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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Brooks: The lies our culture tells us about what matters -- and a better way to live | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/david_brooks_the_lies_our_culture_tells_us_about_what_matters_and_a_better_way_to_live



Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym: shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

conservatism

a political and social ideology that seeks to preserve traditional values, institutions, and practices and resist change or innovation, often associated with a preference for limited government, free markets, and strong national defense

synonym: traditionalism, preservation

 fiscal conservatism, (2) conservatism party
 Conservatism in politics tends to prioritize traditional values and limited government intervention.

utensil

n. a tool used in the house

synonym: appliance, equipment, instrument

(1) cooking utensils, (2) cleaning utensils

This cuisine requires special kitchen utensils.

envelop

- v. to surround and cover completely; to encase synonym: wrap, cover, surround
- (1) **envelop** the whole world, (2) **envelop** her in a bear hug The fog **enveloped** the city, making it difficult to see.

howl

v. to make a prolonged, loud, mournful cry or noise, typically as a signal of distress, pain, or an intense emotion; to express one's strong feelings or emotions in a loud and unrestrained manner; (noun) a long, loud, mournful sound made by a person or an animal, often in response to pain, fear, or sadness

synonym: wail, scream, shriek

(1) howl at the moon, (2) howl of anger

The wolves began to **howl** in the distance as the sunset.

sham

 something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham** The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

self-sufficient

adj. able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others

synonym: independent, self-reliant, self-sustaining

(1) **self-sufficient** economy, (2) **self-sufficient** renewable energy

He was determined to become **self-sufficient** and not rely on anyone else.

deathbed

 a person's bed, especially one in a hospital or home, on which they are expected to die or have died; a situation or event that occurs shortly before the end of someone's life

synonym: dying bed, death watch, last moments

(1) **deathbed** confession, (2) **deathbed** scene The family gathered around their grandfather's **deathbed** to say goodbye.

meritocratic

- adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievementssynonym: merit-based, fair, unbiased
- (1) **meritocratic** society, (2) **meritocratic** evaluation

 The company prides itself on being **meritocratic** in its hiring and promotion practices.

anthropology

- n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
- (1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

purify

v. to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

synonym: refine, filter, clarify

(1) **purify** hydrogen gas, (2) **purify** the blood The equipment is frequently used to **purify** and distribute drinking water.

evasion

 the act of avoiding or escaping from someone or something, such as an opponent, a pursuer, or an unpleasant situation

synonym: escape, avoidance, dodging

(1) **evasion** of responsibility, (2) take shelter in **evasion** The **evasion** of his responsibility was reprehensible.

millennial

adj. relating to a period of a thousand years or the year2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980sand the late 1990s, also called Generation Y

synonym: thousand, (noun) Generation Y

(1) **millennial** record, (2) the **millennial** reign Earth's ecosystems are greatly affected by **millennial-scale** changes in climate.

opioid

- substances that have an effect similar to opium, such as morphine, used in medicines to treat severe pain, but some people take them illegally for pleasure and become addicted
- (1) an **opioid** analgesic, (2) **opioid** receptor Treatment for **opioid** dependence may be a long-term process.

cascade

- n. a small waterfall or series of small waterfalls; a succession of stages or operations or processes or units
 synonym: waterfall, watercourse, step
- (1) cascade connection, (2) transistor cascade
 The cascade of waterfalls in the national park was a breathtaking sight.

adrift

 adj. without purpose or direction; floating with no clear destination or goal; lacking a stable or secure position or status

synonym: afloat, aimless, unanchored

(1) adrift boat, (2) adrift at sea

After their boat engine failed, they were left **adrift** in the middle of the ocean.

uncommitted

adj. not pledged or bound to a specific opinion, belief, or course of action

synonym: undecided, neutral, nonaligned

(1) **uncommitted** voter, (2) **uncommitted** people
The politician should have taken a stance on the issue,
remaining **uncommitted** until more information was

available.

resentful

adj. feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly

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synonym: bitter, indignant, angry

