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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Brandon Clifford: Architectural secrets of the world's ancient wonders | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

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**.

shroud

n. a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically

synonym : cover, veil, cloak

(1) **shroud** of mystery, (2) **shroud** of suspicion

The protective **shroud** covered the body in the coffin at the funeral.

primordial

adj. existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe

synonym : ancient, original, primary

(1) **primordial** forms of life, (2) **primordial** gas

The discovery of the **primordial** soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.

wobble

v. to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down

synonym : sway, rock, totter

(1) **wobble** a few steps, (2) **wobble** chair

The table **wobbled** a little when I put my drink on it.

mythical

adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

synonym : mythological, fictitious, legendary

(1) **mythical** heroes, (2) **mythical** world

Many cultures have their **mythical** creatures and legends.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym : forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

moai

n. a large stone statue found on Easter Island, typically depicting a human figure with a large head and prominent facial features

synonym : Easter Island statue, monolithic statue

(1) monolithic **moai**, (2) **moai** culture

Tourists flock to Easter Island to see the mysterious **moai** statues.

pivot

n. a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances

synonym : center point, fulcrum, heart

(1) center- **pivot** irrigation, (2) **pivot** point

The team needed to come up with a **pivot** strategy to turn things around.

colossal

adj. extremely large and impressive

synonym : gigantic, huge, enormous

(1) **colossal** statue, (2) a **colossal** success

The new building is truly **colossal**, towering over the

surrounding buildings.

megalith

n. a large, prehistoric stone monument or structure, typically consisting of one or more upright stones (megaliths) and a horizontal stone (lintel) on top

synonym: monolith, standing stone, monument

(1) **megalith** monument, (2) **megalith** structure

The archaeologists spent years studying the **megaliths** at Stonehenge to understand their historical significance.

behemoth

n. something extremely large and powerful; a huge or monstrous creature, often mythical in nature

synonym: giant, monster, colossus

(1) **behemoth** company, (2) technology **behemoth**

The construction site was filled with **behemoth** machines.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

rediscover

v. to discover or find again something that was previously known but lost

synonym: recover, get back, revive

(1) **rediscover** a value, (2) **rediscover** an old truth

The painting was **rediscovered** in an attic and turned out to be a long-lost masterpiece.

compel

v. to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

synonym: force, oblige, coerce

(1) **compel** a person to submission, (2) **compel** attention

The strict deadlines will **compel** the team to work efficiently.

Session 2: Spelling

1. my____al world *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
2. monolithic m__i *n.* a large stone statue found on Easter Island, typically depicting a human figure with a large head and prominent facial features
3. pri____al forms of life *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
4. sh____d of mystery *n.* a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically
5. pri____al gas *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
6. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
7. me____th monument *n.* a large, prehistoric stone monument or structure, typically consisting of one or more upright stones (megaliths) and a horizontal stone (lintel) on top
8. co____al statue *adj.* extremely large and impressive
9. co____l a person to submission *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

ANSWERS: 1. mythical, 2. moai, 3. primordial, 4. shroud, 5. primordial, 6. ancestor, 7. megalith, 8. colossal, 9. compel

10. earliest human an____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
11. co___l attention *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
12. red_____er an old truth *v.* to discover or find again something that was previously known but lost
13. pi__t point *n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
14. red_____er a value *v.* to discover or find again something that was previously known but lost
15. be_____th company *n.* something extremely large and powerful; a huge or monstrous creature, often mythical in nature
16. wo___e chair *v.* to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down
17. wo___e a few steps *v.* to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down
18. center-pi__t irrigation *n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
19. a co_____al success *adj.* extremely large and impressive
20. my_____al heroes *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

ANSWERS: 10. ancestor, 11. compel, 12. rediscover, 13. pivot, 14. rediscover, 15. behemoth, 16. wobble, 17. wobble, 18. pivot, 19. colossal, 20. mythical

21. technology be____th *n.* something extremely large and powerful; a huge or monstrous creature, often mythical in nature
22. il_____al reasoning *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
23. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
24. sh____d of suspicion *n.* a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically
25. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
26. il_____al argument *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
27. m__i culture *n.* a large stone statue found on Easter Island, typically depicting a human figure with a large head and prominent facial features
28. me_____th structure *n.* a large, prehistoric stone monument or structure, typically consisting of one or more upright stones (megaliths) and a horizontal stone (lintel) on top

ANSWERS: 21. behemoth, 22. illogical, 23. onstage, 24. shroud, 25. onstage, 26. illogical, 27. moai, 28. megalith

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The new building is truly _____ towering over the surrounding buildings.
adj. extremely large and impressive
2. His argument made no sense and was completely _____.
adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
3. Many cultures have their _____ creatures and legends.
adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
4. The team needed to come up with a _____ strategy to turn things around.
n. a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
5. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
6. The table _____ a little when I put my drink on it.
v. to move or shake unsteadily from side to side or up and down
7. The protective _____ covered the body in the coffin at the funeral.
n. a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically
8. Tourists flock to Easter Island to see the mysterious _____ statues.
n. a large stone statue found on Easter Island, typically depicting a human figure with a large head and prominent facial features

ANSWERS: 1. colossal, 2. illogical, 3. mythical, 4. pivot, 5. onstage, 6. wobbled, 7. shroud, 8. moai

9. The painting was _____ in an attic and turned out to be a long-lost masterpiece.
- v.* to discover or find again something that was previously known but lost
10. The construction site was filled with _____ machines.
- n.* something extremely large and powerful; a huge or monstrous creature, often mythical in nature
11. The strict deadlines will _____ the team to work efficiently.
- v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
12. The archaeologists spent years studying the _____ at Stonehenge to understand their historical significance.
- n.* a large, prehistoric stone monument or structure, typically consisting of one or more upright stones (megaliths) and a horizontal stone (lintel) on top
13. The discovery of the _____ soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.
- adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
14. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
- n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 9. rediscovered, 10. behemoth, 11. compel, 12. megaliths, 13. primordial, 14. ancestor