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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Daniel Gregory: How do you know you're not dreaming? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

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.

whim

n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

synonym : fancy, caprice, whimsy

(1) at the **whim** of circumstance, (2) **whim** of youth

He quit his job on a **whim** and moved to a new city.

puzzled

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

synonym : confused, perplexed, bewildered

(1) **puzzled** expression, (2) **puzzled** by the question

She was **puzzled** by the strange behavior of her cat.

mystification

n. the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate

synonym : puzzle, perplexity, confusion

(1) **mystification** of the public, (2) **mystification** of the subject

The magician's tricks were a source of **mystification** for the audience.

conjure

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

synonym: summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

lucid

adj. expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright

synonym: clear, transparent, understandable

(1) **lucid** writing, (2) **lucid** explanation

His argument was so **lucid** that even his opponents agreed with him.

surefire

adj. certain or guaranteed to be successful, reliable, or effective

synonym: certain, foolproof, guaranteed

(1) **surefire** way, (2) **surefire** recipe

Following this **surefire** strategy guarantees success in any business venture.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

dolphin

n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid

synonym: porpoise, cetacean, marine mammal

(1) **dolphin** show, (2) **dolphin-watching** tour

The large group of **dolphins** swam gracefully in the ocean,

jumping out of the water now and then.

nameless

adj. without a name or unknown; not named or identified
synonym: anonymous, unknown, unidentified

(1) **nameless** fear, (2) **nameless** child

The victim could only describe their attacker as a **nameless** figure in the darkness.

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

incomprehensible

adj. impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended

synonym: unintelligible, unfathomable, inexplicable

(1) **incomprehensible** jargon, (2) **incomprehensible** math problem

The mathematical formula was **incomprehensible** to most of the students.

musty

adj. having a stale, damp, or moldy smell or odor; out-of-date or old-fashioned

synonym: moldy, stale, damp

(1) **musty** odor, (2) **musty** basement

The old library smelled **musty** and required renovation.

Session 2: Spelling

1. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
2. mu__y odor *adj.* having a stale, damp, or moldy smell or odor; out-of-date or old-fashioned
3. fl____r around finding *v.* to wave or flap quickly and lightly; (noun) the act of moving back and forth
4. su____re recipe *adj.* certain or guaranteed to be successful, reliable, or effective
5. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
6. pu____d expression *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
7. pu____d by the question *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
8. a fl____r of a bird *v.* to wave or flap quickly and lightly; (noun) the act of moving back and forth
9. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
10. inc_____ble jargon *adj.* impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended
11. lu__d explanation *adj.* expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright

ANSWERS: 1. doe, 2. musty, 3. flutter, 4. surefire, 5. neuroscience, 6. puzzled, 7. puzzled, 8. flutter, 9. neuroscience, 10. incomprehensible, 11. lucid

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| 12. do_____n-watching tour | <i>n.</i> a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid |
| 13. inc_____ble math problem | <i>adj.</i> impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended |
| 14. mu__y basement | <i>adj.</i> having a stale, damp, or moldy smell or odor; out-of-date or old-fashioned |
| 15. do_____n show | <i>n.</i> a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid |
| 16. co_____e a vision | <i>v.</i> to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination |
| 17. na_____ss fear | <i>adj.</i> without a name or unknown; not named or identified |
| 18. lu__d writing | <i>adj.</i> expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright |
| 19. co_____e evil spirits away | <i>v.</i> to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination |
| 20. mys_____ion of the subject | <i>n.</i> the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate |
| 21. buck and d_e | <i>n.</i> a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit |
| 22. w__m of youth | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |
| 23. at the w__m of circumstance | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |

ANSWERS: 12. dolphin, 13. incomprehensible, 14. musty, 15. dolphin, 16. conjure, 17. nameless, 18. lucid, 19. conjure, 20. mystification, 21. doe, 22. whim, 23. whim

24. na____ss child *adj.* without a name or unknown; not named or identified
25. mys_____ion of the public *n.* the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate
26. su____re way *adj.* certain or guaranteed to be successful, reliable, or effective

ANSWERS: 24. nameless, 25. mystification, 26. surefire

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The magician _____ up a rabbit out of thin air.
v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
2. The large group of _____ swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.
n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
3. The butterfly _____ its wings gracefully.
v. to wave or flap quickly and lightly; (noun) the act of moving back and forth
4. The magician's tricks were a source of _____ for the audience.
n. the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate
5. The old library smelled _____ and required renovation.
adj. having a stale, damp, or moldy smell or odor; out-of-date or old-fashioned
6. His argument was so _____ that even his opponents agreed with him.
adj. expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright
7. The mathematical formula was _____ to most of the students.
adj. impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended
8. He quit his job on a _____ and moved to a new city.
n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

ANSWERS: 1. conjured, 2. dolphins, 3. fluttered, 4. mystification, 5. musty, 6. lucid, 7. incomprehensible, 8. whim

9. She was _____ by the strange behavior of her cat.

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

10. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

11. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

12. Following this _____ strategy guarantees success in any business venture.

adj. certain or guaranteed to be successful, reliable, or effective

13. The victim could only describe their attacker as a _____ figure in the darkness.

adj. without a name or unknown; not named or identified

ANSWERS: 9. puzzled, 10. doe, 11. neuroscience, 12. surefire, 13. nameless