss of appetite after he began taking that medication.

unanswered

adj. not responded to or explained

synonym: ignored, unrequited, undecided

(1) **unanswered** love, (2) **unanswered** e-mail

Pardon me for leaving some of your questions **unanswered**.

oxytocin

n. a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk

(1) **oxytocin-degrading** enzyme, (2) **oxytocin** receptor

Women may increase **oxytocin** production through romantic love.

toolbox

n. a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment

synonym: tool chest, tool kit, tool bag

(1) design **toolbox**, (2) **toolbox** storage

You should always keep a basic **toolbox** in your car in case of an emergency.

sleeplessness

n. the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping

synonym: insomnia, wakefulness, restlessness

(1) **sleeplessness** disorder, (2) beat **sleeplessness**

He tried various treatments for his **sleeplessness**, but nothing seemed to work.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym: welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ox_____in-degrading enzyme *n.* a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk
2. beat sle_____ess *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
3. prime me_____an *n.* a circle or imaginary line on the Earth's surface, running from north to south and passing through both poles
4. to_____x storage *n.* a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment
5. sle_____ess disorder *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
6. pai_____sh icon *n.* a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle
7. get a haircut at a hai_____er *n.* a person who cuts and styles hair for a living
8. me_____an altitude *n.* a circle or imaginary line on the Earth's surface, running from north to south and passing through both poles
9. design to_____x *n.* a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment

ANSWERS: 1. oxytocin, 2. sleeplessness, 3. meridian, 4. toolbox, 5. sleeplessness, 6. paintbrush, 7. hairdresser, 8. meridian, 9. toolbox

10. elastic cord br__d *n.* a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration
11. baseless pre____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
12. fl____r around finding *v.* to wave or flap quickly and lightly; (noun) the act of moving back and forth
13. kn__l in protest *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees
14. a computer n__d *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
15. ey____d twitch *n.* a thin fold of skin that covers and protects the human eye, which helps to keep the eye moist by spreading tears over the surface and prevents foreign objects from entering the eye
16. drooping ey____d *n.* a thin fold of skin that covers and protects the human eye, which helps to keep the eye moist by spreading tears over the surface and prevents foreign objects from entering the eye
17. ignorance is bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy

ANSWERS: 10. braid, 11. pretension, 12. flutter, 13. kneel, 14. nerd, 15. eyelid, 16. eyelid, 17. bliss

18. una_____ed love *adj.* not responded to or explained
19. una_____ed e-mail *adj.* not responded to or explained
20. ti___e up my spine *v.* to cause a stinging or prickling sensation; (noun) a feeling of slight numbness or a slight prickling or stinging sensation, typically as a result of cold or excitement
21. ox_____in receptor *n.* a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk
22. ultimate bl___s *n.* extreme happiness or joy
23. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
24. ti___e with anticipation *v.* to cause a stinging or prickling sensation; (noun) a feeling of slight numbness or a slight prickling or stinging sensation, typically as a result of cold or excitement
25. the wh_____r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
26. redness of the ey_____l *n.* the round part of the eye of a vertebrate that is usually inside the head and, therefore, cannot be seen

ANSWERS: 18. unanswered, 19. unanswered, 20. tingle, 21. oxytocin, 22. bliss, 23. pretension, 24. tingle, 25. whisper, 26. eyeball

27. ey____l motion *n.* the round part of the eye of a vertebrate that is usually inside the head and, therefore, cannot be seen
28. alcohol-dependent in ____ia *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one
29. a ple____le experience *adj.* giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable
30. sp____e from receiving light *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
31. sp____e like a gem *v.* to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
32. pai____sh stroke *n.* a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle
33. b_d grafting *n.* a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
34. pr____ed illness *adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
35. modern ha____le *n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
36. br__d hair *n.* a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration
37. gr__t an idea *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

ANSWERS: 27. eyeball, 28. insomnia, 29. pleasurable, 30. sparkle, 31. sparkle, 32. paintbrush, 33. bud, 34. pretended, 35. hairstyle, 36. braid, 37. greet

50. answer in a wh_____r

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

ANSWERS: 50. whisper

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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

2. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
 - v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

3. The butterfly _____ its wings gracefully.
 - v.* to wave or flap quickly and lightly; (noun) the act of moving back and forth

4. I must ____ the loose thread on my shirt before it becomes a bigger problem.
 - v.* to trim or cut something, especially with scissors or shears; to remove a small part or piece from something with a quick cut or slice

5. He tried various treatments for his _____ but nothing seemed to work.
 - n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping

6. The players are _____ during the national anthem.
 - v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees

7. She always wore her hair in a single _____ down her back.
 - n.* a complex pattern, design, or plait formed out of three or more strands, often used decoratively in hair, clothing, or textiles; threads of silk, cotton, or other material attached to clothes, uniforms, or other things made of cloth, as a decoration

ANSWERS: 1. bud, 2. greeted, 3. fluttered, 4. snip, 5. sleeplessness, 6. kneeling, 7. braid

8. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
9. My sister got a new _____ for her job interview.
- n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
10. His _____ interest soon caught everyone's attention.
- adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
11. Women may increase _____ production through romantic love.
- n.* a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk
12. The first two years of her marriage were sheer _____.
- n.* extreme happiness or joy
13. He was, by nature, a cyber _____.
- n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
14. Bright light can cause me to squint and strain my eyes, resulting in twitchy _____.
- n.* a thin fold of skin that covers and protects the human eye, which helps to keep the eye moist by spreading tears over the surface and prevents foreign objects from entering the eye
15. He suffered _____ and loss of appetite after he began taking that medication.
- n.* the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one

ANSWERS: 8. pretensions, 9. hairstyle, 10. pretended, 11. oxytocin, 12. bliss, 13. nerd, 14. eyelids, 15. insomnia

16. You should always keep a basic _____ in your car in case of an emergency.
n. a container or storage unit for tools, typically characterized by a handle and one or more compartments for organizing and storing various tools and equipment
17. She used a flat _____ to apply the final touches to the artwork.
n. a tool used for applying paint or other liquid substances to a surface, typically consisting of bristles or synthetic fibers attached to a handle
18. Our marital life was full of happiness and _____ excitement.
adj. giving satisfaction or pleasure; enjoyable
19. The diamond _____ in the sunlight.
v. to emit or reflect bright flashes of light, especially with animation and joy
20. My nerves began to _____ before the show started.
v. to cause a stinging or prickling sensation; (noun) a feeling of slight numbness or a slight prickling or stinging sensation, typically as a result of cold or excitement
21. Pardon me for leaving some of your questions _____.
adj. not responded to or explained
22. Increased _____ pressure leads to the development of glaucoma.
n. the round part of the eye of a vertebrate that is usually inside the head and, therefore, cannot be seen
23. The world-famous _____ transformed her client's dull hair into a shiny and stylish new look.
n. a person who cuts and styles hair for a living

ANSWERS: 16. toolbox, 17. paintbrush, 18. pleasurable, 19. sparkled, 20. tingle, 21. unanswered, 22. eyeball, 23. hairdresser

24. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.

- v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

25. The _____ lines on a globe help with navigation and determining location.

- n.* a circle or imaginary line on the Earth's surface, running from north to south and passing through both poles

ANSWERS: 24. whispered, 25. meridian