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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Olivia Arthur: Meditations on the intersection of humanity and technology | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

blur

n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

synonym: smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

filmmaker

n. a person who makes films, typically as a profession

synonym: director, producer, cinematographer

(1) non-fiction **filmmaker**, (2) a successful **filmmaker**

The renowned **filmmaker** won several awards for his latest film.

cyborg

n. a being that is part human and part machine or technology, often created through the integration of electronic and mechanical devices

synonym : android, bionic, half-human

(1) **cyborg** technology, (2) **cyborg** cop

The idea of a superhuman **cyborg** army is a popular trope in action movies.

purposeful

adj. having a specific aim or purpose; determined

synonym : determined, resolved, resolute

(1) **purposeful** series of actions, (2) at a **purposeful** pace

She had a **purposeful** look and was determined to complete the task.

cumbersome

adj. difficult to handle or use, especially because of being large, heavy, or not effective; not elegant or graceful in expression

synonym : clumsy, awkward, bulky

(1) **cumbersome** process, (2) a **cumbersome** suitcase

His **cumbersome** writing style made the reader confused.

magnify

v. to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder

synonym : enlarge, elaborate, intensify

(1) **magnify** the danger, (2) **magnify** the image for display

Terrorists often attempt to **magnify** the economic impact of their acts of destruction.

delve

v. to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner

synonym : dig, excavate, uncover

(1) **delve** deeper, (2) **delve** into documents

Researchers must **delve** into the intricacies of the human brain to understand mental illness.

mechatronics

n. technology or a field of science that combines electronics and mechanical engineering

(1) **mechatronics** design, (2) control **mechatronics**

apparatuses

Researchers at that university's **mechatronics** laboratory have launched a humanoid robot startup.

amputee

n. a person who has had an arm or a leg cut off

(1) quadruple **amputee**, (2) **amputee** runner

Amputees often experience an illusion of a phantom limb.

gait

n. a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion

synonym: pace, stride, step

(1) awkward **gait**, (2) brisk **gait**

The older woman's **gait** was slow and unsteady.

matte

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

synonym: dull, flat, lusterless

(1) **matte** coating, (2) photo with a **matte** finish

The body of his car has a **matte** finish.

prosthetic

adj. of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant

(1) have **prosthetic** arms, (2) **prosthetic** limbs

New **prosthetic** joints are less prone to metal poisoning.

groundbreaking

adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

synonym: innovative, revolutionary

(1) **groundbreaking** concept, (2) **groundbreaking** settlement

He has produced **groundbreaking** research on the subject.

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.

nostalgia

n. a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past

synonym : longing, wistfulness, yearning

(1) a warm **nostalgia**, (2) **nostalgia** trip

The ice cream truck's sound brought back **nostalgia** for my childhood.

endear

v. to make someone loved or appreciated or to cause someone to feel fondness or affection for someone or something

synonym : fondle, cherish, love

(1) **endear** a character to young readers, (2) **endear** to everyone

The baby's smile **endeared** her to everyone who saw her.

counterbalance

v. to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force

synonym : offset, counteract, neutralize

(1) **counterbalance** the seriousness of the topic,

(2) **counterbalance** the effects

The heavyweights on one end of the scale **counterbalanced** the lighter weights on the other end.

daunting

adj. looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something

synonym : intimidating, stunning, disheartening

(1) face the **daunting** reality, (2) seem like a **daunting** task

My homework was **daunting** and complex, but it was also intriguing.

uneven

adj. not level or flat; not balanced or symmetrical

synonym : irregular, rough, bumpy

(1) **uneven** numbers, (2) **uneven** coating

The road was **uneven**, causing the car to bounce up and down as it drove.

biped

n. an animal with two feet

synonym: hominoid

(1) **biped** robot, (2) a featherless **biped**

Biped walking encouraged the further evolution of humankind.

humanoid

n. a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human

synonym: android, anthropomorphic

(1) **humanoid** hand, (2) **humanoid** design

The **humanoid** robot was able to mimic human movements and expressions.

stride

v. to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress

synonym: step, walk, march

(1) **stride** across a room, (2) **stride** down a slope

She **strides** confidently across the stage to accept her award.

