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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Daniel J. Watts: To accomplish great things, you need to "let the paint dry" | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

marvelous

adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

synonym: wonderful, amazing, superb

(1) **marvelous** performance, (2) **marvelous** power

The view from the top of the mountain was **marvelous**.

uptown

adv. in or towards the upper or more affluent part of a city or town; characterized by or associated with wealth, luxury, or sophistication

(1) walk **uptown**, (2) drive **uptown**

They just moved **uptown** to a much more excellent apartment.

whatnot

n. unspecified or unimportant objects, things, or details; miscellaneous items or things; a small, open shelving unit or stand used for displaying various objects or curios

synonym: odds and ends, gizmos, etcetera

(1) books and **whatnot**, (2) clothes and **whatnot**

I need to pick up some groceries, toiletries, and **whatnot** at the store.

workation

n. (a blend of "work" and "vacation") a working vacation where the person combines work and leisure activities while away from their regular work environment

synonym: working vacation, job-cation, flexcation

(1) **workation** retreat, (2) **workation** destination

The **workation** program at my company allows employees to take a paid vacation while still being available for work tasks.

impromptu

adv. done or said on the spur of the moment, without planning or preparation; unscripted, unrehearsed

synonym: spontaneously, suddenly

(1) **impromptu** speech, (2) **impromptu** gathering

We had an **impromptu** picnic in the park when the weather suddenly cleared up.

burgess

n. an official in a city or town who has various administrative and legal functions, such as maintaining order, regulating trade, or collecting taxes; a citizen of a borough or a town with a certain level of political and legal privileges

synonym: citizen, inhabitant, resident

(1) the **burgess** of the neighboring city, (2) **burgess's** proposal

The **burgess** of the town was responsible for maintaining law and order.

rehearsal

n. a practice session, usually for a performance or presentation, during which people prepare and fine-tune their performance, often with the help of feedback from others; the act of rehearsing

synonym: practice, run-through, drill

(1) dress **rehearsal**, (2) music **rehearsal**

The theater company had its final **rehearsal** before opening

night.

maneuver

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

synonym : gimmick, trick, action

(1) political **maneuvers**, (2) made a great **maneuver**

In this class, we learn the basic **maneuver** of the plane.

drench

v. to completely soak or saturate with liquid, typically with the intent of making something thoroughly wet

synonym : soak, saturate, immerse

(1) **drench** with sweat, (2) **drench** the soil with fertilizer

The storm last night **drenched** everything in the yard, leaving puddles everywhere.

bask

v. to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment

synonym : sunbathe, lounge, relax

(1) **bask** in the sun, (2) **bask** in the attention

The lizard **basked** on the warm rock for hours.

familial

adj. of or relating to a family or families; having the qualities of a family

synonym : family, relative, hereditary

(1) **familial** relationships, (2) **familial** traits

Familial ties are often strong and enduring.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

smack

v. to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke

synonym: hit, slap, strike

(1) **smack** on the lips, (2) **smack** his knee

The baseball player **smacked** the ball out of the park, securing a home run.

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**.

hue

n. the quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength

synonym: dye, tint, coloring

(1) the **hues** of a rainbow, (2) **hue** change

To achieve a warmer **hue**, add orange paint.

hazmat

n. abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment

synonym: hazardous material, toxic substances

(1) **hazmat** material, (2) **hazmat** incident

The hazardous materials team was called to the scene in their **hazmat** suits.

aquamarine

n. a blue-green or greenish-blue variety of beryl, often used as a precious gemstone

synonym: blue-green, teal, turquoise

(1) **aquamarine** gemstone, (2) **aquamarine** color

The ocean had a beautiful shade of **aquamarine** on this sunny day.

hamster

n. a small, furry rodent commonly kept as a pet; often used in research laboratories due to their small size and ease

of handling

synonym : gerbil, guinea pig, mouse

(1) **hamster** wheel, (2) pet **hamster**

It's important to clean your **hamster's** cage frequently to ensure their health and comfort.

reprieve

v. to temporarily halt or cancel a punishment, especially death or other severe penalties; to provide temporary relief or break from something unpleasant or stressful;
(noun) a temporary postponement or relief from something difficult or unpleasant, such as a punishment, a duty, or a difficult situation

synonym : pardon, respite

(1) **reprieve** the athlete from the competition, (2) granting a **reprieve** from punishment

The governor decided to **reprieve** the prisoner's death sentence temporarily.

daze

n. the feeling of distress and disbelief that you have when something bad happens accidentally; (verb) to confuse or stun someone with a sudden intense light or loud noise

synonym : stupor, confusion, (verb) stun

(1) walk around in a **daze**, (2) **daze** of sleep

He was in a **daze** from the sudden news and couldn't process it properly.

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.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

revamp

v. to give something a new and improved form or appearance; to renovate or modernize

synonym : renovate, update, modernize

(1) **revamp** my home decor, (2) **revamp** strategy

The company decided to **revamp** its website to attract more customers.

transgression

n. the violation of a law, duty, or moral principle

synonym : misdeed, crime, wrongdoing

(1) inexcusable **transgression**, (2) commit a **transgression**

Reporters questioned the politician about his past **transgression**.

