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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dallas Taylor: What silence can teach you about sound | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

unnerving

adj. making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened

synonym : frightening, horrifying, uneasy

(1) **unnerving** effect, (2) with **unnerving** speed

Having dental treatment was an **unnerving** experience for me.

hertz

n. the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals

synonym : frequency, cycles per second

(1) audio **hertz**, (2) tera- **hertz** radiation

The human ear can detect sounds with frequencies ranging from 20 to 20,000 **hertz**.

recognizable

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

synonym : noticeable, perceptible, definite

(1) to a **recognizable** degree, (2) **recognizable** landmark

His car was easily **recognizable** in the parking lot.

avant-garde

adj. relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and

traditions

synonym : innovative, experimental, unconventional

(1) **avant-garde** art, (2) **avant-garde** music

The artist's **avant-garde** approach to sculpture challenged conventional ideas of art.

daring

adj. brave and taking risks

synonym : audacious, bold, venturesome

(1) **daring** escape, (2) make a **daring** face

Her choices become increasingly **daring** and creative.

maverick

adj. characterized by independence or nonconformity; unconventional, idiosyncratic, or rebellious

synonym : unconventional, nonconformist, independent-minded

(1) **maverick** behavior, (2) **maverick** politician

The **maverick** artist refused to follow traditional painting styles and created his unique art.

sonata

n. a piece of music for solo instruments, typically a piano or violin

synonym : composition, piece, work

(1) play a **sonata**, (2) third **sonata**

He's been practicing a new **sonata** for weeks.

offhand

adj. spoken or done without much thought or preparation

synonym : casual, impromptu, unplanned

(1) **offhand** excuses, (2) **offhand** gesture

He made an **offhand** comment about the weather.

startling

adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying

synonym : alarming, astonishing, shocking

(1) **startling** earthquake shocks, (2) **startling** discovery

He describes the story with **startling** reality.

anechoic

adj. referring to a space or environment that is designed or engineered to be free of echoes or sound reflections, typically used for scientific or medical testing and research

synonym : soundproof, echoless, noiseless

(1) **anechoic** technology, (2) **anechoic** room

The **anechoic** chamber was designed to absorb sound, resulting in an eerie silence completely.

circulate

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

synonym : flow, disperse, rotate

(1) **circulate** a rumor, (2) **circulate** an agenda before the meeting

The fan **circulates** the air in the room quickly.

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.

grasping

adj. eager in acquiring or wanting to acquire more wealth, property, or power than is necessary

synonym : greedy, extorting, acquisitive

(1) **grasping** landlord, (2) **grasping** disposition

He was criticized for his **grasping** attitude, always looking for ways to make more money.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym : divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym : misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

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.

owl

n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

synonym: raptor, bird of prey, nocturnal bird

(1) a night **owl**, (2) an **owl** hooted

The snowy **owl** is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.

hoot

v. to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound

synonym: jeer, taunt

(1) **hoot** the actor off the stage, (2) **hoot** a horn

The audience **hooted** with laughter at the comedian's jokes.

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.

harmonic

adj. relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.

synonym: melodic, balanced, harmonious

(1) **harmonic** oscillator, (2) a natural **harmonic** quality

The violin's sound was so pure and **harmonic** that it gave me

chills.

dissonant

adj. sounds that are not in harmony or are in conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions

synonym: discordant, harsh, inharmonious

(1) a **dissonant** voice, (2) **dissonant** note

The **dissonant** sound from the poorly tuned instruments was painful to listen to.

magnificence

n. the quality or state of being extremely good, beautiful, or deserving to be admired

synonym: grandeur, splendor, elegance

(1) incomparable **magnificence**, (2) the **magnificence** of classical music

The **magnificence** of the palace was breathtaking.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. di____ct public opinion | <i>v.</i> to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do |
| 2. gr____ng disposition | <i>adj.</i> eager in acquiring or wanting to acquire more wealth, property, or power than is necessary |
| 3. third so___a | <i>n.</i> a piece of music for solo instruments, typically a piano or violin |
| 4. a night o_l | <i>n.</i> a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call |
| 5. play a so___a | <i>n.</i> a piece of music for solo instruments, typically a piano or violin |
| 6. ci_____te an agenda before the meeting | <i>v.</i> to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system |
| 7. un_____ng effect | <i>adj.</i> making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened |
| 8. 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 |
| 9. a di_____nt voice | <i>adj.</i> sounds that are not in harmony or are in conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions |
| 10. ci_____te a rumor | <i>v.</i> to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system |

ANSWERS: 1. distract, 2. grasping, 3. sonata, 4. owl, 5. sonata, 6. circulate, 7. unnerving, 8. chirp, 9. dissonant, 10. circulate

11. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
12. tera-he__z radiation *n.* the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals
13. ava_____de art *adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions
14. of_____d gesture *adj.* spoken or done without much thought or preparation
15. h__t the actor off the stage *v.* to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound
16. an_____ic technology *adj.* referring to a space or environment that is designed or engineered to be free of echoes or sound reflections, typically used for scientific or medical testing and research
17. am_____y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
18. ma_____ck behavior *adj.* characterized by independence or nonconformity; unconventional, idiosyncratic, or rebellious

ANSWERS: 11. opportune, 12. hertz, 13. avant-garde, 14. offhand, 15. hoot, 16. anechoic, 17. amplify, 18. maverick

19. of____d excuses *adj.* spoken or done without much thought or preparation
20. di____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
21. ava____de music *adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions
22. make a da____g face *adj.* brave and taking risks
23. to a rec____ble degree *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
24. am____y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
25. rec____ble landmark *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
26. incomparable mag____nce *n.* the quality or state of being extremely good, beautiful, or deserving to be admired
27. a natural ha____ic quality *adj.* relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.
28. the mag____nce of classical music *n.* the quality or state of being extremely good, beautiful, or deserving to be admired
29. audio he__z *n.* the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals

ANSWERS: 19. offhand, 20. distract, 21. avant-garde, 22. daring, 23. recognizable, 24. amplify, 25. recognizable, 26. magnificence, 27. harmonic, 28. magnificence, 29. hertz

30. gr____ng landlord *adj.* eager in acquiring or wanting to acquire more wealth, property, or power than is necessary
31. an____ic room *adj.* referring to a space or environment that is designed or engineered to be free of echoes or sound reflections, typically used for scientific or medical testing and research
32. st_____ng discovery *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
33. an o_l hooted *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
34. st_____ng earthquake shocks *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
35. di_____nt note *adj.* sounds that are not in harmony or are in conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions
36. the ch__p of a bird *n.* a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
37. h__t a horn *v.* to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound
38. mis_____and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

ANSWERS: 30. grasping, 31. anechoic, 32. startling, 33. owl, 34. startling, 35. dissonant, 36. chirp, 37. hoot, 38. misunderstand

39. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
40. da___g escape *adj.* brave and taking risks
41. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
42. ha___ic oscillator *adj.* relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.
43. ma_____ck politician *adj.* characterized by independence or nonconformity; unconventional, idiosyncratic, or rebellious
44. with un_____ng speed *adj.* making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened

ANSWERS: 39. opportune, 40. daring, 41. misunderstand, 42. harmonic, 43. maverick, 44. unnerving

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ chamber was designed to absorb sound, resulting in an eerie silence completely.
adj. referring to a space or environment that is designed or engineered to be free of echoes or sound reflections, typically used for scientific or medical testing and research
2. The audience _____ with laughter at the comedian's jokes.
v. to make the sound of a hoot or loud, raucous laugh; to express disapproval or scorn; (noun) the sound made by an owl or a similar bird, usually a low-pitched, repetitive "hoo" or "whoo" sound
3. His car was easily _____ in the parking lot.
adj. easy to become aware of or identify
4. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
5. He was criticized for his _____ attitude, always looking for ways to make more money.
adj. eager in acquiring or wanting to acquire more wealth, property, or power than is necessary
6. 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
7. The _____ of the palace was breathtaking.
n. the quality or state of being extremely good, beautiful, or deserving to be admired

ANSWERS: 1. anechoic, 2. hooted, 3. recognizable, 4. opportune, 5. grasping, 6. chirp, 7. magnificence

8. The fan _____ the air in the room quickly.
v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
9. He made an _____ comment about the weather.
adj. spoken or done without much thought or preparation
10. The violin's sound was so pure and _____ that it gave me chills.
adj. relating to the production of sound waves with a frequency that is an integral multiple of the frequency of the original wave; having a pleasing, pleasing, or agreeable sound.
11. The _____ artist refused to follow traditional painting styles and created his unique art.
adj. characterized by independence or nonconformity; unconventional, idiosyncratic, or rebellious
12. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
13. The snowy ___ is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.
n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
14. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
15. The human ear can detect sounds with frequencies ranging from 20 to 20,000 _____.
n. the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals

ANSWERS: 8. circulates, 9. offhand, 10. harmonic, 11. maverick, 12. misunderstand, 13. owl, 14. amplify, 15. hertz

16. The artist's _____ approach to sculpture challenged conventional ideas of art.
adj. relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions
17. He describes the story with _____ reality.
adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
18. Having dental treatment was an _____ experience for me.
adj. making someone lose courage or confidence, or feel nervous or frightened
19. Her choices become increasingly _____ and creative.
adj. brave and taking risks
20. He's been practicing a new _____ for weeks.
n. a piece of music for solo instruments, typically a piano or violin
21. The _____ sound from the poorly tuned instruments was painful to listen to.
adj. sounds that are not in harmony or are in conflict with one another; an uncomfortable or tense feeling caused by conflicting ideas or emotions
22. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

ANSWERS: 16. avant-garde, 17. startling, 18. unnerving, 19. daring, 20. sonata, 21. dissonant, 22. distract