clunky

adj. heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

synonym: clumsy, bulky, burdensome

(1) **clunky** phrasing, (2) **clunky** robot

Refined character portrayal makes up for **clunky** gameplay.

forlorn

adj. appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute

synonym: despondent, hopeless, abandoned

(1) **forlorn** hope, (2) **forlorn** state

She wandered through the empty city streets with a **forlorn** expression.

quadruple

v. to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
(1) **quadruple** the amount, (2) **quadruple** the price of gold
His stock earnings **quadrupled**.

strep

n. (informal shorthand for "streptococcus") a type of bacteria that can cause a range of infections, including strep throat and scarlet fever
synonym: streptococci, streptococcus, streptococcal infection
(1) **strep** skin infection, (2) **strep** bacteria
The doctor diagnosed the patient with **strep** throat and prescribed antibiotics.

handcycle

n. a bicycle-like vehicle that is powered by hand-cranking instead of pedaling, often used by people with lower-body disabilities
synonym: handbike, arm-powered bike
(1) **handcycle** race, (2) **handcycle** marathon
The coach guided proper **handcycle** technique to improve riders' speed and stamina.

canoe

n. a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle
(1) **canoe** race, (2) make a **canoe** trip
After the accident, the police found an empty **canoe**.

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.

ordeal

n. a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
synonym: trial, hardship, torment
(1) **ordeal** by fire, (2) emotional **ordeal**

The car accident was a traumatic **ordeal** for everyone involved.

physicality

n. the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force

synonym: corporeality, animalism, embodiment

(1) **physicality** of dance, (2) express **physicality**

The athlete's success was largely due to her **physicality** and dedication to fitness.

uncanny

adj. strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling

synonym: arcane, astonishing, eerie

(1) in an **uncanny** manner, (2) **uncanny** resemblance

She has an **uncanny** sense of who is telling a lie.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym: echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

mend

v. to repair or fix something that is broken or damaged

synonym: fix, repair, rectify

(1) **mend** broken relationship, (2) **mend** my ways

He **mended** the torn shirt with a needle and thread.

bionic

adj. relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original

(1) **bionic** exoskeleton, (2) **bionic** technology

The soldier was fitted with a **bionic** arm after losing him in combat.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. st___e across a room | <i>v.</i> to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress |
| 2. make a ca__e trip | <i>n.</i> a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle |
| 3. quadruple am_____e | <i>n.</i> a person who has had an arm or a leg cut off |
| 4. or___l by fire | <i>n.</i> a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience |
| 5. in an un_____y manner | <i>adj.</i> strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling |
| 6. have pro_____ic arms | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant |
| 7. ca__e race | <i>n.</i> a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle |
| 8. a cum_____me suitcase | <i>adj.</i> difficult to handle or use, especially because of being large, heavy, or not effective; not elegant or graceful in expression |
| 9. hu_____id design | <i>n.</i> a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human |
| 10. m__d my ways | <i>v.</i> to repair or fix something that is broken or damaged |

ANSWERS: 1. stride, 2. canoe, 3. amputee, 4. ordeal, 5. uncanny, 6. prosthetic, 7. canoe, 8. cumbersome, 9. humanoid, 10. mend

11. b__r image *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
12. qu_____le the price of gold *v.* to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
13. seem like a da_____ng task *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
14. st__p bacteria *n.* (informal shorthand for "streptococcus") a type of bacteria that can cause a range of infections, including strep throat and scarlet fever
15. cou_____nce the seriousness of the topic *v.* to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force
16. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
17. ha_____le race *n.* a bicycle-like vehicle that is powered by hand-cranking instead of pedaling, often used by people with lower-body disabilities
18. ha_____le marathon *n.* a bicycle-like vehicle that is powered by hand-cranking instead of pedaling, often used by people with lower-body disabilities

ANSWERS: 11. blur, 12. quadruple, 13. daunting, 14. strep, 15. counterbalance, 16. opportune, 17. handcycle, 18. handcycle

19. fo____n hope *adj.* appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute
20. st___e down a slope *v.* to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress
21. non-fiction fi_____er *n.* a person who makes films, typically as a profession
22. sup_____an beings *adj.* possessing abilities or characteristics that exceed those of normal humans; beyond human capacity or capability
23. gro_____ing settlement *adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
24. a featherless bi__d *n.* an animal with two feet
25. cou_____nce the effects *v.* to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force
26. am_____e runner *n.* a person who has had an arm or a leg cut off
27. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
28. photo with a ma__e finish *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
29. cy___g technology *n.* a being that is part human and part machine or technology, often created through the integration of electronic and mechanical devices

ANSWERS: 19. forlorn, 20. stride, 21. filmmaker, 22. superhuman, 23. groundbreaking, 24. biped, 25. counterbalance, 26. amputee, 27. fascinate, 28. matte, 29. cyborg

30. un____y resemblance *adj.* strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling
31. qu_____le the amount *v.* to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
32. pur_____ul series of actions *adj.* having a specific aim or purpose; determined
33. bi___c exoskeleton *adj.* relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original
34. cl___y robot *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
35. pro_____ic limbs *adj.* of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant
36. a warm no_____ia *n.* a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past
37. face the da_____ng reality *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
38. bi___c technology *adj.* relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original
39. bi__d robot *n.* an animal with two feet

ANSWERS: 30. uncanny, 31. quadruple, 32. purposeful, 33. bionic, 34. clunky, 35. prosthetic, 36. nostalgia, 37. daunting, 38. bionic, 39. biped

40. de__e into documents *v.* to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
41. en___r a character to young readers *v.* to make someone loved or appreciated or to cause someone to feel fondness or affection for someone or something
42. deeply re_____te with the consumers *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
43. emotional or___l *n.* a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
44. cl___y phrasing *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
45. ma__e coating *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
46. express phy_____ty *n.* the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force
47. en___r to everyone *v.* to make someone loved or appreciated or to cause someone to feel fondness or affection for someone or something
48. ma_____y the image for display *v.* to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder
49. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
50. cum_____me process *adj.* difficult to handle or use, especially because of being large, heavy, or not effective; not elegant or graceful in expression

ANSWERS: 40. delve, 41. endear, 42. resonate, 43. ordeal, 44. clunky, 45. matte, 46. physicality, 47. endear, 48. magnify, 49. fascinate, 50. cumbersome

51. a successful fi_____er *n.* a person who makes films, typically as a profession
52. at a pur_____ul pace *adj.* having a specific aim or purpose; determined
53. cy___g cop *n.* a being that is part human and part machine or technology, often created through the integration of electronic and mechanical devices
54. ma_____y the danger *v.* to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder
55. phy_____ty of dance *n.* the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force
56. de__e deeper *v.* to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
57. m__d broken relationship *v.* to repair or fix something that is broken or damaged
58. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
59. mec_____ics design *n.* technology or a field of science that combines electronics and mechanical engineering
60. gro_____ing concept *adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

ANSWERS: 51. filmmaker, 52. purposeful, 53. cyborg, 54. magnify, 55. physicality, 56. delve, 57. mend, 58. opportune, 59. mechatronics, 60. groundbreaking

61. un___n coating *adj.* not level or flat; not balanced or symmetrical
62. awkward g__t *n.* a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion
63. un___n numbers *adj.* not level or flat; not balanced or symmetrical
64. sup_____an effort *adj.* possessing abilities or characteristics that exceed those of normal humans; beyond human capacity or capability
65. motion b__r *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
66. fo_____n state *adj.* appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute
67. hu_____id hand *n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
68. re_____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
69. brisk g__t *n.* a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion
70. no_____ia trip *n.* a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past
71. st__p skin infection *n.* (informal shorthand for "streptococcus") a type of bacteria that can cause a range of infections, including strep throat and scarlet fever

ANSWERS: 61. uneven, 62. gait, 63. uneven, 64. superhuman, 65. blur, 66. forlorn, 67. humanoid, 68. resonate, 69. gait, 70. nostalgia, 71. strep

72. control mec_____ics apparatuses *n.* technology or a field of science that combines electronics and mechanical engineering

ANSWERS: 72. mechatronics

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Researchers at that university's _____ laboratory have launched a humanoid robot startup.
n. technology or a field of science that combines electronics and mechanical engineering
2. The road was _____ causing the car to bounce up and down as it drove.
adj. not level or flat; not balanced or symmetrical
3. The sound _____ well in this theater.
v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
4. She wandered through the empty city streets with a _____ expression.
adj. appearing sad or lonely, abandoned, or hopeless; marked by feelings of despair or melancholy; isolated or destitute
5. She _____ confidently across the stage to accept her award.
v. to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress
6. The renowned _____ won several awards for his latest film.
n. a person who makes films, typically as a profession
7. He _____ the torn shirt with a needle and thread.
v. to repair or fix something that is broken or damaged
8. The car accident was a traumatic _____ for everyone involved.
n. a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience

ANSWERS: 1. mechatronics, 2. uneven, 3. resonates, 4. forlorn, 5. strides, 6. filmmaker, 7. mended, 8. ordeal

9. Terrorists often attempt to _____ the economic impact of their acts of destruction.
- v.* to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder
10. The _____ robot was able to mimic human movements and expressions.
- n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
11. _____ often experience an illusion of a phantom limb.
- n.* a person who has had an arm or a leg cut off
12. 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
13. The baby's smile _____ her to everyone who saw her.
- v.* to make someone loved or appreciated or to cause someone to feel fondness or affection for someone or something
14. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
15. The coach guided proper _____ technique to improve riders' speed and stamina.
- n.* a bicycle-like vehicle that is powered by hand-cranking instead of pedaling, often used by people with lower-body disabilities
16. The soldier was fitted with a _____ arm after losing him in combat.
- adj.* relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original

ANSWERS: 9. magnify, 10. humanoid, 11. Amputees, 12. superhuman, 13. endeared, 14. opportune, 15. handcycle, 16. bionic

17. _____ walking encouraged the further evolution of humankind.

n. an animal with two feet

18. My homework was _____ and complex, but it was also intriguing.

adj. looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something

19. He has produced _____ research on the subject.

adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

20. She had a _____ look and was determined to complete the task.

adj. having a specific aim or purpose; determined

21. The body of his car has a _____ finish.

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

22. The doctor diagnosed the patient with _____ throat and prescribed antibiotics.

n. (informal shorthand for "streptococcus") a type of bacteria that can cause a range of infections, including strep throat and scarlet fever

23. The older woman's _____ was slow and unsteady.

n. a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion

24. After the accident, the police found an empty _____.

n. a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle

25. The magic tricks _____ the children.

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

ANSWERS: 17. Biped, 18. daunting, 19. groundbreaking, 20. purposeful, 21. matte, 22. strep, 23. gait, 24. canoe, 25. fascinated

26. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a _____ of colors and shapes.
n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
27. Researchers must _____ into the intricacies of the human brain to understand mental illness.
v. to dig or excavate deeply; to investigate or research intensively; to rummage or explore in a thorough or careful manner
28. The heavyweights on one end of the scale _____ the lighter weights on the other end.
v. to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force
29. Refined character portrayal makes up for _____ gameplay.
adj. heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
30. New _____ joints are less prone to metal poisoning.
adj. of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant
31. The ice cream truck's sound brought back _____ for my childhood.
n. a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past
32. His stock earnings _____.
v. to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many

ANSWERS: 26. blur, 27. delve, 28. counterbalanced, 29. clunky, 30. prosthetic, 31. nostalgia, 32. quadrupled

33. The athlete's success was largely due to her _____ and dedication to fitness.
- n.* the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force
34. She has an _____ sense of who is telling a lie.
- adj.* strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling
35. His _____ writing style made the reader confused.
- adj.* difficult to handle or use, especially because of being large, heavy, or not effective; not elegant or graceful in expression
36. The idea of a superhuman _____ army is a popular trope in action movies.
- n.* a being that is part human and part machine or technology, often created through the integration of electronic and mechanical devices

ANSWERS: 33. physicality, 34. uncanny, 35. cumbersome, 36. cyborg