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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Philip Lubin: How humanity can reach the stars | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

flashlight

n. a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off

synonym : torch, lamp, beacon

(1) **flashlight** beam, (2) **flashlight** batteries

He used a backup **flashlight** to find his way through the dark cave.

illuminate

v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

synonym : brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding

That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

illuminating

adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

synonym : enlightening, informative, clarifying

(1) **illuminating** light, (2) an **illuminating** answer

The lecture was **illuminating** and gave me a new perspective on the topic.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym : drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

synchronize

v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate

synonym : coordinate, accompany, harmonize

(1) **synchronize** movements, (2) **synchronize** our watches

The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly **synchronized**.

earnest

adj. characterized by sincere and severe conviction or effort; showing a deep and a genuine sense of purpose or commitment

synonym : sincere, serious, genuine

(1) **earnest** attempt, (2) **earnest** conversation

He spoke in an **earnest** tone, expressing his genuine concern for the safety of everyone involved.

projectile

n. an object or weapon that is propelled through the air, with or without explosive power; something that is launched or thrown with great force

synonym : missile, bullet, rocket

(1) **projectile** weapon, (2) **projectile** motion

The **projectile** launched from the cannon soared and landed in the target zone.

ballistic

adj. relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control

synonym : furious, explosive, enraged

(1) **ballistic** missile, (2) **ballistic** vest

The boss went **ballistic** when he found out we missed the deadline.

Jovian

adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

synonym : Jupiter, giant planet

(1) **Jovian** satellites, (2) **Jovian** planet

The **Jovian** moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.

flyby

n. a close approach to a celestial body, especially a planet, by a spacecraft without landing or entering orbit

synonym: passby, flyover, whizz by

(1) **flyby** mission, (2) a five-plane **flyby**

The spacecraft will conduct a **flyby** of the moon to gather data.

exoplanet

n. a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system

(1) the closest **exoplanet** to Earth, (2) **exoplanet** mission

The **exoplanet** Kepler-186f is located 500 light-years from Earth and is believed to be habitable.

biosignature

n. distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life

synonym: indicators, signs, evidence

(1) **biosignatures** detection, (2) **biosignatures** discovery

Scientists are searching for **biosignatures** on other planets that could indicate the presence of life.

interstellar

adj. relating to or located in the space between stars

synonym: galactic, cosmic, intergalactic

(1) **interstellar** communication, (2) **interstellar** space

The **interstellar** medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

relativism

n. the belief that truth, knowledge, or morality are not absolute or objective but instead relative to the context in which they are perceived or determined

synonym: subjectivism, skepticism

(1) linguistic **relativism**, (2) cultural **relativism**

Moral **relativism** suggests that there is no objective right or wrong.

chirp

n. a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers

synonym: tweet, chirrup, peep

(1) the **chirp** of a bird, (2) the **chirp** of a cricket

The sound of the **chirp** woke me up early in the morning.

Session 2: Spelling

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|------------------------------|---|
| 1. pro_____le weapon | <i>n.</i> an object or weapon that is propelled through the air, with or without explosive power; something that is launched or thrown with great force |
| 2. pro_____le motion | <i>n.</i> an object or weapon that is propelled through the air, with or without explosive power; something that is launched or thrown with great force |
| 3. fla_____ht beam | <i>n.</i> a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off |
| 4. int_____lar communication | <i>adj.</i> relating to or located in the space between stars |
| 5. the ch__p of a bird | <i>n.</i> a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers |
| 6. the ch__p of a cricket | <i>n.</i> a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers |
| 7. ill_____te a dark hall | <i>v.</i> to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity |
| 8. syn_____ze movements | <i>v.</i> to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate |
| 9. ex_____et mission | <i>n.</i> a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system |

ANSWERS: 1. projectile, 2. projectile, 3. flashlight, 4. interstellar, 5. chirp, 6. chirp, 7. illuminate, 8. synchronize, 9. exoplanet

10. linguistic rel_____sm *n.* the belief that truth, knowledge, or morality are not absolute or objective but instead relative to the context in which they are perceived or determined
11. ba_____ic vest *adj.* relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
12. Jo____n planet *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
13. bio_____ures discovery *n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
14. fl__y mission *n.* a close approach to a celestial body, especially a planet, by a spacecraft without landing or entering orbit
15. the closest ex_____et to Earth *n.* a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system
16. ill_____ing light *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
17. int_____lar space *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
18. ea_____t conversation *adj.* characterized by sincere and severe conviction or effort; showing a deep and a genuine sense of purpose or commitment
19. pr___l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
20. cultural rel_____sm *n.* the belief that truth, knowledge, or morality are not absolute or objective but instead relative to the context in which they are perceived or determined

ANSWERS: 10. relativism, 11. ballistic, 12. Jovian, 13. biosignature, 14. flyby, 15. exoplanet, 16. illuminating, 17. interstellar, 18. earnest, 19. propel, 20. relativism

21. ea____t attempt *adj.* characterized by sincere and severe conviction or effort; showing a deep and a genuine sense of purpose or commitment
22. ba_____ic missile *adj.* relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
23. a five-plane fl__y *n.* a close approach to a celestial body, especially a planet, by a spacecraft without landing or entering orbit
24. an ill_____ing answer *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
25. syn_____ze our watches *v.* to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
26. pr___l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
27. bio_____ures detection *n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
28. Jo___n satellites *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
29. fla_____ht batteries *n.* a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
30. ill_____te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

ANSWERS: 21. earnest, 22. ballistic, 23. flyby, 24. illuminating, 25. synchronize, 26. propel, 27. biosignature, 28. Jovian, 29. flashlight, 30. illuminate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The boss went _____ when he found out we missed the deadline.
adj. relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
2. Scientists are searching for _____ on other planets that could indicate the presence of life.
n. distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
3. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.
v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
4. That biologist _____ the mechanism of heredity.
v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
5. The _____ Kepler-186f is located 500 light-years from Earth and is believed to be habitable.
n. a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system
6. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
7. Moral _____ suggests that there is no objective right or wrong.
n. the belief that truth, knowledge, or morality are not absolute or objective but instead relative to the context in which they are perceived or determined

ANSWERS: 1. ballistic, 2. biosignatures, 3. propel, 4. illuminated, 5. exoplanet, 6. Jovian, 7. relativism

8. The _____ medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.
adj. relating to or located in the space between stars
9. He spoke in an _____ tone, expressing his genuine concern for the safety of everyone involved.
adj. characterized by sincere and severe conviction or effort; showing a deep and a genuine sense of purpose or commitment
10. The sound of the _____ woke me up early in the morning.
n. a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
11. The spacecraft will conduct a _____ of the moon to gather data.
n. a close approach to a celestial body, especially a planet, by a spacecraft without landing or entering orbit
12. He used a backup _____ to find his way through the dark cave.
n. a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
13. The lecture was _____ and gave me a new perspective on the topic.
adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
14. The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly _____.
v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
15. The _____ launched from the cannon soared and landed in the target zone.
n. an object or weapon that is propelled through the air, with or without explosive power; something that is launched or thrown with great force

ANSWERS: 8. interstellar, 9. earnest, 10. chirp, 11. flyby, 12. flashlight, 13. illuminating, 14. synchronized, 15. projectile

ANSWERS: