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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Gareth Gaskell: How do our brains process speech? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

hone

v. to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

synonym : sharpen, refine, perfect

(1) **hone** abilities, (2) **hone** intuition

The athlete worked with a coach to **hone** her techniques and improve her performance.

comprehend

v. to understand the nature or meaning of something fully

synonym : understand, grasp, apprehend

(1) **comprehend** English, (2) **comprehend** instructions

She struggled to **comprehend** complex math problems.

syllable

n. a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants

(1) **syllable** structure, (2) single **syllable**

Emphasize the second **syllable** when pronouncing it.

crane

n. a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook

synonym: hoist, derrick, winch

(1) **crane** operator, (2) **crane** construction

The construction workers used a **crane** to lift the heavy beams.

homophone

n. a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning and may differ in spelling

synonym: homonym, same-sounding word

(1) **homophone** confusion, (2) **homophone** pair

"Knight" and "night" are **homophones**, despite having different spellings and meanings.

multilingual

adj. skilled in or using multiple languages; involving or relating to multiple languages or language groups

synonym: polyglot

(1) **multilingual** education, (2) **multilingual** staff

My friend is **multilingual**, speaking five different languages fluently.

overwrite

v. to replace or overwrite existing data or information with new data, often in the context of computer files or software

synonym: rewrite, correct, revise

(1) **overwrite** setting, (2) **overwrite** memory

Don't forget to back up your data before you **overwrite** any files on your computer.

hippocampus

n. a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory

(1) involvement of the **hippocampus**, (2) neurons in the **hippocampus**

The **hippocampus** is crucial for learning and memory storage.

interweave

v. to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle

synonym: intertwine, intertwist, interlace

(1) **interweave** threads, (2) **interweave** ideas

The author expertly tried to **interweave** the story's plot and characters.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

Session 2: Spelling

1. mul_____ual education *adj.* skilled in or using multiple languages; involving or relating to multiple languages or language groups
2. cr__e construction *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
3. single sy_____le *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
4. cr__e operator *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
5. mul_____ual staff *adj.* skilled in or using multiple languages; involving or relating to multiple languages or language groups
6. neurons in the hip_____us *n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
7. excite the ne____ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
8. com_____nd instructions *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
9. ho_____ne confusion *n.* a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning and may differ in spelling

ANSWERS: 1. multilingual, 2. crane, 3. syllable, 4. crane, 5. multilingual, 6. hippocampus, 7. neuron, 8. comprehend, 9. homophone

10. ov_____te setting *v.* to replace or overwrite existing data or information with new data, often in the context of computer files or software
11. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
12. int_____ve threads *v.* to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle
13. involvement of the hip_____us *n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
14. ne____n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
15. com_____nd English *v.* to understand the nature or meaning of something fully
16. ov_____te memory *v.* to replace or overwrite existing data or information with new data, often in the context of computer files or software
17. sy_____le structure *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
18. int_____ve ideas *v.* to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle

ANSWERS: 10. overwrite, 11. disrupt, 12. interweave, 13. hippocampus, 14. neuron, 15. comprehend, 16. overwrite, 17. syllable, 18. interweave

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The construction workers used a _____ to lift the heavy beams.
n. a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
2. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
3. The _____ is crucial for learning and memory storage.
n. a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
4. "Knight" and "night" are _____ despite having different spellings and meanings.
n. a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning and may differ in spelling
5. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
6. My friend is _____ speaking five different languages fluently.
adj. skilled in or using multiple languages; involving or relating to multiple languages or language groups
7. The athlete worked with a coach to _____ her techniques and improve her performance.
v. to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

ANSWERS: 1. crane, 2. neuron, 3. hippocampus, 4. homophones, 5. disrupt, 6. multilingual, 7. hone

8. The author expertly tried to _____ the story's plot and characters.
- v. to combine or blend substantive parts or elements; to interlace; to mix or intermingle
9. Don't forget to back up your data before you _____ any files on your computer.
- v. to replace or overwrite existing data or information with new data, often in the context of computer files or software
10. Emphasize the second _____ when pronouncing it.
- n. a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
11. She struggled to _____ complex math problems.
- v. to understand the nature or meaning of something fully

ANSWERS: 8. interweave, 9. overwrite, 10. syllable, 11. comprehend