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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Emily Levesque: A stellar history of modern astronomy | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

observatory

n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

(1) space **observatory**, (2) a meteorological **observatory**

That astronomical **observatory** stands at the top of the mountain.

astronomer

n. a physicist who studies astronomy

synonym: stargazer, cosmologist, astrophysicist

(1) amateur **astronomer**, (2) solar **astronomer**

This question has fascinated solar **astronomers** for decades.

memorize

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

synonym: learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the

lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

pore

n. a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively

synonym : stoma, foramen

(1) woody **pore** fungi, (2) **pore** over reference books

I was sweating at every **pore**.

moonshot

n. an ambitious, risky, and innovative project or goal, especially one that is intended to bring about radical change or breakthroughs in a particular field or industry, often inspired by the lunar landing mission of Apollo 11 in 1969

synonym : initiative, endeavor, pursuit

(1) AI **moonshot**, (2) **moonshot** idea

The company's **moonshot** project aims to develop a revolutionary new technology within a tight deadline.

emulsify

v. to mix two or more liquids that normally don't dissolve in each other, such as oil and water, by adding an agent that helps to suspend the tiny droplets of one liquid within the other

synonym : blend, fuse, mix

(1) **emulsify** fats and proteins, (2) **emulsify** egg yolks

You must first **emulsify** the oil and vinegar to make the salad dressing.

razor

n. a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair

synonym : blade, shaver, cutter

(1) **razor** blade, (2) an electric **razor**

He shaved with a **razor** to get a close shave.

soak

v. to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money

synonym : saturate, steep, douse

(1) **soak** in a hot spring, (2) **soak** away stress

I **soaked** the shirt in the sink before washing it.

ammonia

n. a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen that forms a gas with a strong smell, used as cleaning substances, fertilizers, and explosives

(1) **ammonia** water, (2) inhale **ammonia** fumes

The advent of **ammonia** fertilizers markedly increased agricultural productivity.

meticulously

adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully

synonym : carefully, attentively, scrupulously

(1) **meticulously** crafted product, (2) **meticulously** executed

She **meticulously** planned every detail of her wedding.

shiver

v. to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly

synonym : quiver, tremble, shake

(1) **shiver** with delight, (2) **shiver** in fear

I **shiver** in the cold winter air as I wait for the train.

crouch

v. to put your body close to the ground, especially as a way of avoiding being seen

synonym : bend down, squat, stoop

(1) **crouch** into a ball, (2) **crouch** around a fire

He **crouched** down behind the bushes to avoid being seen.

blazing

adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive

synonym : burning, fiery, scorching

(1) **blazing** fury, (2) **blazing** fire

The **blazing** sun beat down on the desert.

howl

v. to make a prolonged, loud, mournful cry or noise, typically as a signal of distress, pain, or an intense

emotion; to express one's strong feelings or emotions in a loud and unrestrained manner; (noun) a long, loud, mournful sound made by a person or an animal, often in response to pain, fear, or sadness

synonym : wail, scream, shriek

(1) **howl** at the moon, (2) **howl** of anger

The wolves began to **howl** in the distance as the sunset.

yell

v. to shout in a sudden and loud way

synonym : shout, scream, cry

(1) **yell** for help, (2) **yell** as loud as we can

When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and **yelled** at me.

dunk

v. to immerse or submerge briefly in a liquid, often repeatedly to coat or moisten; to slam or force something down into a container of liquid

synonym : dip, plunge, soak

(1) **dunk** in water, (2) **dunk** a basketball

I like to **dunk** my cookies in milk before eating them.

cosmos

n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

synonym : universe, macrocosm

(1) exploration of **cosmos**, (2) origin of the **cosmos**

Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the **cosmos**.

perch

v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

synonym : sit, roost, squat

(1) **perch** on a ledge, (2) **perch** of a bird of prey

The bird **perched** on the branch, watching the world below.

nebula

n. a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source

synonym : cloud, mist, stardust

(1) a spiral **nebula**, (2) emission **nebula**

The galactic **nebula** was a beautiful sight through the telescope, with its vibrant colors and swirling clouds.

exclamation

n. a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion

synonym : outcry, shout, yell

(1) an **exclamation** of surprise, (2) **exclamation** mark

Her sudden **exclamation** drew everyone's attention.

astonishing

adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

synonym : surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains

The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

faraway

adj. located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible

synonym : distant, remote, far-off

(1) **faraway** land, (2) **faraway** dream

The view from the **faraway** hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.

supernova

n. a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant

synonym : explosion, detonation, blast

(1) extragalactic **supernova**, (2) **supernova** remnant

The **supernova** explosion created a bright new star in the night sky.

spew

v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

synonym : vomit, spout, discharge

(1) **spew** carbon dioxide, (2) **spew** insults

The volcano started to **spew** lava and ash, causing panic among residents.

hashtag

n. a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic

(1) marked with a **hashtag**, (2) trending **hashtag**

Our brand's campaign uses a unique **hashtag** to track engagement and reach.

pinprick

n. a very small hole in something, especially made by a pin or needle; a minor annoyance

(1) a tiny **pinprick**, (2) feel a **pinprick** sensation

He felt a **pinprick** of disgust.

preset

v. to set or adjust something beforehand, often about electronic or technological devices or systems; (noun) a preconfigured setting or adjustment that is programmed into a device, system, or software

synonym: preconfigure, program, prearrange

(1) **preset** not to make a connection, (2) **preset** settings

I always **preset** my coffee maker the night before to have a fresh cup when I wake up.

stargaze

v. to gaze at the stars, especially at night; to daydream or fantasize:

synonym: observe, daydream, woolgather

(1) **stargaze** on the roof, (2) **stargaze** in wonder

We like to **stargaze** on clear summer nights and try to identify as many constellations as we can.

atop

adv. on, to, or at the top

synonym: upon, onto

(1) stand **atop**, (2) sit **atop** a stack of books

The eagle perched **atop** the tallest tree in the forest.

Session 2: Spelling

1. extragalactic su_____va
n. a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant
2. su_____va remnant
n. a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant
3. exploration of co___s
n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
4. space obs_____ry
n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
5. inhale am_____a fumes
n. a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen that forms a gas with a strong smell, used as cleaning substances, fertilizers, and explosives
6. met_____sly executed
adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
7. em_____fy fats and proteins
v. to mix two or more liquids that normally don't dissolve in each other, such as oil and water, by adding an agent that helps to suspend the tiny droplets of one liquid within the other
8. exc_____on mark
n. a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion

ANSWERS: 1. supernova, 2. supernova, 3. cosmos, 4. observatory, 5. ammonia, 6. meticulously, 7. emulsify, 8. exclamation

9. em____fy egg yolks *v.* to mix two or more liquids that normally don't dissolve in each other, such as oil and water, by adding an agent that helps to suspend the tiny droplets of one liquid within the other
10. y__l as loud as we can *v.* to shout in a sudden and loud way
11. pe__h on a ledge *v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
12. d__k a basketball *v.* to immerse or submerge briefly in a liquid, often repeatedly to coat or moisten; to slam or force something down into a container of liquid
13. ast_____ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
14. s__w carbon dioxide *v.* to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts
15. an electric ra__r *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
16. cr__h around a fire *v.* to put your body close to the ground, especially as a way of avoiding being seen
17. am_____a water *n.* a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen that forms a gas with a strong smell, used as cleaning substances, fertilizers, and explosives

ANSWERS: 9. emulsify, 10. yell, 11. perch, 12. dunk, 13. astonishing, 14. spew, 15. razor, 16. crouch, 17. ammonia

18. sit a__p a stack of books *adv.* on, to, or at the top
19. fa____y dream *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
20. s__k away stress *v.* to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money
21. an exc_____on of surprise *n.* a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion
22. solar ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
23. a tiny pi_____ck *n.* a very small hole in something, especially made by a pin or needle; a minor annoyance
24. Al mo_____ot *n.* an ambitious, risky, and innovative project or goal, especially one that is intended to bring about radical change or breakthroughs in a particular field or industry, often inspired by the lunar landing mission of Apollo 11 in 1969
25. ra__r blade *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
26. try hard to me_____ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
27. pr___t settings *v.* to set or adjust something beforehand, often about electronic or technological devices or systems; (noun) a preconfigured setting or adjustment that is programmed into a device, system, or software

ANSWERS: 18. atop, 19. faraway, 20. soak, 21. exclamation, 22. astronomer, 23. pinprick, 24. moonshot, 25. razor, 26. memorize, 27. preset

37. met_____sly crafted product *adv.* with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
38. marked with a ha_____g *n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
39. sh____r in fear *v.* to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly
40. mo_____ot idea *n.* an ambitious, risky, and innovative project or goal, especially one that is intended to bring about radical change or breakthroughs in a particular field or industry, often inspired by the lunar landing mission of Apollo 11 in 1969
41. feel a pi_____ck sensation *n.* a very small hole in something, especially made by a pin or needle; a minor annoyance
42. woody p__e fungi *n.* a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively
43. make ast_____ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
44. ast_____cal observation *adj.* relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude
45. ast_____cal numbers *adj.* relating to astronomy or the study of celestial bodies and phenomena; very large or immense in scale or magnitude

ANSWERS: 37. meticulously, 38. hashtag, 39. shiver, 40. moonshot, 41. pinprick, 42. pore, 43. astonishing, 44. astronomical, 45. astronomical

46. pe__h of a bird of prey
v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
47. st____ze in wonder
v. to gaze at the stars, especially at night; to daydream or fantasize:
48. stand a__p
adv. on, to, or at the top
49. st____ze on the roof
v. to gaze at the stars, especially at night; to daydream or fantasize:
50. d__k in water
v. to immerse or submerge briefly in a liquid, often repeatedly to coat or moisten; to slam or force something down into a container of liquid
51. s__w insults
v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts
52. me____ze musical scores
v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
53. bl____g fire
adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
54. cr__h into a ball
v. to put your body close to the ground, especially as a way of avoiding being seen
55. a meteorological obs____ry
n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
56. h__l of anger
v. to make a prolonged, loud, mournful cry or noise, typically as a signal of distress, pain, or an intense emotion; to express one's strong feelings or emotions in a loud and unrestrained manner; (noun) a long, loud, mournful sound made by a person or an animal, often in response to pain, fear, or sadness

ANSWERS: 46. perch, 47. stargaze, 48. atop, 49. stargaze, 50. dunk, 51. spew, 52. memorize, 53. blazing, 54. crouch, 55. observatory, 56. howl

57. a spiral ne___a *n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source
58. emission ne___a *n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source
59. trending ha____g *n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
60. fa____y land *adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible

ANSWERS: 57. nebula, 58. nebula, 59. hashtag, 60. faraway

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I _____ in the cold winter air as I wait for the train.
v. to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly
2. She _____ planned every detail of her wedding.
adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
3. He shaved with a _____ to get a close shave.
n. a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
4. Her sudden _____ drew everyone's attention.
n. a sudden outcry or shout, especially one expressing strong emotion
5. The news of her sudden death was _____ to everyone who knew her.
adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
6. We like to _____ on clear summer nights and try to identify as many constellations as we can.
v. to gaze at the stars, especially at night; to daydream or fantasize:
7. The volcano started to _____ lava and ash, causing panic among residents.
v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts
8. The _____ explosion created a bright new star in the night sky.
n. a powerful and luminous explosion that occurs in some stars, resulting in an extremely bright, short-lived object that later fades into a supernova remnant
9. The company's _____ project aims to develop a revolutionary new technology within a tight deadline.
n. an ambitious, risky, and innovative project or goal, especially one that is intended to bring about radical change or breakthroughs in a particular field or industry, often inspired by the lunar landing mission of Apollo 11 in 1969

ANSWERS: 1. shiver, 2. meticulously, 3. razor, 4. exclamation, 5. astonishing, 6.

stargaze, 7. spew, 8. supernova, 9. moonshot

10. Our brand's campaign uses a unique _____ to track engagement and reach.
- n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
11. The galactic _____ was a beautiful sight through the telescope, with its vibrant colors and swirling clouds.
- n.* a cloud of gas and dust in space, visible in the night sky, typically as a diffuse light source
12. The wolves began to _____ in the distance as the sunset.
- v.* to make a prolonged, loud, mournful cry or noise, typically as a signal of distress, pain, or an intense emotion; to express one's strong feelings or emotions in a loud and unrestrained manner; (noun) a long, loud, mournful sound made by a person or an animal, often in response to pain, fear, or sadness
13. The view from the _____ hilltop was breathtakingly beautiful.
- adj.* located at a geographically distant place; remote or separated by distance; distant or not easily accessible
14. That astronomical _____ stands at the top of the mountain.
- n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
15. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.
- v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
16. He _____ down behind the bushes to avoid being seen.
- v.* to put your body close to the ground, especially as a way of avoiding being seen

ANSWERS: 10. hashtag, 11. nebula, 12. howl, 13. faraway, 14. observatory, 15. memorize, 16. crouched

17. You must first _____ the oil and vinegar to make the salad dressing.
- v. to mix two or more liquids that normally don't dissolve in each other, such as oil and water, by adding an agent that helps to suspend the tiny droplets of one liquid within the other
18. When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and _____ at me.
- v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
19. I like to _____ my cookies in milk before eating them.
- v. to immerse or submerge briefly in a liquid, often repeatedly to coat or moisten; to slam or force something down into a container of liquid
20. I always _____ my coffee maker the night before to have a fresh cup when I wake up.
- v. to set or adjust something beforehand, often about electronic or technological devices or systems; (noun) a preconfigured setting or adjustment that is programmed into a device, system, or software
21. The eagle perched _____ the tallest tree in the forest.
- adv. on, to, or at the top
22. He felt a _____ of disgust.
- n. a very small hole in something, especially made by a pin or needle; a minor annoyance
23. I was sweating at every _____.
- n. a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively
24. I _____ the shirt in the sink before washing it.
- v. to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money

ANSWERS: 17. emulsify, 18. yelled, 19. dunk, 20. preset, 21. atop, 22. pinprick, 23. pore, 24. soaked

25. This question has fascinated solar _____ for decades.
n. a physicist who studies astronomy
26. 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
27. The bird _____ on the branch, watching the world below.
v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
28. The advent of _____ fertilizers markedly increased agricultural productivity.
n. a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen that forms a gas with a strong smell, used as cleaning substances, fertilizers, and explosives
29. The _____ sun beat down on the desert.
adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
30. Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the _____.
n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

ANSWERS: 25. astronomers, 26. astronomical, 27. perched, 28. ammonia, 29. blazing, 30. cosmos