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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Matt Cutts: What happens when a Silicon Valley technologist works for the government | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/matt_cutts_what_happens_when_a_silicon_valley_technologist_works_for_the_government

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

matte

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
synonym: dull, flat, lusterless

(1) **matte** coating, (2) photo with a **matte** finish

The body of his car has a **matte** finish.

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.

unsound

adj. not well-founded or logical; unreliable or invalid; not in good condition or quality; sickly or infirm

synonym: unsuitable, faulty, invalid

(1) **unsound** investment, (2) **unsound** argument

The bridge was closed due to **unsound** structural issues.

downside

n. the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure

synonym: drawback, negative, disadvantage

(1) major **downside**, (2) **downside** of globalization

The **downside** of the new policy was that it would be more

expensive for customers.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym : later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

cubicle

n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting

synonym : compartment, booth, workspace

(1) **cubicle** partition, (2) camping **cubicle**

I worked in an office **cubicle** surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.

decorate

v. to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc

synonym : adorn, embellish, beautify

(1) **decorate** a wall, (2) **decorate** for Christmas

They **decorated** the room with balloons and streamers for the birthday party.

triplicate

v. to make three copies of something, often for record-keeping or distribution; to create a set of three identical copies; (noun) a document or a copy that is made in three identical versions

synonym : copy three times, reproduce thrice

(1) fill out the form in **triplicate**, (2) **triplicate** the order

I need to **triplicate** this important document for safekeeping.

procure

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

synonym : obtain, acquire, secure

(1) **procure** a rare antique, (2) **procure** services

I need to **procure** some supplies for the upcoming project.

brownie

n. a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful

synonym : bar, cake, square

(1) earn **Brownie** points, (2) **brownie** recipe

She baked a batch of chocolate chip **brownies** for the office party.

savior

n. a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth

synonym : hero, rescuer, redeemer

(1) political **savior**, (2) pray to the **savior**

The guru of that religion thought of himself as a **savior**.

scoot

v. to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device

synonym : glide, slide, scurry

(1) **scoot** out of my room, (2) **scoot** over

I have to **scoot** over to the next desk because there's not enough room for me to sit comfortably.

visceral

adj. relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

synonym : instinctive, intuitive, gut

(1) **visceral** organ, (2) **visceral** fear

After watching the horror movie, she had a **visceral** reaction and couldn't sleep all night.

twit

n. a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating

synonym : fool, idiot, imbecile

(1) celebrity **twit**, (2) neighborhood **twit**

Please ignore that **twit** on social media; their opinions are irrelevant.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

confession

n. a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal

synonym: admission, avowal, acknowledgment

(1) a **confession** of guilt, (2) a **confession** of faith

The prisoner made a full **confession** and admitted to his crime.

bureaucracy

n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

synonym: administration, government, system

(1) government **bureaucracy**, (2) arbitrary **bureaucracy**

The bumbling **bureaucracy** made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

illogical

adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

synonym: irrational, senseless, nonsensical

(1) **illogical** argument, (2) **illogical** reasoning

His argument made no sense and was completely **illogical**.

mascot

n. a person, animal, or object that is believed to bring good luck, often adopted by a sports team or organization as a symbol of their identity or values

synonym: symbol, emblem, icon

(1) team **mascot**, (2) corporate **mascot**

The city's **mascot** is a famous landmark that attracts tourists.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pr____e a rare antique *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
2. a con_____on of guilt *n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
3. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
4. sc__t over *v.* to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device
5. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
6. de_____te a wall *v.* to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc
7. government bur_____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
8. team ma____t *n.* a person, animal, or object that is believed to bring good luck, often adopted by a sports team or organization as a symbol of their identity or values
9. photo with a ma__e finish *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

ANSWERS: 1. procure, 2. confession, 3. improvisation, 4. scoot, 5. improvisation, 6. decorate, 7. bureaucracy, 8. mascot, 9. matte

