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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Aicha Evans: Your self-driving robotaxi is almost here

| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

rotary

adj. relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion

synonym: circular, revolving, spinning

(1) **rotary** motion, (2) **rotary** tool

The **rotary** engine is known for its smooth and efficient operation.

flywheel

n. a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine

(1) **flywheel** energy, (2) the **flywheel** on the car's engine

The exercise bike has a large **flywheel** that provides resistance and simulates outdoor cycling.

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.

robotaxi

n. a type of autonomous vehicle that operates as a taxi service, transporting passengers without the need for a driver

synonym : autonomous taxi, self-driving cab, robotic cab

(1) **robotaxi** service, (2) self-driving **robotaxi**

The cost of transportation could be significantly reduced with the adoption of **robotaxis**.

disappoint

v. to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

synonym : sadden, dismay, frustrate

(1) **disappoint** the audience, (2) don't **disappoint** me

She worked very hard not to **disappoint** her boss's expectations.

wasteful

adj. characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense

synonym : uneconomical, extravagant, profligate

(1) **wasteful** practices, (2) **wasteful** habits

Buying new clothes every week is a **wasteful** use of money and resources.

cusp

n. a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved

synonym : point, apex, tip

(1) **cusp** of change, (2) a single **cusp**

The project was on the **cusp** of success and needed a little more funding.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym: preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

impair

v. to damage something or make it weaker or worse

synonym: degrade, mar, deface

(1) **impair** my health, (2) **impair** insulin sensitivity

The accident made his vision **impaired**.

centimeter

n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

(1) **centimeter** measurement, (2) thirty **centimeters** tall

The room was only one **centimeter** wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.

long-range

adj. relating to or extending over a long distance, period of time, or range of possibilities

synonym: far-reaching, extended, distant

(1) **long-range** radar, (2) **long-range** weather forecast

The military uses **long-range** missiles to hit targets from far away.

emit

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

synonym: give off, radiate, expel

(1) **emit** a gamma ray, (2) **emit** air pollution

During the unloading, the container box **emits** a clicking sound.

fused

adj. joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity

synonym: merged, blended, united

(1) **fused** glass, (2) **fused** bones

The **fused** wires in the electrical circuit caused a power

outage.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

allude

v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly

synonym : imply, indicate, hint

(1) **allude** to his low origin, (2) **allude** to the planning

He **alluded** to the problem but did not mention it directly.

microbe

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

synonym : germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

Microbes thrive on the surface of the human skin.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym : curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

astrophysics

n. the branch of physics concerned with the study of the properties and behavior of celestial objects and the physical processes that govern the behavior and evolution of the universe

(1) **astrophysics** research, (2) neutrino **astrophysics**

He was studying **astrophysics** in an attempt to understand the origins of the universe.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym : excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales
The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark
The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

Session 2: Spelling

1. dis_____ed by a conversation
adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
2. wa_____ul practices
adj. characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
3. e__t air pollution
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
4. 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
5. ind_____us worker
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
6. ro_____xi service
n. a type of autonomous vehicle that operates as a taxi service, transporting passengers without the need for a driver
7. fl_____el energy
n. a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine
8. al___e to his low origin
v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly

ANSWERS: 1. distracted, 2. wasteful, 3. emit, 4. commute, 5. industrious, 6. robotaxi, 7. flywheel, 8. allude

9. pathogenic mi____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
10. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
11. the fl____el on the car's engine *n.* a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine
12. al____e to the planning *v.* to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
13. don't dis____nt me *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
14. a single c__p *n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
15. self-driving ro____xi *n.* a type of autonomous vehicle that operates as a taxi service, transporting passengers without the need for a driver
16. lon____ge weather forecast *adj.* relating to or extending over a long distance, period of time, or range of possibilities
17. an op____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
18. dis____nt the audience *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

ANSWERS: 9. microbe, 10. humming, 11. flywheel, 12. allude, 13. disappoint, 14. cusp, 15. robotaxi, 16. long-range, 17. opportune, 18. disappoint

19. c__p of change *n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
20. ro___y motion *adj.* relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion
21. fu__d glass *adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
22. cen_____er measurement *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
23. e__t a gamma ray *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
24. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
25. mi_____es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
26. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
27. wa_____ul habits *adj.* characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
28. ast_____ics research *n.* the branch of physics concerned with the study of the properties and behavior of celestial objects and the physical processes that govern the behavior and evolution of the universe

ANSWERS: 19. cusp, 20. rotary, 21. fused, 22. centimeter, 23. emit, 24. medicinal, 25. microbe, 26. medicinal, 27. wasteful, 28. astrophysics

29. fu__d bones *adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
30. 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
31. ro___y tool *adj.* relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion
32. su_____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
33. hu_____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
34. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
35. get dis_____ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
36. im___r insulin sensitivity *v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
37. im___r my health *v.* to damage something or make it weaker or worse
38. thirty cen_____ers tall *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

ANSWERS: 29. fused, 30. commute, 31. rotary, 32. surpass, 33. humming, 34. opportune, 35. distracted, 36. impair, 37. impair, 38. centimeter

39. ind_____us student

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

40. neutrino ast_____ics

n. the branch of physics concerned with the study of the properties and behavior of celestial objects and the physical processes that govern the behavior and evolution of the universe

41. lon_____ge radar

adj. relating to or extending over a long distance, period of time, or range of possibilities

42. su_____s imagination

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

ANSWERS: 39. industrious, 40. astrophysics, 41. long-range, 42. surpass

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ wires in the electrical circuit caused a power outage.
adj. joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
2. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
3. The room was only one _____ wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.
n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
4. The _____ engine is known for its smooth and efficient operation.
adj. relating to, revolving around, or characterized by rotation or a revolving motion
5. The project was on the _____ of success and needed a little more funding.
n. a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
6. The cost of transportation could be significantly reduced with the adoption of _____.
n. a type of autonomous vehicle that operates as a taxi service, transporting passengers without the need for a driver
7. During the unloading, the container box _____ a clicking sound.
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. fused, 2. surpassed, 3. centimeter, 4. rotary, 5. cusp, 6. robotaxis, 7. emits

8. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
9. The accident made his vision _____.
v. to damage something or make it weaker or worse
10. Buying new clothes every week is a _____ use of money and resources.
adj. characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
11. 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
12. He _____ to the problem but did not mention it directly.
v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
13. She worked very hard not to _____ her boss's expectations.
v. to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
14. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
15. He was studying _____ in an attempt to understand the origins of the universe.
n. the branch of physics concerned with the study of the properties and behavior of celestial objects and the physical processes that govern the behavior and evolution of the universe

ANSWERS: 8. industrious, 9. impaired, 10. wasteful, 11. commute, 12. alluded, 13. disappoint, 14. medicinal, 15. astrophysics

16. _____ thrive on the surface of the human skin.
n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
17. The military uses _____ missiles to hit targets from far away.
adj. relating to or extending over a long distance, period of time, or range of possibilities
18. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
19. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. The exercise bike has a large _____ that provides resistance and simulates outdoor cycling.
n. a large, heavy wheel with a smooth rim that is used to store rotational energy and to smooth out fluctuations in the speed of an engine or other machine
21. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

ANSWERS: 16. Microbes, 17. long-range, 18. humming, 19. opportune, 20. flywheel, 21. distracted