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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Benjamin Seibold: What is phantom traffic and why is it ruining your life? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

standstill

n. a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources

synonym : halt, deadlock, impasse

(1) transportation **standstill**, (2) economic **standstill**

The traffic accident caused a **standstill** on the highway for several hours.

phantom

n. a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception

synonym : ghost, spirit, apparition

(1) a **phantom** company, (2) **phantom** limb pain

The police frantically searched for clues to the **phantom** killer.

emergent

adj. starting to exist or view, or to become known

synonym : coming, appearing, developing

(1) **emergent** repair of an aorta, (2) an **emergent** republic

Extensive areas of **emergent** plants are usually called marsh.

roadway

n. the part of a thoroughfare or highway that is used by vehicles for driving, including the hard surface and shoulders

synonym : highway, street, thoroughfare

(1) busy **roadway**, (2) **roadway** asphalt

Cyclists are not allowed on the highway **roadway** for safety reasons.

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.

dun

adj. having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed

synonym: dark, gloomy, somber

(1) **dun** horse, (2) **dun** him for the unpaid bills

The spider was camouflaged on the **dun-colored** rock, waiting for its next prey.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

slowdown

n. a reduction or decrease in the rate or pace of something; a delay or interruption in progress

synonym: deceleration, reduction, retardation

(1) **slowdown** in production, (2) abrupt **slowdown**

The economic **slowdown** has affected many businesses in the region.

counteract

v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it

synonym: balance, offset, compensate

(1) **counteract** the effect of poison, (2) **counteract** global

warming

Our body's immune system produces antibodies to **counteract** disease.

dampen

v. to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement

synonym: drench, moisten, saturate

(1) **dampen** the sound, (2) **dampen** the enthusiasm

The rain helped **dampen** the flames of the campfire.

commute

v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

synonym: travel, journey, trip

(1) **commute** to work, (2) daily **commute**

He had to **commute** two hours each way to get to work.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a ph____m company *n.* a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception
2. am____y a signal *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
3. abrupt sl____wn *n.* a reduction or decrease in the rate or pace of something; a delay or interruption in progress
4. d_n horse *adj.* having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed
5. am____y the effect *v.* to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
6. da____n the sound *v.* to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
7. ph____m limb pain *n.* a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception
8. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

ANSWERS: 1. phantom, 2. amplify, 3. slowdown, 4. dun, 5. amplify, 6. dampen, 7. phantom, 8. sect

9. ro____y asphalt *n.* the part of a thoroughfare or highway that is used by vehicles for driving, including the hard surface and shoulders
10. em____nt repair of an aorta *adj.* starting to exist or view, or to become known
11. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
12. co____e to work *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
13. sl____wn in production *n.* a reduction or decrease in the rate or pace of something; a delay or interruption in progress
14. daily co____e *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
15. an em____nt republic *adj.* starting to exist or view, or to become known
16. busy ro____y *n.* the part of a thoroughfare or highway that is used by vehicles for driving, including the hard surface and shoulders

ANSWERS: 9. roadway, 10. emergent, 11. sect, 12. commute, 13. slowdown, 14. commute, 15. emergent, 16. roadway

17. transportation sta_____ll *n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
18. cou_____ct the effect of poison *v.* to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
19. d_n him for the unpaid bills *adj.* having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed
20. cou_____ct global warming *v.* to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
21. economic sta_____ll *n.* a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
22. da___n the enthusiasm *v.* to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement

ANSWERS: 17. standstill, 18. counteract, 19. dun, 20. counteract, 21. standstill, 22. dampen

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Our body's immune system produces antibodies to _____ disease.
v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
2. The economic _____ has affected many businesses in the region.
n. a reduction or decrease in the rate or pace of something; a delay or interruption in progress
3. The traffic accident caused a _____ on the highway for several hours.
n. a complete halt in movement or activity, especially due to an obstruction or lack of resources
4. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
5. He had to _____ two hours each way to get to work.
v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
6. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
7. The spider was camouflaged on the _____ rock, waiting for its next prey.
adj. having a dull brownish-gray color, often used to describe the color of certain animals, such as a dun horse; (verb) to repeatedly and insistently demand payment of a debt or money owed

ANSWERS: 1. counteract, 2. slowdown, 3. standstill, 4. amplify, 5. commute, 6. sect, 7. dun-colored

8. Cyclists are not allowed on the highway _____ for safety reasons.
- n.* the part of a thoroughfare or highway that is used by vehicles for driving, including the hard surface and shoulders
9. The rain helped _____ the flames of the campfire.
- v.* to make something wet or moist; to reduce the intensity or impact of something, such as a feeling, sound, or movement
10. Extensive areas of _____ plants are usually called marsh.
- adj.* starting to exist or view, or to become known
11. The police frantically searched for clues to the _____ killer.
- n.* a ghost or a spirit of a dead person; something existing only in your imagination or perception

ANSWERS: 8. roadway, 9. dampen, 10. emergent, 11. phantom