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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Cathy Mulzer: The incredible chemistry powering your smartphone | TED Talk

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

e_chemistry_powering_your_smartphone



Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

waltz

 a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure

synonym: ballroom dance, tango, foxtrot

(1) waltz music, (2) elegant waltz

The dancers practiced the steps of the **waltz** meticulously to perfect their performance.

pretension

 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.
- a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers

synonym: sprite, pixie, faerie

mischievous elf, (2) helpful elf
 dressed up as an elf for the Christmas party.

elf

superhighway

- n. a large, wide road designed for high-speed trafficsynonym: expressway, motorway, artery
- (1) six-lane **superhighway**, (2) a tollgate of a **superhighway**

The University provides a wireless Internet **superhighway** to its students.

paperweight

n. a small, heavy object, often made of glass or metal, that is designed to hold down papers or other items on a desk or table; an object, usually an electronic device or piece of machinery, that is non-functional or useless for its intended purpose

synonym: desk weight, document holder

(1) metallic **paperweight**, (2) **paperweight** gift
The stained-glass **paperweight** added a pop of color to the desk.

electrify

to make a machine or system work by using electricity;
 to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or
 interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

footprint

- n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surfacesynonym: footmark, imprint, impression
- (1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

selfie

 a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media

synonym: self-portrait, self-photo, self-snap

(1) **selfie** stick, (2) pose for a **selfie**

She took a **selfie** in front of the famous tower and shared it on the app.

recharge

tether

to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep

synonym: renew, refresh, replenish

- (1) **recharge** brain and body, (2) **recharge** energy He needed to **recharge** his phone before the meeting.
- to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog

synonym: tie, fasten, secure

(1) **tether** a horse, (2) **tether** strap

The hiker **tethered** their dog to a tree while they camped for the night.

motherboard

the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function

synonym: mainboard

- (1) motherboard upgrade, (2) faulty motherboard The performance of a computer largely depends on the quality of the motherboard.
- a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics

synonym: semiconductor, microchip, circuit

(1) transistor radio, (2) transistor circuit

The invention of the **transistor** revolutionized the field of electronics.

transistor

capacitor

 a device that is placed inside electronic equipment such as televisions and radios and that stores electrical charge

synonym: condenser

(1) capacitor load, (2) AC capacitor

Hundreds of ceramic **capacitors** are used in a single smartphone.

spool

 a cylindrical device with a flange at one or both ends, containing a hollow center and used to wind or store wire, thread, tape, film, or other flexible materials

synonym: bobbin, reel, cylinder

(1) **spool** pin, (2) **spool** of tape

I need a new **spool** of thread for my sewing machine.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym: assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym: isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

formaldehyde

 a colorless, flammable liquid with a strong, pungent smell used as a preservative and in the manufacture of various products

synonym: methanal

(1) **formaldehyde** solution, (2) **formaldehyde** odor Exposure to high levels of **formaldehyde** can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat, as well as respiratory problems and cancer.

redox

 a chemical reaction in which there is a transfer of electrons from one molecule to another, resulting in a change in the oxidation state (or degree of electron loss or gain) of one or more atoms

synonym: oxidation-reduction, electron transfer

(1) redox reaction, (2) redox equilibrium

In a **redox** process, one substance gains electrons while another loses them.

micron

 a unit of measurement equal to one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms

synonym: micrometer

micron measurements, (2) micron imaging
 width of a single human hair is around 100 microns.

nanoscale

- adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
- (1) nanoscale device, (2) things at the nanoscale
 This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the nanoscale lattice structure of the metal.

lithograph

n. a printmaking process that involves creating a design on a flat stone or metal plate, transferring the design to paper using ink, and then printing multiple copies of the design

synonym: print, etching, engraving

- (1) **lithograph** print, (2) limited edition **lithograph** The art gallery showcased a collection of colorful **lithographic** prints by renowned artists.
- v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

synonym: stuff, pack, jam

(1) cram more circuits into chips, (2) cram five people into a

cram

car

She had to **cram** for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.

excite

- v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate
- (1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion The news of her promotion **excited** her.

app

 n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym: application, software

(1) killer app, (2) cannot log in to the app

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

nook

- n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
 synonym: niche, corner, alcove
- (1) every **nook** and cranny, (2) breakfast **nook**The kitchen **nook** was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.

cranny

a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock

synonym: crevice, nook, niche

(1) a **cranny** in the corner, (2) look in every nook and **cranny**

The mouse squeezed into the tiniest **cranny** of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.

latch

 a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt

synonym: lock, catch, bolt

(1) set the latch, (2) latch mechanism

The **latch** on the gate was broken, so the cows got loose.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

adhesion

n. the action or process of sticking to something; the physical force that holds surfaces together, especially in the case of two different materials that are in contact with each other

synonym: bonding, stickiness, constancy

(1) **adhesion** strength, (2) chemical **adhesion**The **adhesion** of the duct tape to the surface was surprisingly strong.

physicist

- n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
- (1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

skyrocket

- v. to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly; synonym: rocket, soar, shoot up
- (1) **skyrocket** the cost, (2) price **skyrocketed**Production has decreased, but costs and unemployment have **skyrocketed** dramatically.

sidekick

- a person who is closely associated with and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion
 synonym: companion, helper, ally
- (1) a detective's **sidekick**, (2) his best friend's **sidekick**The superhero's **sidekick** was always there to help him.

Session 2: Spelling

| 1. | the fonts of an earlier civilization | n. | a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| 2. | min measurements | n. | a unit of measurement equal to one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms |
| 3. | elfy a manufacturing process | v. | to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something |
| 4. | breakfast nk | n. | a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet |
| 5. | elfy the audience | v. | to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something |
| 6. | set the lah | n. | a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt |
| 7. | exe rebellion | ν. | to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 8. | mischievous e_f | n. | a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers |
| 9. | rege energy | v. | to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew |

ANSWERS: 1. footprint, 2. micron, 3. electrify, 4. nook, 5. electrify, 6. latch, 7. excite, 8. elf, 9. recharge

oneself by rest or sleep

ANSWERS: 10. capacitor, 11. formaldehyde, 12. elf, 13. lithograph, 14. cranny, 15. cram, 16. superhighway, 17. redox, 18. pretension

ambition

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24. nook, 25. lithograph, 26. industrious

a person who is closely associated with 27. his best friend's si ck n. and supports another person, especially in a work or professional capacity; a person who is a close and loyal companion 28. in___te electricity to protect something by interposing ν. material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc. 29. la__h mechanism a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt the act of claiming or asserting 30. baseless pre on n. something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition (abbreviation for application) software 31. cannot log in to the a p n. designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC 32. six-lane sup way a large, wide road designed for high-speed traffic 33. pose for a se___e a photograph that one has taken of n. oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on social media 34. na____le device adi. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale 35. se___e stick a photograph that one has taken of n. oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam to share on

ANSWERS: 27. sidekick, 28. insulate, 29. latch, 30. pretension, 31. app, 32. superhighway, 33. selfie, 34. nanoscale, 35. selfie

social media

ANSWERS: 36. capacitor, 37. formaldehyde, 38. physicist, 39. posit, 40. posit, 41. tether, 42. transistor, 43. adhesion

of two different materials that are in

contact with each other

a ballroom dance in triple time that 44. elegant wa z n. originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure 45. sp I pin a cylindrical device with a flange at one n. or both ends, containing a hollow center and used to wind or store wire, thread, tape, film, or other flexible materials 46. faulty mot____rd the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function the main circuit board in a computer or 47. mot rd upgrade n. other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function 48. mi___n imaging a unit of measurement equal to n. one-millionth of a meter, used for measuring the size of particles and microorganisms (abbreviation for application) software 49. killer a p designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC 50. price sk____eted to rapidly ascend to a very high level; increase rapidly; 51. te___r a horse to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog

ANSWERS: 44. waltz, 45. spool, 46. motherboard, 47. motherboard, 48. micron, 49. app, 50. skyrocket, 51. tether

ANSWERS: 52. paperweight, 53. waltz, 54. sidekick, 55. physicist, 56. transistor, 57. adhesion, 58. industrious

a chemical reaction in which there is a 59. re x equilibrium n. transfer of electrons from one molecule to another, resulting in a change in the oxidation state (or degree of electron loss or gain) of one or more atoms to force or try to fit a large amount of 60. c m five people into a car ν. information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space 61. a cr___y in the corner a small, narrow opening or crack, n. especially in a wall or rock 62. sk____et the cost to rapidly ascend to a very high level; ν. increase rapidly; to make someone feel suddenly 63. ex___e the crowd enthusiastic or eager 64. in____te the room from sound to protect something by interposing ν. material that prevents heat, noise,

ANSWERS: 59. redox, 60. cram, 61. cranny, 62. skyrocket, 63. excite, 64. insulate

electricity, etc.

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

| 1. <i>n</i> . | The University provides a wireless Internet to its students. a large, wide road designed for high-speed traffic |
|------------------|--|
| 2. v. | The news of her promotion her. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| | The performance of a computer largely depends on the quality of the |
| n. | the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function |
| 4. n. | The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the release. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC |
| 5. n. | The kitchen was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet |
| | This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling thelattice structure of the metal. |
| adj. | on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale |
| 7. n. | The of the duct tape to the surface was surprisingly strong. the action or process of sticking to something; the physical force that holds surfaces together, especially in the case of two different materials that are in contact with each other |
| | SWERS: 1. superhighway, 2. excited, 3. motherboard, 4. app's, 5. nook, 6. oscale, 7. adhesion |

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skyrocketed, 22. posit

ANSWERS: 23. waltz, 24. electrify, 25. tethered, 26. cram, 27. microns, 28. paperweight

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ANSWERS: 29. footprint, 30. lithographic, 31. spool, 32. industrious