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Alex Gendler: How the world's tallest skyscraper was built | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym: high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed

skyscraper

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

grind

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

synonym: mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

contender

n. the contestant you hope to defeat

synonym: rival, competitor, challenger

(1) championship **contender**, (2) presidential **contender**

We were looking at a severe **contender** indeed.

dwarf

n. a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star

synonym: midget, lilliputian, pygmy

(1) a potted **dwarf** tree, (2) a wise old **dwarf**

The **dwarf** planet Pluto is much smaller than earth and orbits the sun.

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.

masonry

n. the art or work of constructing buildings, walls, or other structures from carefully shaped and arranged blocks of stone, brick, or other materials

synonym: brickwork, stonework, bricklaying

(1) **masonry** wall, (2) **masonry** restoration

The cathedral's **masonry** sculptures were intricately carved and carefully placed.

countermeasure

n. an action taken to counter or offset another action

synonym: response, remedy, antidote

(1) **countermeasure** strategy, (2) **countermeasure** plan

The government implemented several **countermeasures** to combat the spread of the virus.

sway

v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something

synonym: swing, oscillate, influence

(1) **sway** back and forth, (2) **sway** to the rhythm

The politician tried to **sway** public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.

rethink

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

synonym : reexplore, review, reconsider

(1) **rethink** a marketing plan, (2) **rethink** the role of the manager

We have to **rethink** our company's product lineup for further growth.

exoskeleton

n. a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab

synonym : chitin, exocuticle, carapace

(1) **exoskeleton** suit, (2) robotic **exoskeleton**

The **exoskeleton** of the crab protects it from predators and environmental changes.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym : robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

brace

n. a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast

synonym : support, clamp, (verb) strengthen

(1) **brace** for impact, (2) **brace** my energies

She wore a **brace** on her leg to support her injured ankle.

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.

protruding

adj. sticking out or projecting from a surface; extending beyond a boundary or limit

synonym : jutting, sticking out, protrusion

(1) **protruding** object, (2) **protruding** tongue

The construction worker wore a hard hat to protect his head from **protruding** beams or wires.

buttress

n. an architectural structure that supports or reinforces a wall or other building feature; (verb) to support or reinforce something

synonym: support, prop, reinforcement

(1) reinforce with a **buttress**, (2) **buttress** your thesis

Massive **buttresses** supported the ancient castle.

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.

monumental

adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

synonym: massive, awesome, enormous

(1) **monumental** task, (2) **monumental** sculpture

Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's **monumental** contributions to physics.

calibrate

v. to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance

synonym: adjust, fine-tune

(1) **calibrate** machinery, (2) **calibrate** measurements

It's important to **calibrate** the equipment regularly to ensure accurate results.

recede

v. to pull back or move away or backward

synonym: move back, retreat, downsize

(1) **recede** from view, (2) **recede** in the darkness
The king's political power **receded** even further.

setback

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

synonym : obstacle, hindrance, difficulty

(1) major **setback**, (2) suffer a **setback**

The team experienced a **setback** when their star player was injured during the game.

clockwise

adv. in a circular direction that follows the course of a clock's hands or in a direction that is considered to be forward or positive

synonym : rightward, deasil

(1) rotate **clockwise**, (2) move **clockwise**

We need to turn the knob **clockwise** to lock the door.

disperse

v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

synonym : dissipate, spread, scatter

(1) **disperse** false information, (2) **disperse** the protesters

Before authorities **dispersed** the protesters, they yelled slogans.

gust

n. a sudden, strong rush of wind or air

synonym : blast, flurry, burst

(1) sudden **gust**, (2) strong **gusts**

The **gust** of wind nearly knocked me off my feet as I walked to work.

staggering

adj. so shocking as to stun or overwhelm

synonym : astounding, astonishing, stunning

(1) **staggering** number, (2) a **staggering** defeat

The amount of money required was **staggering**.

migrant

n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

synonym: immigrant, itinerant, transient

(1) **migrant** worker, (2) the movement of **migrant** birds

The government revoked his license to employ **migrant** labor crews.

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.

paycheck

n. a check issued to an employee as payment for work or services rendered; the amount of money received in this check

synonym: salary, earnings, income

(1) electronic **paycheck**, (2) monthly **paycheck**

I received a bonus on top of my regular **paycheck** this month.

withhold

v. to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested

synonym: retain, hold back, keep back

(1) **withhold** my laughter, (2) **withhold** payment

The government decided to **withhold** the release of sensitive information.

prioritize

v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

synonym: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym: wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. wi____ld my laughter *v.* to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested
2. a wise old dw__f *n.* a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
3. exo_____on suit *n.* a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab
4. easy qu____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
5. mon_____al task *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
6. gr__d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
7. technical ma____l *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
8. s__y back and forth *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
9. re____k the role of the manager *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

ANSWERS: 1. withhold, 2. dwarf, 3. exoskeleton, 4. quitter, 5. monumental, 6. grind, 7. marvel, 8. sway, 9. rethink

10. monthly pa_____ck *n.* a check issued to an employee as payment for work or services rendered; the amount of money received in this check
11. sky_____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
12. presidential co_____er *n.* the contestant you hope to defeat
13. ca_____te machinery *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
14. s__y to the rhythm *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
15. pro_____ng object *adj.* sticking out or projecting from a surface; extending beyond a boundary or limit
16. wi_____ld payment *v.* to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested
17. ma_____y wall *n.* the art or work of constructing buildings, walls, or other structures from carefully shaped and arranged blocks of stone, brick, or other materials
18. electronic pa_____ck *n.* a check issued to an employee as payment for work or services rendered; the amount of money received in this check

