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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Barry Schwartz: What role does luck play in your life?

| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

extracurricular

adj. outside the regular curriculum or program of courses

synonym : non-academic, non-curricular, outside

(1) **extracurricular** study, (2) **extracurricular** club

He was heavily involved in **extracurricular** activities and was president of the debate club.

superstar

n. a very famous and successful performer or athlete

synonym : celebrity, icon, megastar

(1) **superstar** athlete, (2) jazz **superstar**

She is a **superstar** in the music industry.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym : consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

ratchet

n. a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

synonym : gear, wrench, spanner

(1) **ratchet** wrench, (2) **ratchet** effect

He turned the bolt with the **ratchet**, making sure it was

secure.

viol *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
synonym: viola, viola da gamba, string instrument
(1) **viol** instrument, (2) **viol** music
The **viol** player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.

wreck *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
synonym: collapse, destruction, devastation
(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**
The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

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.

rev *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
synonym: revolution, RPM, speed
(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd
He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

pretension *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation
(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

puncture

n. a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object

synonym : piercing, prick, hole

(1) bicycle **puncture**, (2) needle **puncture**

The tire had a **puncture** and needed to be replaced.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym : coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym : outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

befall

v. to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way

synonym : occur, happen, take place

(1) **befall** tragedy, (2) misfortunes **befall**

I hope nothing bad will **befall** my family during the storm.

veil

n. a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure

synonym : cover, mask, (verb) conceal

(1) **veil** of mystery, (2) **veil** her face
He lifted her **veil** with both hands.

Session 2: Spelling

1. v__l music *n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
2. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
3. easy qu____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
4. ra____t effect *n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement
5. global pa____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
6. be___l tragedy *v.* to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
7. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
8. serial qu____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

ANSWERS: 1. viol, 2. confer, 3. quitter, 4. ratchet, 5. pandemic, 6. befall, 7. pretension, 8. quitter

9. misfortunes be___l *v.* to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
10. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
11. the house was a wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
12. bicycle pu____re *n.* a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object
13. su_____ar athlete *n.* a very famous and successful performer or athlete
14. flu pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
15. ext_____lar study *adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses
16. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
17. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 9. befall, 10. confer, 11. wreck, 12. puncture, 13. superstar, 14. pandemic, 15. extracurricular, 16. rev, 17. rev

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| 18. a worthless wr__k | <i>n.</i> a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident |
| 19. needle pu____re | <i>n.</i> a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object |
| 20. jazz su_____ar | <i>n.</i> a very famous and successful performer or athlete |
| 21. v__l instrument | <i>n.</i> a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba |
| 22. ins_____ize customary laws | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 23. mis_____and entirely about her | <i>v.</i> to interpret or understand something in the wrong way |
| 24. v__l her face | <i>n.</i> a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure |
| 25. ins_____ize a system | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 26. pre_____on to authority | <i>n.</i> the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition |
| 27. v__l of mystery | <i>n.</i> a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure |

ANSWERS: 18. wreck, 19. puncture, 20. superstar, 21. viol, 22. institutionalize, 23. misunderstand, 24. veil, 25. institutionalize, 26. pretension, 27. veil

28. ext_____lar club *adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses
29. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
30. ra_____t wrench *n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

ANSWERS: 28. extracurricular, 29. misunderstand, 30. ratchet

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He turned the bolt with the _____ making sure it was secure.
n. a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

2. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

3. The tire had a _____ and needed to be replaced.
n. a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object

4. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

5. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

6. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

7. She is a _____ in the music industry.
n. a very famous and successful performer or athlete

ANSWERS: 1. ratchet, 2. misunderstand, 3. puncture, 4. institutionalize, 5. quitter, 6. confer, 7. superstar

8. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
9. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.
- n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
10. He was heavily involved in _____ activities and was president of the debate club.
- adj.* outside the regular curriculum or program of courses
11. I hope nothing bad will _____ my family during the storm.
- v.* to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
12. He lifted her _____ with both hands.
- n.* a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure
13. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.
- n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
14. The _____ player was rehearsing for an upcoming concert.
- n.* a stringed instrument, typically with six strings and frets, played with a bow, also called a viola da gamba
15. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
- n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 8. rev, 9. pandemic, 10. extracurricular, 11. befall, 12. veil, 13. wreck, 14. viol, 15. pretensions

ANSWERS: