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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Joseph Isaac: Why people fall for misinformation |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

saltiness

n. the quality or state of being salty

(1) the taste of **saltiness**, (2) enhance the **saltiness**

She tasted the dish and detected a slight **saltiness**.

misconception

n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis

synonym: fallacy, incomprehension, misunderstanding

(1) dispel the **misconception**, (2) commonly held **misconception**

There are numerous **misconceptions** about food and health.

sucrose

n. a type of sugar composed of glucose and fructose molecules commonly found in sugar cane, sugar beets, and other plants

synonym: sugar, saccharose, fructose

(1) **sucrose** intake, (2) dissolved **sucrose**

Many processed foods contain high amounts of **sucrose**.

quinine

n. a bitter-tasting alkaloid compound found in the bark of certain cinchona trees, used in medicine to treat malaria

(1) natural **quinine**, (2) **quinine** bark

The tonic water in my drink contains **quinine**, giving it a slightly bitter taste.

chlorine

- n.* a chemical element with the symbol Cl and atomic number 17, a greenish-yellow gas that is highly reactive and used in a variety of applications, including as a bleach and disinfectant

synonym: element, greenish-yellow gas, bleach

- (1) **chlorine** gas, (2) **chlorine** tablet

Some people are sensitive to the smell of **chlorine** and experience headaches or respiratory irritation.

intensify

- v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym: amplify, boost, strengthen

- (1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

disinformation

- n.* false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion

synonym: misinformation, propaganda, falsehood

- (1) **disinformation** campaign, (2) **disinformation** warfare

The government is being criticized for spreading **disinformation** about the pandemic.

mislead

- v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true

synonym: misinform, delude, belie

- (1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy

Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

misinformation

- n.* information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

synonym: falsity, misreport, misstatement

- (1) **misinformation** about a vaccine, (2) combat **misinformation** on social media

The government called for caution against pseudoscientific **misinformation** about vaccines.

unintentional

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

synonym: accidental, unforeseen, spontaneous

(1) avoid **unintentional** harm, (2) **unintentional** insult

The mistake was **unintentional** and made in good faith.

inaccuracy

n. a lack of precision, correctness, or truthfulness; the state of being incorrect or mistaken

synonym: inexactness, error, mistake

(1) **inaccuracy** of measurements, (2) accumulated **inaccuracy**

There was an **inaccuracy** in the report that had to be corrected before it was published.

fluent

adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

synonym: eloquent, articulate, smooth-spoken

(1) **fluent** Chinese, (2) in a **fluent** tone

She learned five languages but is only **fluent** in two of them.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

versed

adj. well-informed or experienced in a particular field or skill; knowledgeable or proficient

synonym: knowledgeable, experienced, skilled

(1) **versed** in law, (2) tech- **versed** professional

She was well- **versed** in French literature and could recite many works by heart.

imperceptible

adj. undetectable or indiscernible by the senses or by normal means of measurement; extremely subtle, faint, or gradual

synonym: hard to notice, indiscernible, subtle

(1) **imperceptible** movement, (2) **imperceptible** difference

The sound was **imperceptible** to the human ear, but the sensitive microphone could pick it up.

culprit

n. someone who is responsible for a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: criminal, felon, fugitive

(1) the **culprit** of global warming, (2) the arrest of the **culprit**

They finally found the **culprit** of the bug after a long time.

cautiously

adv. in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger

synonym: carefully, warily, prudently

(1) **cautiously** optimistic, (2) proceed **cautiously**

He **cautiously** approached the cliff's edge, aware of the dangers of falling.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

nuanced

adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.

synonym: fine, subtle, slight

(1) **nuanced** view, (2) the common but **nuanced** opinion

The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the flavor of the wine.

purported

adj. claimed or alleged, usually without proof or confirmation; rumored or supposed; asserted but not verified or substantiated

synonym: alleged, claimed, supposed

(1) **purported** evidence, (2) **purported** biography

The **purported** benefits of the new product were not supported by research.

umami

n. a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter

synonym: savory, delicious, meaty

(1) **umami** enhancer, (2) **umami** flavor

Japanese food lovers appreciate the **umami** taste of miso soup.

savory

adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet

synonym: delicious, tasty, appetizing

(1) **savory** dish, (2) a **savory** omelet

The **savory** aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.

anecdote

n. a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

synonym: story, account, tale

(1) personal **anecdote**, (2) funny **anecdote**

She entertained the guests with **anecdotes** about her travels and experiences.