ANSWERS: 10. paycheck, 11. skyscraper, 12. contender, 13. calibrate, 14. sway, 15. protruding, 16. withhold, 17. masonry, 18. paycheck

19. major se____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
20. a sta_____ng defeat *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
21. ca_____te measurements *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
22. ma_____y restoration *n.* the art or work of constructing buildings, walls, or other structures from carefully shaped and arranged blocks of stone, brick, or other materials
23. br__e for impact *n.* a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast
24. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
25. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
26. mi_____t worker *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

ANSWERS: 19. setback, 20. staggering, 21. calibrate, 22. masonry, 23. brace, 24. quitter, 25. determinant, 26. migrant

27. gr__d your teeth *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
28. reinforce with a bu_____ss *n.* an architectural structure that supports or reinforces a wall or other building feature; (verb) to support or reinforce something
29. 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
30. championship co_____er *n.* the contestant you hope to defeat
31. suffer a se_____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
32. re___e from view *v.* to pull back or move away or backward
33. a hard and re_____nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
34. a potted dw__f tree *n.* a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
35. steel-framed sky_____er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
36. di_____se false information *v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
37. cou_____ure plan *n.* an action taken to counter or offset another action
38. strong g__ts *n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air

ANSWERS: 27. grind, 28. buttress, 29. determinant, 30. contender, 31. setback, 32. recede, 33. resilient, 34. dwarf, 35. skyscraper, 36. disperse, 37. countermeasure, 38. gust

39. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
40. di_____se the protesters *v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
41. sudden g__t *n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
42. robotic exo_____on *n.* a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab
43. bu_____ss your thesis *n.* an architectural structure that supports or reinforces a wall or other building feature; (verb) to support or reinforce something
44. rotate cl_____se *adv.* in a circular direction that follows the course of a clock's hands or in a direction that is considered to be forward or positive
45. the movement of mi_____t birds *n.* a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another
46. re___e in the darkness *v.* to pull back or move away or backward
47. re_____k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
48. sta_____ng number *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
49. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 39. industrious, 40. disperse, 41. gust, 42. exoskeleton, 43. buttress, 44. clockwise, 45. migrant, 46. recede, 47. rethink, 48. staggering, 49. industrious

50. pro_____ng tongue *adj.* sticking out or projecting from a surface; extending beyond a boundary or limit
51. move cl_____se *adv.* in a circular direction that follows the course of a clock's hands or in a direction that is considered to be forward or positive
52. pri_____ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
53. mon_____al sculpture *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
54. re_____nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
55. br__e my energies *n.* a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast
56. a ma___l of beauty *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
57. pri_____ze people over cars *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
58. 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
59. cou_____ure strategy *n.* an action taken to counter or offset another action
60. 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: 50. protruding, 51. clockwise, 52. prioritize, 53. monumental, 54. resilient, 55. brace, 56. marvel, 57. prioritize, 58. surpass, 59. countermeasure, 60. surpass

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We have to _____ our company's product lineup for further growth.
v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
2. The _____ planet Pluto is much smaller than earth and orbits the sun.
n. a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
3. She had to _____ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
4. Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's _____ contributions to physics.
adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
5. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
6. The cathedral's _____ sculptures were intricately carved and carefully placed.
n. the art or work of constructing buildings, walls, or other structures from carefully shaped and arranged blocks of stone, brick, or other materials
7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. rethink, 2. dwarf, 3. grind, 4. monumental, 5. resilient, 6. masonry, 7. determinant

8. Before authorities _____ the protesters, they yelled slogans.
- v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
9. It's important to _____ the equipment regularly to ensure accurate results.
- v. to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
10. The organization _____ the needs of the community in its decision-making.
- v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
11. The politician tried to _____ public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.
- v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
12. The government implemented several _____ to combat the spread of the virus.
- n. an action taken to counter or offset another action
13. The government decided to _____ the release of sensitive information.
- v. to not give or grant something due, expected, or requested
14. The construction worker wore a hard hat to protect his head from _____ beams or wires.
- adj. sticking out or projecting from a surface; extending beyond a boundary or limit
15. The government revoked his license to employ _____ labor crews.
- n. a traveler who moves from one region or country to another, especially to find work or better living conditions; a bird or an animal that moves from one place to another

ANSWERS: 8. dispersed, 9. calibrate, 10. prioritized, 11. sway, 12. countermeasures, 13. withhold, 14. protruding, 15. migrant

16. We were looking at a severe _____ indeed.
n. the contestant you hope to defeat
17. 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
18. Massive _____ supported the ancient castle.
n. an architectural structure that supports or reinforces a wall or other building feature; (verb) to support or reinforce something
19. 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
20. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.
n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
21. She wore a _____ on her leg to support her injured ankle.
n. a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast
22. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
23. The king's political power _____ even further.
v. to pull back or move away or backward
24. The _____ of wind nearly knocked me off my feet as I walked to work.
n. a sudden, strong rush of wind or air

ANSWERS: 16. contender, 17. surpassed, 18. buttresses, 19. quitter, 20. marvel, 21. brace, 22. industrious, 23. receded, 24. gust

25. We need to turn the knob _____ to lock the door.

adv. in a circular direction that follows the course of a clock's hands or in a direction that is considered to be forward or positive

26. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

27. The team experienced a _____ when their star player was injured during the game.

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

28. The _____ of the crab protects it from predators and environmental changes.

n. a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab

29. I received a bonus on top of my regular _____ this month.

n. a check issued to an employee as payment for work or services rendered; the amount of money received in this check

30. The amount of money required was _____.

adj. so shocking as to stun or overwhelm

ANSWERS: 25. clockwise, 26. skyscraper, 27. setback, 28. exoskeleton, 29. paycheck, 30. staggering