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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Josh Giegel: Super speed, magnetic levitation and the vision behind the hyperloop | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

stagnant

adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
synonym: still, stagnant, unmoving

(1) **stagnant** car sales, (2) **stagnant** economy

The **stagnant** water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

brow

n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
synonym: forehead, hilltop, eyebrow

(1) the **brow** of a hill, (2) furrowed **brow**

She wiped the sweat from her **brow** after finishing the marathon.

wright

n. a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
synonym: builder, constructor, craftsman

(1) a car- **wright**, (2) aircraft **wright**

She was a skilled **wright**, able to craft intricate pieces of furniture.

inconceivable

adj. hard to imagine or believe

synonym: unimaginable, impossible, unthinkable

(1) **inconceivable** pain, (2) **inconceivable** ideas
It would be **inconceivable** for him to alter his behavior.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

vactrain

n. a type of proposed high-speed train that would travel through a vacuum-sealed tube, using magnetic levitation to eliminate air resistance; vactrains have the potential to reach speeds of up to 6,000 km/h (3,700 mph), making them faster than any other mode of transportation

synonym : maglev, hyperloop

(1) prototype **vactrain**, (2) high-speed **vactrain**

Scientists and engineers are researching ways to develop **vactrain** technology further and make it more efficient and cost-effective.

envision

v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

synonym : anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success

We cannot **envision** her as President.

glide

v. to move smoothly and effortlessly

synonym : slide, skim, coast

(1) **glide** through the water, (2) **glide** down the mountain

The eagle gracefully **glided** on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.

turbulence

n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight

synonym : choppiness, tumult, agitation

(1) financial **turbulence**, (2) emotional **turbulence**

The ride on the rollercoaster was full of dips and turns, creating a feeling of **turbulence**.

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

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.

commute

v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

synonym: travel, journey, trip

(1) **commute** to work, (2) daily **commute**

He had to **commute** two hours each way to get to work.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

flourish

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

synonym: boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide

The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

insatiable

adj. impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable

synonym: voracious, unquenchable, insistent

(1) **insatiable** curiosity, (2) **insatiable** appetite

His **insatiable** hunger for success drove him to work countless hours.

musky

adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss

synonym: musty, earthy, pungent

(1) **musky** aroma, (2) **musky** perfume

The **musky** scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

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.

maglev

n. (short for magnetic levitation) a type of transportation system that uses magnetic levitation (= the phenomenon of an object or a person rising into the air) to lift and propel trains or vehicles along a track without the use of wheels or friction; often used for high-speed trains and urban transportation systems

synonym: magnetic levitation, high-speed train, transportation technology

(1) **maglev** transportation, (2) **maglev** technology

Maglev trains can reach very high speeds due to their unique

design.

devise

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

synonym: create, concoct, invent

(1) **devise** a plan, (2) **devise** a literary plot

They had to **devise** a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

levitate

v. to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner

synonym: hover, float, soar

(1) **levitate** objects, (2) **levitate** for a few seconds

The magician appeared to **levitate** off the stage, stunning the audience.

spaceship

n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space

synonym: starship, rocket, spacecraft

(1) a **spaceship** to survey the moon, (2) alien **spaceship**

They launched a crewless **spaceship** into space.

mannequin

n. a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window

synonym: dummy, model, figure

(1) **mannequin** display, (2) pose **mannequin**

The store's window display featured a series of **mannequins** dressed in the latest fashion.

countdown

n. a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline

synonym: timer

(1) **countdown** clock, (2) wedding **countdown**

The **countdown** to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.

deem

v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

synonym: believe, consider, suppose

(1) **deem** socially responsible, (2) **deem** wrong or inappropriate

Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were **deemed** unsafe.

ludicrous

adj. so ridiculous, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing; absurd

synonym: absurd, ridiculous, farcical

(1) **ludicrous** idea, (2) **ludicrous** behavior

It's **ludicrous** to blame the teachers for the education system's failures.

inflection

n. a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories

synonym: accent, intonation, modulation

(1) **inflection** in voice, (2) **inflection** pattern

The linguist studied the **inflection** of the language's inflection in speech.

Session 2: Spelling

1. de___e a plan
v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
2. high-speed va_____in
n. a type of proposed high-speed train that would travel through a vacuum-sealed tube, using magnetic levitation to eliminate air resistance; vactrains have the potential to reach speeds of up to 6,000 km/h (3,700 mph), making them faster than any other mode of transportation
3. alien sp_____ip
n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
4. inc_____ble ideas
adj. hard to imagine or believe
5. gl__e down the mountain
v. to move smoothly and effortlessly
6. ob_____on with character
n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
7. ins_____le appetite
adj. impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
8. lu_____us behavior
adj. so ridiculous, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing; absurd
9. labor under a de_____on
n. a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary

ANSWERS: 1. devise, 2. vactrain, 3. spaceship, 4. inconceivable, 5. glide, 6. obsession, 7. insatiable, 8. ludicrous, 9. delusion

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 10. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 11. lu_____us idea | <i>adj.</i> so ridiculous, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing; absurd |
| 12. st_____nt car sales | <i>adj.</i> not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water |
| 13. d__m socially responsible | <i>v.</i> to consider or decide something in a particular way |
| 14. ma___v technology | <i>n.</i> (short for magnetic levitation) a type of transportation system that uses magnetic levitation (= the phenomenon of an object or a person rising into the air) to lift and propel trains or vehicles along a track without the use of wheels or friction; often used for high-speed trains and urban transportation systems |
| 15. d__m wrong or inappropriate | <i>v.</i> to consider or decide something in a particular way |
| 16. grand de_____on | <i>n.</i> a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary |
| 17. furrowed b__w | <i>n.</i> the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead |
| 18. inf_____on in voice | <i>n.</i> a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories |
| 19. le_____te objects | <i>v.</i> to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner |

ANSWERS: 10. industrious, 11. ludicrous, 12. stagnant, 13. deem, 14. maglev, 15. deem, 16. delusion, 17. brow, 18. inflection, 19. levitate

20. st_____nt economy *adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
21. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
22. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
23. ma_____in display *n.* a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window
24. en_____on the future *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
25. co_____e to work *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
26. emotional tur_____ce *n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight
27. daily co_____e *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
28. national ob_____on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

ANSWERS: 20. stagnant, 21. physicist, 22. quitter, 23. mannequin, 24. envision, 25. commute, 26. turbulence, 27. commute, 28. obsession

29. the b__w of a hill *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
30. fl____sh worldwide *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
31. le____te for a few seconds *v.* to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner
32. de____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
33. de____e a literary plot *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
34. ins____le curiosity *adj.* impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
35. en____on the project's success *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
36. talented ph____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
37. ma____v transportation *n.* (short for magnetic levitation) a type of transportation system that uses magnetic levitation (= the phenomenon of an object or a person rising into the air) to lift and propel trains or vehicles along a track without the use of wheels or friction; often used for high-speed trains and urban transportation systems

ANSWERS: 29. brow, 30. flourish, 31. levitate, 32. dedicate, 33. devise, 34. insatiable, 35. envision, 36. physicist, 37. maglev

38. gl__e through the water *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
39. de____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
40. a sp_____ip to survey the moon *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
41. inf_____on pattern *n.* a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories
42. inc_____ble pain *adj.* hard to imagine or believe
43. fl_____sh economically *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
44. aircraft wr____t *n.* a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
45. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
46. financial tur_____ce *n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight
47. pose ma_____in *n.* a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window
48. wedding co_____wn *n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline

ANSWERS: 38. glide, 39. dedicate, 40. spaceship, 41. inflection, 42. inconceivable, 43. flourish, 44. wright, 45. industrious, 46. turbulence, 47. mannequin, 48. countdown

49. a car-wr___t *n.* a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
50. mu__y aroma *adj.* having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
51. prototype va_____in *n.* a type of proposed high-speed train that would travel through a vacuum-sealed tube, using magnetic levitation to eliminate air resistance; vactrains have the potential to reach speeds of up to 6,000 km/h (3,700 mph), making them faster than any other mode of transportation
52. mu__y perfume *adj.* having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
53. co_____wn clock *n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
54. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

ANSWERS: 49. wright, 50. musky, 51. vactrain, 52. musky, 53. countdown, 54. quitter

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ride on the rollercoaster was full of dips and turns, creating a feeling of _____.
n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight
2. We cannot _____ her as President.
v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
3. The _____ water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
4. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
5. The _____ to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.
n. a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
6. The _____ scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.
adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
7. His _____ hunger for success drove him to work countless hours.
adj. impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
8. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.
v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

ANSWERS: 1. turbulence, 2. envision, 3. stagnant, 4. industrious, 5. countdown, 6. musky, 7. insatiable, 8. flourished

9. _____ trains can reach very high speeds due to their unique design.
n. (short for magnetic levitation) a type of transportation system that uses magnetic levitation (= the phenomenon of an object or a person rising into the air) to lift and propel trains or vehicles along a track without the use of wheels or friction; often used for high-speed trains and urban transportation systems
10. The linguist studied the _____ of the language's inflection in speech.
n. a change in the pitch or tone of one's voice; a change in the form of a word to indicate tense, mood, gender, or other grammatical categories
11. She was a skilled _____ able to craft intricate pieces of furniture.
n. a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
12. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
13. The store's window display featured a series of _____ dressed in the latest fashion.
n. a life-sized model of the human body used for displaying clothes, especially in a store window
14. Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were _____ unsafe.
v. to consider or decide something in a particular way
15. She wiped the sweat from her _____ after finishing the marathon.
n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
16. He had a _____ that he was a millionaire.
n. a false belief or impression that is firmly held despite evidence to the contrary

ANSWERS: 9. Maglev, 10. inflection, 11. wright, 12. physicist, 13. mannequins, 14. deemed, 15. brow, 16. delusion

17. He had to _____ two hours each way to get to work.

- v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

18. They had to _____ a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

- v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

19. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.

- n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

20. The eagle gracefully _____ on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.

- v. to move smoothly and effortlessly

21. Scientists and engineers are researching ways to develop _____ technology further and make it more efficient and cost-effective.

- n. a type of proposed high-speed train that would travel through a vacuum-sealed tube, using magnetic levitation to eliminate air resistance; vactrains have the potential to reach speeds of up to 6,000 km/h (3,700 mph), making them faster than any other mode of transportation

22. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.

- n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

23. They launched a crewless _____ into space.

- n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space

ANSWERS: 17. commute, 18. devise, 19. obsession, 20. glided, 21. vactrain, 22. quitter, 23. spaceship

24. He _____ his life to helping others.

- v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

25. It would be _____ for him to alter his behavior.

- adj. hard to imagine or believe

26. The magician appeared to _____ off the stage, stunning the audience.

- v. to rise or float in the air without apparent support, often in a magical or supernatural manner

27. It's _____ to blame the teachers for the education system's failures.

- adj. so ridiculous, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing; absurd

ANSWERS: 24. dedicated, 25. inconceivable, 26. levitate, 27. ludicrous