skepticism

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

synonym: distrust, doubt, suspicion

(1) natural **skepticism**, (2) **skepticism** toward bureaucracy

This party expresses **skepticism** about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. the cu____t of global warming | <i>n.</i> someone who is responsible for a crime or wrongdoing |
| 2. uni_____nal insult | <i>adj.</i> not done or made on purpose; accidental |
| 3. dispel the mis_____ion | <i>n.</i> a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis |
| 4. bankrupt cr____or | <i>n.</i> a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money |
| 5. um__i flavor | <i>n.</i> a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter |
| 6. antibiotic-resistant g__m | <i>n.</i> a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one |
| 7. the arrest of the cu____t | <i>n.</i> someone who is responsible for a crime or wrongdoing |
| 8. proceed cau_____ly | <i>adv.</i> in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger |
| 9. pu_____ed biography | <i>adj.</i> claimed or alleged, usually without proof or confirmation; rumored or supposed; asserted but not verified or substantiated |
| 10. mis_____ion about a vaccine | <i>n.</i> information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately |

ANSWERS: 1. culprit, 2. unintentional, 3. misconception, 4. creditor, 5. umami, 6. germ, 7. culprit, 8. cautiously, 9. purported, 10. misinformation

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 11. commonly held mis_____ion | <i>n.</i> a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis |
| 12. accumulated ina_____cy | <i>n.</i> a lack of precision, correctness, or truthfulness; the state of being incorrect or mistaken |
| 13. su_____e intake | <i>n.</i> a type of sugar composed of glucose and fructose molecules commonly found in sugar cane, sugar beets, and other plants |
| 14. dis_____ion campaign | <i>n.</i> false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion |
| 15. the cr_____or's claims | <i>n.</i> a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money |
| 16. nu_____d view | <i>adj.</i> characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. |
| 17. tech-ve____d professional | <i>adj.</i> well-informed or experienced in a particular field or skill; knowledgeable or proficient |
| 18. qu_____e bark | <i>n.</i> a bitter-tasting alkaloid compound found in the bark of certain cinchona trees, used in medicine to treat malaria |
| 19. avoid uni_____nal harm | <i>adj.</i> not done or made on purpose; accidental |
| 20. funny an_____te | <i>n.</i> a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person |
| 21. ina_____cy of measurements | <i>n.</i> a lack of precision, correctness, or truthfulness; the state of being incorrect or mistaken |

ANSWERS: 11. misconception, 12. inaccuracy, 13. sucrose, 14. disinformation, 15. creditor, 16. nuanced, 17. versed, 18. quinine, 19. unintentional, 20. anecdote, 21. inaccuracy

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 22. in_____fy a good relationship | <i>v.</i> to increase or make something increase in extent or strength |
| 23. a g__m-free environment | <i>n.</i> a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one |
| 24. mi_____d the enemy | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to believe something that is not true |
| 25. imp_____ble movement | <i>adj.</i> undetectable or indiscernible by the senses or by normal means of measurement; extremely subtle, faint, or gradual |
| 26. mi_____d him into trusting her | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to believe something that is not true |
| 27. dissolved su_____e | <i>n.</i> a type of sugar composed of glucose and fructose molecules commonly found in sugar cane, sugar beets, and other plants |
| 28. ch_____ne tablet | <i>n.</i> a chemical element with the symbol Cl and atomic number 17, a greenish-yellow gas that is highly reactive and used in a variety of applications, including as a bleach and disinfectant |
| 29. cau_____ly optimistic | <i>adv.</i> in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger |
| 30. dis_____ion warfare | <i>n.</i> false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion |

ANSWERS: 22. intensify, 23. germ, 24. mislead, 25. imperceptible, 26. mislead, 27. sucrose, 28. chlorine, 29. cautiously, 30. disinformation

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| 31. natural qu____e | <i>n.</i> a bitter-tasting alkaloid compound found in the bark of certain cinchona trees, used in medicine to treat malaria |
| 32. ch____ne gas | <i>n.</i> a chemical element with the symbol Cl and atomic number 17, a greenish-yellow gas that is highly reactive and used in a variety of applications, including as a bleach and disinfectant |
| 33. a sa____y omelet | <i>adj.</i> pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet |
| 34. fl____t Chinese | <i>adj.</i> able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily |
| 35. the taste of sa____ss | <i>n.</i> the quality or state of being salty |
| 36. personal an____te | <i>n.</i> a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person |
| 37. combat mis_____ion on social media | <i>n.</i> information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately |
| 38. um__i enhancer | <i>n.</i> a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter |
| 39. the common but nu____d opinion | <i>adj.</i> characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. |
| 40. in a fl____t tone | <i>adj.</i> able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily |

ANSWERS: 31. quinine, 32. chlorine, 33. savory, 34. fluent, 35. saltiness, 36. anecdote, 37. misinformation, 38. umami, 39. nuanced, 40. fluent

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 41. in_____fy diplomatic efforts | <i>v.</i> to increase or make something increase in extent or strength |
| 42. enhance the sa_____ss | <i>n.</i> the quality or state of being salty |
| 43. sa____y dish | <i>adj.</i> pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet |
| 44. pu_____ed evidence | <i>adj.</i> claimed or alleged, usually without proof or confirmation; rumored or supposed; asserted but not verified or substantiated |
| 45. natural ske_____sm | <i>n.</i> an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge |
| 46. ske_____sm toward bureaucracy | <i>n.</i> an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge |
| 47. ve____d in law | <i>adj.</i> well-informed or experienced in a particular field or skill; knowledgeable or proficient |
| 48. imp_____ble difference | <i>adj.</i> undetectable or indiscernible by the senses or by normal means of measurement; extremely subtle, faint, or gradual |

ANSWERS: 41. intensify, 42. saltiness, 43. savory, 44. purported, 45. skepticism, 46. skepticism, 47. versed, 48. imperceptible

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
2. Many processed foods contain high amounts of _____.
n. a type of sugar composed of glucose and fructose molecules commonly found in sugar cane, sugar beets, and other plants
3. She entertained the guests with _____ about her travels and experiences.
n. a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
4. He _____ approached the cliff's edge, aware of the dangers of falling.
adv. in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger
5. The sommelier can distinguish _____ variance in the flavor of the wine.
adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
6. The mistake was _____ and made in good faith.
adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental
7. There was an _____ in the report that had to be corrected before it was published.
n. a lack of precision, correctness, or truthfulness; the state of being incorrect or mistaken
8. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 1. intensify, 2. sucrose, 3. anecdotes, 4. cautiously, 5. nuanced, 6. unintentional, 7. inaccuracy, 8. creditor

9. The _____ aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.

adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet

10. The government called for caution against pseudoscientific _____ about vaccines.

n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

11. The sound was _____ to the human ear, but the sensitive microphone could pick it up.

adj. undetectable or indiscernible by the senses or by normal means of measurement; extremely subtle, faint, or gradual

12. She tasted the dish and detected a slight _____.

n. the quality or state of being salty

13. The _____ benefits of the new product were not supported by research.

adj. claimed or alleged, usually without proof or confirmation; rumored or supposed; asserted but not verified or substantiated

14. There are numerous _____ about food and health.

n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis

15. Some people are sensitive to the smell of _____ and experience headaches or respiratory irritation.

n. a chemical element with the symbol Cl and atomic number 17, a greenish-yellow gas that is highly reactive and used in a variety of applications, including as a bleach and disinfectant

ANSWERS: 9. savory, 10. misinformation, 11. imperceptible, 12. saltiness, 13. purported, 14. misconceptions, 15. chlorine

16. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.
v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true
17. The government is being criticized for spreading _____ about the pandemic.
n. false or misleading information that is spread deliberately, usually with the intent to deceive or manipulate public opinion
18. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
19. She was well-_____ in French literature and could recite many works by heart.
adj. well-informed or experienced in a particular field or skill; knowledgeable or proficient
20. This party expresses _____ about the efficacy of the health insurance system.
n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
21. Japanese food lovers appreciate the _____ taste of miso soup.
n. a taste sensation that is often described as savory, meaty, or brothy; one of the five basic tastes, along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter
22. They finally found the _____ of the bug after a long time.
n. someone who is responsible for a crime or wrongdoing
23. The tonic water in my drink contains _____ giving it a slightly bitter taste.
n. a bitter-tasting alkaloid compound found in the bark of certain cinchona trees, used in medicine to treat malaria

ANSWERS: 16. mislead, 17. disinformation, 18. germ, 19. versed, 20. skepticism, 21. umami, 22. culprit, 23. quinine,

24. She learned five languages but is only _____ in two of them.

adj. able to communicate in a specific language smoothly or effectively, or easily

ANSWERS: 24. fluent