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym : outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym : torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

splatter

v. to scatter or spray liquid, mud, or a similar substance in small droplets or flecks; to stain or cover with such droplets or specks

synonym : swash, splash, spray

(1) **splatter** paint, (2) **splatter** all over the floor

The construction workers wore protective gear to avoid being **splattered** with wet cement.

swirl

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

synonym: spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust

The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

sprain

v. to injure a joint in your body by a sudden wrenching of it

synonym: turn, twist, wrench

(1) **sprain** a joint, (2) **sprain** my knee in a game

She **sprained** her ankles when she fell.

breakup

n. the end of a relationship between persons or nations;
the separation of something into several pieces or sections

synonym: breakdown, divorce, separation

(1) a **breakup** hug, (2) air **breakup**

He got over the big **breakup** with his wife.

fuss

n. a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance

synonym: commotion, agitation, disturbance

(1) make a **fuss**, (2) get into a **fuss**

There was a **fuss** about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.

Session 2: Spelling

1. dr___h with sweat *v.* to completely soak or saturate with liquid, typically with the intent of making something thoroughly wet
2. sw__l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
3. d__e of sleep *n.* the feeling of distress and disbelief that you have when something bad happens accidentally; (verb) to confuse or stun someone with a sudden intense light or loud noise
4. re___p strategy *v.* to give something a new and improved form or appearance; to renovate or modernize
5. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
6. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
7. inexcusable tra_____ion *n.* the violation of a law, duty, or moral principle
8. b__k in the attention *v.* to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment
9. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 1. drench, 2. swirl, 3. daze, 4. revamp, 5. rev, 6. storytelling, 7. transgression, 8. bask, 9. pretension

10. fa____al traits *adj.* of or relating to a family or families; having the qualities of a family
11. books and wh____t *n.* unspecified or unimportant objects, things, or details; miscellaneous items or things; a small, open shelving unit or stand used for displaying various objects or curios
12. sm__k his knee *v.* to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke
13. sp____er all over the floor *v.* to scatter or spray liquid, mud, or a similar substance in small droplets or flecks; to stain or cover with such droplets or specks
14. the bu____s of the neighboring city *n.* an official in a city or town who has various administrative and legal functions, such as maintaining order, regulating trade, or collecting taxes; a citizen of a borough or a town with a certain level of political and legal privileges
15. sp__l the surprise *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
16. re____p my home decor *v.* to give something a new and improved form or appearance; to renovate or modernize
17. b__k in the sun *v.* to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment

ANSWERS: 10. familial, 11. whatnot, 12. smack, 13. splatter, 14. burgess, 15. spoil, 16. revamp, 17. bask

18. political ma_____ers *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
19. walk up____n *adv.* in or towards the upper or more affluent part of a city or town; characterized by or associated with wealth, luxury, or sophistication
20. he is ob____sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
21. ha____t incident *n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
22. ha____t material *n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
23. sm__k on the lips *v.* to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke
24. aqu_____ne gemstone *n.* a blue-green or greenish-blue variety of beryl, often used as a precious gemstone
25. sp____n a joint *v.* to injure a joint in your body by a sudden wrenching of it
26. drive up____n *adv.* in or towards the upper or more affluent part of a city or town; characterized by or associated with wealth, luxury, or sophistication
27. aqu_____ne color *n.* a blue-green or greenish-blue variety of beryl, often used as a precious gemstone

ANSWERS: 18. maneuver, 19. uptown, 20. obsess, 21. hazmat, 22. hazmat, 23. smack, 24. aquamarine, 25. sprain, 26. uptown, 27. aquamarine

37. make a f__s *n.* a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance
38. dress re_____al *n.* a practice session, usually for a performance or presentation, during which people prepare and fine-tune their performance, often with the help of feedback from others; the act of rehearsing
39. re_____ve the athlete from the competition *v.* to temporarily halt or cancel a punishment, especially death or other severe penalties; to provide temporary relief or break from something unpleasant or stressful; (noun) a temporary postponement or relief from something difficult or unpleasant, such as a punishment, a duty, or a difficult situation
40. h_e change *n.* the quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength
41. granting a re_____ve from punishment *v.* to temporarily halt or cancel a punishment, especially death or other severe penalties; to provide temporary relief or break from something unpleasant or stressful; (noun) a temporary postponement or relief from something difficult or unpleasant, such as a punishment, a duty, or a difficult situation
42. fa_____al relationships *adj.* of or relating to a family or families; having the qualities of a family

ANSWERS: 37. fuss, 38. rehearsal, 39. reprieve, 40. hue, 41. reprieve, 42. familial

51. global pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
52. ma_____us power *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
53. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
54. sp____n my knee in a game *v.* to injure a joint in your body by a sudden wrenching of it
55. im_____tu speech *adv.* done or said on the spur of the moment, without planning or preparation; unscripted, unrehearsed
56. ha_____r wheel *n.* a small, furry rodent commonly kept as a pet; often used in research laboratories due to their small size and ease of handling
57. music re_____al *n.* a practice session, usually for a performance or presentation, during which people prepare and fine-tune their performance, often with the help of feedback from others; the act of rehearsing
58. a br_____p hug *n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
59. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
60. ma_____us performance *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

ANSWERS: 51. pandemic, 52. marvelous, 53. storytelling, 54. sprain, 55. impromptu, 56. hamster, 57. rehearsal, 58. breakup, 59. confuse, 60. marvelous

61. bu____s's proposal
- n.* an official in a city or town who has various administrative and legal functions, such as maintaining order, regulating trade, or collecting taxes; a citizen of a borough or a town with a certain level of political and legal privileges
62. flu pa____ic
- n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
63. clothes and wh____t
- n.* unspecified or unimportant objects, things, or details; miscellaneous items or things; a small, open shelving unit or stand used for displaying various objects or curios
64. ob____s over her weight
- v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 61. burgess, 62. pandemic, 63. whatnot, 64. obsess

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ program at my company allows employees to take a paid vacation while still being available for work tasks.
 - n.* (a blend of "work" and "vacation") a working vacation where the person combines work and leisure activities while away from their regular work environment

2. The baseball player _____ the ball out of the park, securing a home run.
 - v.* to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke

3. The lizard _____ on the warm rock for hours.
 - v.* to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment

4. The view from the top of the mountain was _____.
 - adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

5. The governor decided to _____ the prisoner's death sentence temporarily.
 - v.* to temporarily halt or cancel a punishment, especially death or other severe penalties; to provide temporary relief or break from something unpleasant or stressful; (noun) a temporary postponement or relief from something difficult or unpleasant, such as a punishment, a duty, or a difficult situation

6. In this class, we learn the basic _____ of the plane.
 - n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

7. Reporters questioned the politician about his past _____.
 - n.* the violation of a law, duty, or moral principle

ANSWERS: 1. workation, 2. smacked, 3. basked, 4. marvelous, 5. reprieve, 6. maneuver, 7. transgression

8. The hazardous materials team was called to the scene in their _____ suits.
- n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
9. The chef expertly _____ the sauce onto the plate.
- v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
10. It's important to clean your _____ cage frequently to ensure their health and comfort.
- n.* a small, furry rodent commonly kept as a pet; often used in research laboratories due to their small size and ease of handling
11. The storm last night _____ everything in the yard, leaving puddles everywhere.
- v.* to completely soak or saturate with liquid, typically with the intent of making something thoroughly wet
12. They just moved _____ to a much more excellent apartment.
- adv.* in or towards the upper or more affluent part of a city or town; characterized by or associated with wealth, luxury, or sophistication
13. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
14. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
- n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories

ANSWERS: 8. hazmat, 9. swirled, 10. hamster's, 11. drenched, 12. uptown, 13. pretensions, 14. storytelling

15. He was in a _____ from the sudden news and couldn't process it properly.
- n.* the feeling of distress and disbelief that you have when something bad happens accidentally; (verb) to confuse or stun someone with a sudden intense light or loud noise
16. The _____ of the town was responsible for maintaining law and order.
- n.* an official in a city or town who has various administrative and legal functions, such as maintaining order, regulating trade, or collecting taxes; a citizen of a borough or a town with a certain level of political and legal privileges
17. There was a _____ about the broken vase, but it was quickly forgotten.
- n.* a state of agitation or excitement; an angry disturbance
18. 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
19. She _____ her ankles when she fell.
- v.* to injure a joint in your body by a sudden wrenching of it
20. The theater company had its final _____ before opening night.
- n.* a practice session, usually for a performance or presentation, during which people prepare and fine-tune their performance, often with the help of feedback from others; the act of rehearsing
21. The ocean had a beautiful shade of _____ on this sunny day.
- n.* a blue-green or greenish-blue variety of beryl, often used as a precious gemstone
22. To achieve a warmer _____ add orange paint.
- n.* the quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength

ANSWERS: 15. daze, 16. burgess, 17. fuss, 18. spoil, 19. sprained, 20. rehearsal, 21. aquamarine, 22. hue,

23. We had an _____ picnic in the park when the weather suddenly cleared up.
adv. done or said on the spur of the moment, without planning or preparation; unscripted, unrehearsed
24. The construction workers wore protective gear to avoid being _____ with wet cement.
v. to scatter or spray liquid, mud, or a similar substance in small droplets or flecks; to stain or cover with such droplets or specks
25. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
26. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
27. The company decided to _____ its website to attract more customers.
v. to give something a new and improved form or appearance; to renovate or modernize
28. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
29. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.
n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
30. He got over the big _____ with his wife.
n. the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections

ANSWERS: 23. impromptu, 24. splattered, 25. obsessed, 26. confused, 27. revamp, 28. rev, 29. pandemic, 30. breakup

31. _____ ties are often strong and enduring.

adj. of or relating to a family or families; having the qualities of a family

32. I need to pick up some groceries, toiletries, and _____ at the store.

n. unspecified or unimportant objects, things, or details; miscellaneous items or things; a small, open shelving unit or stand used for displaying various objects or curios

ANSWERS: 31. Familial, 32. whatnot