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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mike Brown: The search for our solar system's ninth planet | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

astronomer

n. a physicist who studies astronomy

synonym: stargazer, cosmologist, astrophysicist

(1) amateur **astronomer**, (2) solar **astronomer**

This question has fascinated solar **astronomers** for decades.

meticulously

adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully

synonym: carefully, attentively, scrupulously

(1) **meticulously** crafted product, (2) **meticulously** executed

She **meticulously** planned every detail of her wedding.

tug

v. to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

synonym: draw, jerk, pull

(1) **tug** a rope, (2) **tug** at his hand

This movie **tugs** at everyone's heartstrings.

gravitational

adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

synonym: weighty, heavy, earthbound

(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves

The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.

observatory

n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

(1) space **observatory**, (2) a meteorological **observatory**

That astronomical **observatory** stands at the top of the mountain.

discrepancy

n. a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

synonym: inconsistency, difference, disparity

(1) significant **discrepancy**, (2) a **discrepancy** in the report

There is a **discrepancy** between the study's findings and the collected data.

allege

v. to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence

synonym: claim, assert, state

(1) **allege** abuse, (2) **allege** wrongdoing

The prosecution **alleged** that the defendant was guilty of the crime.

icy

adj. covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness

synonym: frosty, cold, glacial

(1) **icy** clouds, (2) cast **icy** eyes

The **icy** surface of the pond was not safe for skating.

Jovian

adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

synonym: Jupiter, giant planet

(1) **Jovian** satellites, (2) **Jovian** planet

The **Jovian** moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

overlook

v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

synonym: disregard, look down, supervise

(1) **overlook** a street, (2) **overlook** that fact

We cannot **overlook** an opportunity for great success.

elongate

v. to extend something in length; to lengthen, stretch out, or to make longer

synonym: stretch, lengthen, extend

(1) **elongate** muscles, (2) **elongate** a dress

The yoga instructor told us to **elongate** our spines during the practice.

slingshot

n. a Y-shaped stick with an elastic band attached for shooting small stones or other projectiles

synonym: catapult, launcher, trebuchet

(1) **slingshot** projectile, (2) **slingshot** aim

The kids used a **slingshot** to launch small stones into the pond.

discredit

v. to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable

synonym: disprove, undermine, disgrace

(1) **discredit** a theory, (2) **discredit** a witness

The company's unethical practices have **discredited** its brand image in the eyes of consumers.

cocoon

n. a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates

synonym: chrysalis, pupa, case

(1) **cocoon** silk, (2) a dried **cocoon**

The caterpillar spins a **cocoon** around itself before turning

into a butterfly.

perturb

v. to disturb or agitate someone or something, causing feelings of anxiety or unease; to throw something into a state of chaos or disorder

synonym: disturb, agitate, unsettle

(1) **perturb** emotions, (2) **perturb** the peace

The loud music from the party next door is starting to **perturb** me.

dissipated

adj. dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline

synonym: debauched, dissolute, decadent

(1) **dissipated** lifestyle, (2) **dissipated** energy

His **dissipated** behavior at the party concerned his friends, who wondered if he had a substance abuse problem.

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.

celestial

adj. relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens

synonym: heavenly, divine, ethereal

(1) **celestial** bliss, (2) **celestial** navigation

The **celestial** bodies in the night sky were beautiful to behold.

perihelion

n. the point in the orbit of a planet, asteroid, or comet at which it is closest to the sun

synonym: closest approach, minimum distance

(1) Jupiter's **perihelion**, (2) **perihelion** passage

Scientists can determine the **perihelion** distance of a comet by tracking its orbit around the sun.

plaza

n. a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

synonym: park, square, center

(1) main **plaza**, (2) memorial **plaza**

Three young men were busking in the shopping **plaza**.

baffle

v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

synonym: perplex, astound, hinder

(1) **baffle** his plan, (2) **baffle** outside noises

The paradox **baffled** most philosophers.

fluke

n. a stroke of luck or chance, often resulting in a positive outcome or unexpected success; an accidental or unplanned occurrence

synonym: chance, accident, stroke of luck

(1) lucky **fluke**, (2) **fluke** accident

Winning the lottery was just a **fluke**; I didn't expect it to happen.

Session 2: Spelling

1. co___n silk *n.* a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
2. gra_____nal energy *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
3. Jo___n satellites *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
4. al___e abuse *v.* to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence
5. ba___e his plan *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
6. ce_____al navigation *adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
7. met_____sly crafted product *adv.* with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
8. space obs_____ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
9. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
10. pe_____b emotions *v.* to disturb or agitate someone or something, causing feelings of anxiety or unease; to throw something into a state of chaos or disorder
11. pe_____b the peace *v.* to disturb or agitate someone or something, causing feelings of anxiety or unease; to throw something into a state of chaos or disorder

ANSWERS: 1. cocoon, 2. gravitational, 3. Jovian, 4. allege, 5. baffle, 6. celestial, 7. meticulously, 8. observatory, 9. excite, 10. perturb, 11. perturb