10. fill out the form in tri_____te *v.* to make three copies of something, often for record-keeping or distribution; to create a set of three identical copies; (noun) a document or a copy that is made in three identical versions
11. corporate ma____t *n.* a person, animal, or object that is believed to bring good luck, often adopted by a sports team or organization as a symbol of their identity or values
12. neighborhood t__t *n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
13. un_____d investment *adj.* not well-founded or logical; unreliable or invalid; not in good condition or quality; sickly or infirm
14. pr_____e services *v.* to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill
15. il_____al reasoning *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
16. earn Br_____e points *n.* a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful
17. vi_____al fear *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
18. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

ANSWERS: 10. triplicate, 11. mascot, 12. twit, 13. unsound, 14. procure, 15. illogical, 16. brownie, 17. visceral, 18. confer

19. il_____al argument *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
20. un_____d argument *adj.* not well-founded or logical; unreliable or invalid; not in good condition or quality; sickly or infirm
21. vi_____al organ *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
22. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
23. camping cu_____e *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
24. celebrity t__t *n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
25. major do_____de *n.* the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure
26. sc__t out of my room *v.* to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device
27. a con_____on of faith *n.* a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal
28. ma__e coating *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
29. br_____e recipe *n.* a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful

ANSWERS: 19. illogical, 20. unsound, 21. visceral, 22. afterward, 23. cubicle, 24. twit, 25. downside, 26. scoot, 27. confession, 28. matte, 29. brownie

30. arbitrary bur_____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
31. pray to the sa____r *n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
32. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
33. de_____te for Christmas *v.* to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc
34. cu_____e partition *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
35. political sa____r *n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
36. tri_____te the order *v.* to make three copies of something, often for record-keeping or distribution; to create a set of three identical copies; (noun) a document or a copy that is made in three identical versions
37. do_____de of globalization *n.* the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure

ANSWERS: 30. bureaucracy, 31. savior, 32. afterward, 33. decorate, 34. cubicle, 35. savior, 36. triplicate, 37. downside

38. co___r degree

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

ANSWERS: 38. confer

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

2. I have to _____ over to the next desk because there's not enough room for me to sit comfortably.
v. to move or glide along quickly and smoothly on a surface, especially on a scooter or similar device

3. I need to _____ this important document for safekeeping.
v. to make three copies of something, often for record-keeping or distribution; to create a set of three identical copies; (noun) a document or a copy that is made in three identical versions

4. Please ignore that _____ on social media; their opinions are irrelevant.
n. a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating

5. The prisoner made a full _____ and admitted to his crime.
n. a formal statement in which one admits that they have done something wrong or illegal

6. The bumbling _____ made it difficult to get the permits we needed.
n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. improvisation, 2. scoot, 3. triplicate, 4. twit, 5. confession, 6. bureaucracy, 7. confer

8. His argument made no sense and was completely _____.

adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

9. The body of his car has a _____ finish.

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

10. The _____ of the new policy was that it would be more expensive for customers.

n. the negative aspects or consequences of something; the potential for loss or failure

11. The bridge was closed due to _____ structural issues.

adj. not well-founded or logical; unreliable or invalid; not in good condition or quality; sickly or infirm

12. She baked a batch of chocolate chip _____ for the office party.

n. a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful

13. I worked in an office _____ surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.

n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting

14. I need to _____ some supplies for the upcoming project.

v. to obtain, acquire, or secure something, often by effort or skill

15. The city's _____ is a famous landmark that attracts tourists.

n. a person, animal, or object that is believed to bring good luck, often adopted by a sports team or organization as a symbol of their identity or values

ANSWERS: 8. illogical, 9. matte, 10. downside, 11. unsound, 12. brownies, 13. cubicle, 14. procure, 15. mascot

16. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.

adv. after the time mentioned

17. After watching the horror movie, she had a _____ reaction and couldn't sleep all night.

adj. relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

18. They _____ the room with balloons and streamers for the birthday party.

v. to add beauty or distinction to something by the addition of ornament, art, etc

19. The guru of that religion thought of himself as a _____.

n. a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth

ANSWERS: 16. afterward, 17. visceral, 18. decorated, 19. savior