

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Brian Christian: How to get better at video games, according to babies | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

superhuman

adj. possessing abilities or characteristics that exceed those of normal humans; beyond human capacity or capability

synonym: supernatural, inhuman, beyond human

(1) **superhuman** beings, (2) **superhuman** effort

The athlete's **superhuman** strength allowed him to lift twice his body weight.

breakout

n. an escape or sudden release from confinement, often used to describe a prison break or a spread of a disease

synonym: escape, eruption, jailbreak

(1) fire **breakout**, (2) stock market **breakout**

The prisoners staged a **breakout** and escaped from the prison.

glaring

adj. extremely noticeable or obvious, often in a way that is unpleasant or unpleasantly bright

synonym: blatant, flagrant, obvious

(1) **glaring** example, (2) **glaring** omission

The **glaring** sun was making it difficult to see while driving.

vex

v. to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation

synonym: annoy, irritate, bother

(1) **vex** my mind, (2) **vex** me all night

The loud noise from the construction site was starting to **vex** the nearby residents.

spoil

v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

synonym: rot, decay, deteriorate

(1) **spoil** a person's sport, (2) **spoil** the surprise

If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will **spoil**.

mash

v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions;
(noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

synonym: crush, grind, pulverize

(1) **mash** his words, (2) potato **mash**

She **mashed** the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

ingenious

adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill

synonym: creative, innovative, inventive

(1) **ingenious** device, (2) **ingenious** idea

I always look forward to reading his stories since they're so **ingenious**.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym: immobilize, disable, numb

(1) **paralyze** a city, (2) **paralyze** a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

unstick

v. to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else

synonym: detach, remove, free

(1) **unstick** the door, (2) **unstick** the pages of a book

I had to use a knife to **unstick** the envelope from the table.

boredom

n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

synonym: ennui, tedium, monotony

(1) **boredom** relief, (2) chronic **boredom**

The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off **boredom**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sp__l a person's sport *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
2. un____k the pages of a book *v.* to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else
3. v_x my mind *v.* to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation
4. fire br____ut *n.* an escape or sudden release from confinement, often used to describe a prison break or a spread of a disease
5. stock market br____ut *n.* an escape or sudden release from confinement, often used to describe a prison break or a spread of a disease
6. in____us idea *adj.* showing inventiveness and ability or skill
7. gl____g example *adj.* extremely noticeable or obvious, often in a way that is unpleasant or unpleasantly bright
8. pa____ze a city *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
9. gl____g omission *adj.* extremely noticeable or obvious, often in a way that is unpleasant or unpleasantly bright
10. bo____m relief *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

ANSWERS: 1. spoil, 2. unstick, 3. vex, 4. breakout, 5. breakout, 6. ingenious, 7. glaring, 8. paralyze, 9. glaring, 10. boredom

11. sup_____an effort *adj.* possessing abilities or characteristics that exceed those of normal humans; beyond human capacity or capability
12. chronic bo_____m *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
13. sup_____an beings *adj.* possessing abilities or characteristics that exceed those of normal humans; beyond human capacity or capability
14. in_____us device *adj.* showing inventiveness and ability or skill
15. potato m__h *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
16. v_x me all night *v.* to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation
17. pa_____ze a person *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
18. m__h his words *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
19. sp__l the surprise *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

ANSWERS: 11. superhuman, 12. boredom, 13. superhuman, 14. ingenious, 15. mash, 16. vex, 17. paralyze, 18. mash, 19. spoil

20. un____k the door

v. to free something that is stuck or
adhering to something else

ANSWERS: 20. unstick

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I had to use a knife to _____ the envelope from the table.
v. to free something that is stuck or adhering to something else
2. The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off _____.
n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
3. The athlete's _____ strength allowed him to lift twice his body weight.
adj. possessing abilities or characteristics that exceed those of normal humans; beyond human capacity or capability
4. I always look forward to reading his stories since they're so _____.
adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill
5. If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will _____.
v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
6. The prisoners staged a _____ and escaped from the prison.
n. an escape or sudden release from confinement, often used to describe a prison break or a spread of a disease
7. The _____ sun was making it difficult to see while driving.
adj. extremely noticeable or obvious, often in a way that is unpleasant or unpleasantly bright
8. The loud noise from the construction site was starting to ____ the nearby residents.
v. to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation

ANSWERS: 1. unstick, 2. boredom, 3. superhuman, 4. ingenious, 5. spoil, 6. breakout, 7. glaring, 8. vex

9. She _____ the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

- v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

10. The venom from the snake bite _____ his arm.

- v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

ANSWERS: 9. mashed, 10. paralyzed