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|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| 12. el____te muscles | <i>v.</i> | to extend something in length; to lengthen, stretch out, or to make longer |
| 13. al___e wrongdoing | <i>v.</i> | to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence |
| 14. lucky fl__e | <i>n.</i> | a stroke of luck or chance, often resulting in a positive outcome or unexpected success; an accidental or unplanned occurrence |
| 15. main pl__a | <i>n.</i> | a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries |
| 16. buck and d_e | <i>n.</i> | a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit |
| 17. per_____on passage | <i>n.</i> | the point in the orbit of a planet, asteroid, or comet at which it is closest to the sun |
| 18. i_y clouds | <i>adj.</i> | covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness |
| 19. sl_____ot projectile | <i>n.</i> | a Y-shaped stick with an elastic band attached for shooting small stones or other projectiles |
| 20. a dried co___n | <i>n.</i> | a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates |
| 21. di_____it a witness | <i>v.</i> | to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable |
| 22. ov_____ok that fact | <i>v.</i> | to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above |

ANSWERS: 12. elongate, 13. allege, 14. fluke, 15. plaza, 16. doe, 17. perihelion, 18. icy, 19. slingshot, 20. cocoon, 21. discredit, 22. overlook

23. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
24. Jupiter's per_____on *n.* the point in the orbit of a planet, asteroid, or comet at which it is closest to the sun
25. dis_____ed energy *adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
26. met_____sly executed *adv.* with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
27. Jo___n planet *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
28. di_____it a theory *v.* to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable
29. cast i_y eyes *adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness
30. a dis_____cy in the report *n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence
31. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
32. t_g at his hand *v.* to pull something quickly and hard, often several times
33. memorial pl__a *n.* a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

ANSWERS: 23. doe, 24. perihelion, 25. dissipated, 26. meticulously, 27. Jovian, 28. discredit, 29. icy, 30. discrepancy, 31. excite, 32. tug, 33. plaza

34. fl__e accident *n.* a stroke of luck or chance, often resulting in a positive outcome or unexpected success; an accidental or unplanned occurrence
35. sl_____ot aim *n.* a Y-shaped stick with an elastic band attached for shooting small stones or other projectiles
36. ba___e outside noises *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
37. amateur ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
38. el_____te a dress *v.* to extend something in length; to lengthen, stretch out, or to make longer
39. solar ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
40. significant dis_____cy *n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence
41. t_g a rope *v.* to pull something quickly and hard, often several times
42. gra_____nal waves *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
43. ce_____al bliss *adj.* relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
44. ov_____ok a street *v.* to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

ANSWERS: 34. fluke, 35. slingshot, 36. baffle, 37. astronomer, 38. elongate, 39. astronomer, 40. discrepancy, 41. tug, 42. gravitational, 43. celestial, 44. overlook

45. dis_____ed lifestyle

adj. dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline

46. a meteorological obs_____ry

n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

ANSWERS: 45. dissipated, 46. observatory

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. There is a _____ between the study's findings and the collected data.
n. a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

2. The ____ surface of the pond was not safe for skating.
adj. covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness

3. She _____ planned every detail of her wedding.
adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully

4. This movie _____ at everyone's heartstrings.
v. to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

5. We cannot _____ an opportunity for great success.
v. to fail to notice something; to watch over someone; to provide a view from above

6. The paradox _____ most philosophers.
v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

7. The yoga instructor told us to _____ our spines during the practice.
v. to extend something in length; to lengthen, stretch out, or to make longer

8. Three young men were busking in the shopping _____.
n. a public square, marketplace, or similar open area in a town, especially in Spanish-speaking countries

ANSWERS: 1. discrepancy, 2. icy, 3. meticulously, 4. tugs, 5. overlook, 6. baffled, 7. elongate, 8. plaza

9. The loud music from the party next door is starting to _____ me.
v. to disturb or agitate someone or something, causing feelings of anxiety or unease; to throw something into a state of chaos or disorder
10. Winning the lottery was just a _____ I didn't expect it to happen.
n. a stroke of luck or chance, often resulting in a positive outcome or unexpected success; an accidental or unplanned occurrence
11. The prosecution _____ that the defendant was guilty of the crime.
v. to claim or assert that something is true without providing proof or evidence
12. The caterpillar spins a _____ around itself before turning into a butterfly.
n. a protective covering spun by some insects and other invertebrates
13. The _____ bodies in the night sky were beautiful to behold.
adj. relating to the sky or the heavens; of or like the sky or the heavens
14. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
15. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
16. This question has fascinated solar _____ for decades.
n. a physicist who studies astronomy
17. The _____ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

ANSWERS: 9. perturb, 10. fluke;, 11. alleged, 12. cocoon, 13. celestial, 14. doe, 15. excited, 16. astronomers, 17. gravitational

18. The company's unethical practices have _____ its brand image in the eyes of consumers.
- v.* to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable
19. The kids used a _____ to launch small stones into the pond.
- n.* a Y-shaped stick with an elastic band attached for shooting small stones or other projectiles
20. That astronomical _____ stands at the top of the mountain.
- n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
21. His _____ behavior at the party concerned his friends, who wondered if he had a substance abuse problem.
- adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
22. Scientists can determine the _____ distance of a comet by tracking its orbit around the sun.
- n.* the point in the orbit of a planet, asteroid, or comet at which it is closest to the sun
23. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
- adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

ANSWERS: 18. discredited, 19. slingshot, 20. observatory, 21. dissipated, 22. perihelion, 23. Jovian