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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

James A. Smith: *The method that can "prove" almost anything* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

commonplace

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

synonym: ordinary, routine, mundane

(1) become a **commonplace** sight, (2) **commonplace** event

Forgetting someone's name is a **commonplace** occurrence.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

nullify

v. to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void

synonym: invalidate, cancel, annul

(1) **nullify** a vote, (2) **nullify** a law

The court can **nullify** a contract if it is found to be illegal.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

dart

n. a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly

synonym: arrow, (verb) dash

(1) blow **dart**, (2) **dart** here and there

A poison **dart** hit him.

bullseye

n. the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve

synonym: target, mark, aim

(1) **bullseye** target, (2) miss the **bullseye**

The archer hit the **bullseye** with perfect precision from 50 yards away.

beforehand

adv. ahead of time; in advance

synonym: in advance, preceding, earlier

(1) take a seat **beforehand**, (2) three months **beforehand**

She packed her sunscreen **beforehand** to remember it on the beach trip.

Session 2: Spelling

1. take a seat bef_____nd *adv.* ahead of time; in advance
2. miss the bu_____ye *n.* the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve
3. com_____ce event *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
4. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
5. nu_____y a vote *v.* to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void
6. three months bef_____nd *adv.* ahead of time; in advance
7. d__t here and there *n.* a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly
8. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
9. bu_____ye target *n.* the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve
10. become a com_____ce sight *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

ANSWERS: 1. beforehand, 2. bullseye, 3. commonplace, 4. confuse, 5. nullify, 6. beforehand, 7. dart, 8. confuse, 9. bullseye, 10. commonplace

11. nu____y a law *v.* to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void
12. blow d__t *n.* a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly
13. environmental det____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
14. a det____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 11. nullify, 12. dart, 13. determinant, 14. determinant

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. A poison _____ hit him.
n. a small narrow pointed object, sometimes with feathers to help it fly, that is thrown or shot; (verb) to move along rapidly and lightly

2. She packed her sunscreen _____ to remember it on the beach trip.
adv. ahead of time; in advance

3. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

4. The court can _____ a contract if it is found to be illegal.
v. to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void

5. The archer hit the _____ with perfect precision from 50 yards away.
n. the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve

6. Forgetting someone's name is a _____ occurrence.
adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

7. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

ANSWERS: 1. dart, 2. beforehand, 3. determinant, 4. nullify, 5. bullseye, 6. commonplace, 7. confused

ANSWERS: