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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: The woman who stared at the sun | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

precede

v. to happen or go before something or someone in time or space

synonym: lead, forego, antecede

(1) men often **precede** women when walking, (2) **precede** any discussion

Agricultural development generally **precedes** economic growth.

blackout

n. a loss of electric power for a general region; a suspension of radio or TV broadcasting; a momentary loss of consciousness

synonym: outage, failure, knockout

(1) media **blackout**, (2) memory **blackout**

The nationwide **blackout** caused widespread power outages and disrupted daily life.

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.

astronomical

adj. relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude

synonym : huge, vast, enormous

(1) **astronomical** observation, (2) **astronomical** numbers

The cost of the new equipment was **astronomical** and beyond the company's budget.

recreate

v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

synonym : renovate, vivify, revive

(1) **recreate** a single country, (2) **recreate** the feeling of the 1920s

She **recreated** the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.

fuse

n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

synonym : (verb) melt, (verb) blend

(1) **fuse** blows, (2) **fuse** with one another

He has a short **fuse**.

helium

n. a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

synonym : He, light gas, noble gas

(1) **helium** atom, (2) **helium** gas

The **helium-filled** balloons floated into the sky.

churning

n. the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy

synonym : agitation, turmoil, commotion

(1) butter **churning**, (2) **churning** emotions

The **churning** of the waves on the beach made it difficult to swim.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect
You might need to **amplify** this point.

scatter

v. to cause to separate and go in different directions

synonym: disperse, spread, bestrew

(1) **scatter** seeds, (2) **scatter** around the internet
The hunter's approach **scattered** the geese.

sunspot

n. a temporary dark patch that appears on the Sun's surface as a result of reduced surface temperature

(1) **sunspot** activity, (2) **sunspot** period

The number of **sunspots** on the Sun's surface varies over time, following an 11-year cycle.

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.

commend

v. to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else

synonym: praise, applaud, compliment

(1) **commend** a job well done, (2) **commend** him for his

bravery

The coach **commended** the team for fighting until the end and never giving up.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

flare

v. to burn brightly with a sudden, intense burst of flame or light; (noun) a sudden and brief burst of bright flame or light; a sudden and intense burst of radiation from the Sun's surface

synonym: blaze, ignite, light up

(1) **flare** up into a major crisis, (2) the **flare** of a match

The Sun **flared** and caused a sudden brightening in the sky.

emanate

v. to emit, send out something; to express a quality or feeling

synonym: radiate, exude, give off

(1) **emanate** light, (2) **emanate** happiness

The fragrance of flowers **emanated** from the garden.

geomagnetic

n. of or relating to the Earth's magnetic field

(1) **geomagnetic** storm, (2) **geomagnetic** activity

Scientists study the **geomagnetic** field to understand how it affects Earth's environment.

lament

v. to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning

synonym: mourn, grieve, bemoan

(1) **lament** my misfortunes, (2) **lament** the situation

She **lamented** the loss of her beloved cat.

reconstruct

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

synonym: rebuild, revamp, reorganize

(1) **reconstruct** an image, (2) **reconstruct** the original text

They've decided to **reconstruct** a ruined castle.

astound

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

synonym: amaze, astonish, surprise

(1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer

The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sw__l up dirt and dust *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
2. ast_____cal observation *adj.* relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
3. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
4. co_____d a job well done *v.* to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else
5. he___m gas *n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
6. la___t my misfortunes *v.* to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning
7. sc_____r seeds *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
8. pr_____e any discussion *v.* to happen or go before something or someone in time or space
9. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. swirl, 2. astronomical, 3. dedicate, 4. commend, 5. helium, 6. lament, 7. scatter, 8. precede, 9. opportune

10. as____d everyone *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
11. as____d the viewer *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
12. sc____r around the internet *v.* to cause to separate and go in different directions
13. am____y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
14. la____t the situation *v.* to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning
15. di____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
16. butter ch____ng *n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
17. an op____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
18. em____e happiness *v.* to emit, send out something; to express a quality or feeling
19. f__e blows *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; *(verb)* to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

ANSWERS: 10. astound, 11. astound, 12. scatter, 13. amplify, 14. lament, 15. disrupt, 16. churning, 17. opportune, 18. emanate, 19. fuse

20. geo_____ic activity *n.* of or relating to the Earth's magnetic field
21. re_____te the feeling of the 1920s *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
22. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
23. geo_____ic storm *n.* of or relating to the Earth's magnetic field
24. em_____e light *v.* to emit, send out something; to express a quality or feeling
25. media bl_____ut *n.* a loss of electric power for a general region; a suspension of radio or TV broadcasting; a momentary loss of consciousness
26. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
27. fl__e up into a major crisis *v.* to burn brightly with a sudden, intense burst of flame or light; (noun) a sudden and brief burst of bright flame or light; a sudden and intense burst of radiation from the Sun's surface
28. re_____te a single country *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
29. sw__l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
30. am_____y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

ANSWERS: 20. geomagnetic, 21. recreate, 22. reconstruct, 23. geomagnetic, 24. emanate, 25. blackout, 26. dedicate, 27. flare, 28. recreate, 29. swirl, 30. amplify

31. memory bl____ut *n.* a loss of electric power for a general region; a suspension of radio or TV broadcasting; a momentary loss of consciousness
32. su____t activity *n.* a temporary dark patch that appears on the Sun's surface as a result of reduced surface temperature
33. di____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
34. ch____ng emotions *n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy
35. he___m atom *n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
36. men often pr____e women when walking *v.* to happen or go before something or someone in time or space
37. rec____ct an image *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
38. f__e with one another *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

ANSWERS: 31. blackout, 32. sunspot, 33. disrupt, 34. churning, 35. helium, 36. precede, 37. reconstruct, 38. fuse

39. co_____d him for his bravery *v.* to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else
40. ast_____cal numbers *adj.* relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
41. su_____t period *n.* a temporary dark patch that appears on the Sun's surface as a result of reduced surface temperature
42. the fl__e of a match *v.* to burn brightly with a sudden, intense burst of flame or light; (noun) a sudden and brief burst of bright flame or light; a sudden and intense burst of radiation from the Sun's surface

ANSWERS: 39. commend, 40. astronomical, 41. sunspot, 42. flare

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She _____ the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.
v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

2. The hunter's approach _____ the geese.
v. to cause to separate and go in different directions

3. The chef expertly _____ the sauce onto the plate.
v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

4. The fragrance of flowers _____ from the garden.
v. to emit, send out something; to express a quality or feeling

5. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness

6. The final result was nothing short of _____.
v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

7. He has a short _____.
n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

8. The cost of the new equipment was _____ and beyond the company's budget.
adj. relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude

ANSWERS: 1. recreated, 2. scattered, 3. swirled, 4. emanated, 5. amplify, 6. astounding, 7. fuse, 8. astronomical

9. The coach _____ the team for fighting until the end and never giving up.
- v.* to praise or express approval of someone or something; to recommend someone for a job or position; to entrust or hand over something to someone else
10. The Sun _____ and caused a sudden brightening in the sky.
- v.* to burn brightly with a sudden, intense burst of flame or light; (noun) a sudden and brief burst of bright flame or light; a sudden and intense burst of radiation from the Sun's surface
11. Scientists study the _____ field to understand how it affects Earth's environment.
- n.* of or relating to the Earth's magnetic field
12. She _____ the loss of her beloved cat.
- v.* to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning
13. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. The number of _____ on the Sun's surface varies over time, following an 11-year cycle.
- n.* a temporary dark patch that appears on the Sun's surface as a result of reduced surface temperature
15. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.
- v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

ANSWERS: 9. commended, 10. flared, 11. geomagnetic, 12. lamented, 13. opportune, 14. sunspots, 15. reconstruct

16. The nationwide _____ caused widespread power outages and disrupted daily life.
- n.* a loss of electric power for a general region; a suspension of radio or TV broadcasting; a momentary loss of consciousness
17. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
- v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
18. The _____ balloons floated into the sky.
- n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
19. He _____ his life to helping others.
- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
20. Agricultural development generally _____ economic growth.
- v.* to happen or go before something or someone in time or space
21. The _____ of the waves on the beach made it difficult to swim.
- n.* the process of mixing or stirring something vigorously, often to create a frothy or creamy texture; a state of upheaval or turbulence, often referring to the stock market or economy

ANSWERS: 16. blackout, 17. disrupt, 18. helium-filled, 19. dedicated, 20. precedes, 21. churning