- (1) **resentful** attitude, (2) grow bitter and **resentful** She was **resentful** of her ex-partner's new relationship, feeling that he had unfairly replaced her.
- v. to strike or hit someone with a whip or other flexible instrument; to criticize or rebuke someone severely; to bind or tie something tightly with a cord or strap

synonym: whip, beat, strike

(1) lash the oxen, (2) lash a rope

The mother lashed out at her child for misbehaving in public.

theologian

- n. an expert or student who studies theologysynonym: clergyperson, philosopher, scholar
- Swedish theologian, (2) great theologians
 Death gets more than its share of attention from theologians.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym: sculpt, engrave, cut

- (1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.
- n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

yearn

- v. to strongly desire or long for something synonym: long, desire, crave
- yearn after my old days, (2) yearn for love
 She yearned for the days when things were simpler.

lash

rev

leftover

adj. not consumed or used at the end of something synonym: extra, residual, unused

(1) **leftover** from a party, (2) **leftover** goods

The chef will make soup with the **leftover** ham bone.

blossom

n. the reproductive structure on a flowering plant that consists of usually colorful petals and a typically green calyx (merging of sepals); the state or time of flowering; the peak of a person's or thing's development or success

synonym: flower, bloom, bud

(1) apple **blossom**, (2) **blossom** garden

The cherry **blossom** trees in the park were in full bloom, creating a beautiful sight.

obliterate

v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory

synonym: destroy, eliminate, erase

(1) **obliterate** all traces, (2) **obliterate** data

The accident at that nuclear power plant **obliterated** the local ecosystem.

crumble

- v. to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
 synonym: disintegrate, collapse, deteriorate
- (1) **crumble** to dust, (2) began to **crumble** under financial pressure

The old building was starting to **crumble** due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance.

inexplicable

adj. unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling

synonym: incomprehensible, mysterious, unaccountable

(1) inexplicable event, (2) inexplicable decision

The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was **inexplicable**.

downstairs

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

synonym: below

(1) creep downstairs, (2) escort him downstairs

Please get the desk **downstairs**.

huggy

adj. showing a strong inclination to hug or embrace others, either for comfort or affection, often used in a playful or affectionate way

synonym: affectionate, cuddly, loving

(1) huggy teddy bear, (2) huggy mood

He's not a very **huggy**, so it surprised me when he reached out for a hug.

intimacy

 n. close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person

synonym: closeness, familiarity, nearness

(1) on terms of intimacy, (2) build intimacy

They were looking for **intimacy** in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.

aspen

 a deciduous tree with smooth, white bark that often trembles or quakes in the wind; a type of skiing that involves quick, short turns on steep slopes

synonym: tree, hardwood

(1) aspen grove, (2) golden aspen leaves

The **aspen** trees turned a bright yellow in the fall, creating a beautiful sight.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym: braid, unite, contrive

(1) weave on a loom, (2) weave a story

The girl weaves a garland for her friend.

plop

 a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water

synonym: drop, flop, plunk

(1) loud **plop**, (2) **plop** of water

The ball fell into the water with a **plop**.

weaver

- n. the craftsman whose job is weaving cloth
- the textile weavers, (2) tapestry weavers
 the weaver fringed the scarf.

butler

 a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties

synonym: valet, majordomo, manservant

(1) butler service, (2) household butler

The personal **butler** announced that dinner was ready, and the guests went to the dining room.

individualism

n. the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant

synonym: self-reliance, autonomy, self-sufficiency

(1) rampant **individualism**, (2) nation of **individualism** An ethic of **individualism** encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.

relationism

 a philosophical or theoretical approach that emphasizes the importance of relationships between individuals or objects rather than their specific qualities or attributes

synonym: contextualism, relativism

(1) **relationism** theory, (2) **relationism** philosophy Her research adopted a **relationism** approach, focusing on the interconnectedness of different societal groups.

certitude

a state of complete confidence or certainty; the quality of being assured or convinced beyond doubt
 synonym: confidence, assurance, conviction

(1) certitude belief, (2) certitude theoryI have no certitude about what the future holds.

empathy

- n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situationsynonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness
- (1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients **Empathy** is also necessary to understand history.

naturalism

- a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
- (1) **naturalism** in literature, (2) philosophical **naturalism** The scientific method is often seen as an embodiment of **naturalism**, as it seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.

jellyfish

 a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging

synonym: medusa, sea nettle, moon jelly

(1) spineless **jellyfish**, (2) **jellyfish** sting
The beach was filled with hundreds of **jellyfish**, so swimming was not recommended.

astonishing

- adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believesynonym: surprising, shocking, astounding
- (1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

stingray

 a marine fish with a flattened diamond-shaped body, a long tail bearing venomous spines, and large pectoral fins that are used for swimming

synonym: sting fish

(1) **stingray** habitat, (2) blue-spotted **stingray**The tour guide warned us not to step on a hidden **stingray** in

the shallow water.

vocation

 a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation; a person's employment or main occupation, seen as worthy of dedication and commitment; a calling or strong inclination toward a particular way of life

synonym: occupation, profession, career

(1) **vocation** training, (2) artistic **vocation**Her **vocation** as a nurse gave her great satisfaction and purpose in life.

dissolve

- v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
- synonym: disband, disappear, liquefy
- (1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

blacksmith

- a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
- (1) **blacksmith** welding, (2) **blacksmith** shop The **blacksmith** shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.

nightclub

 a venue that typically operates late into the night, offering music, dancing, and drinks

synonym: discotheque, club, dance hall

(1) **nightclub** entertainment, (2) **nightclub** music

They decided to go to the **nightclub** to dance the night away.

terrify

- v. to frighten someone very much synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify
- (1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebodysynonym: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

morph

- v. to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to anothersynonym: alter, modify, transform
- (1) **morph** into a different shape, (2) **morph** into something entirely different

This company **morphed** into an enterprise company.

mindset

 the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

synonym: attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	philosophical natsm	n.	a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
2.	antogy of religion	n.	the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
3.	deed confession	n.	a person's bed, especially one in a hospital or home, on which they are expected to die or have died; a situation or event that occurs shortly before the end of someone's life
4.	reul attitude	adj.	feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly
5.	relsm philosophy	n.	a philosophical or theoretical approach that emphasizes the importance of relationships between individuals or objects rather than their specific qualities or attributes
6.	moh into something entirely different	v.	to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
7.	I_h a rope	ν.	to strike or hit someone with a whip or other flexible instrument; to criticize or rebuke someone severely; to bind or tie something tightly with a cord or strap

ANSWERS: 1. naturalism, 2. anthropology, 3. deathbed, 4. resentful, 5. relationism, 6. morph, 7. lash

morph, 30. conservatism, 31. opioid, 32. envelop

ab-Builder Ref from "David Brooks: The lies our culture tel	s us about what matters and a better way to live TED Talk" (5	2 words
33. adt at sea	 adj. without purpose or direction; floating with no clear destination or goal; lacking a stable or secure position or status 	ng
34. selent economy	adj. able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others	
35. household bur	 a male servant in charge of serving for and drinks and taking care of household duties 	
36. cre to dust	v. to break or fall apart into small pieces fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support	or
37. stay habitat	 n. a marine fish with a flattened diamond-shaped body, a long tail bearing venomous spines, and large pectoral fins that are used for swimmir 	ng
38. Swedish thean	n. an expert or student who studies theology	
39. yen for love	ν. to strongly desire or long for something	g
40. he was ovlmed with gratitude	 ν. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody 	
41. golden asn leaves	n. a deciduous tree with smooth, white bark that often trembles or quakes in the wind; a type of skiing that involves quick, short turns on steep slopes	
42. began to cre under financial pressure	v. to break or fall apart into small pieces fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support	or
43. ve n after mv old davs	v. to strongly desire or long for something	a

ANSWERS: 33. adrift, 34. self-sufficient, 35. butler, 36. crumble, 37. stingray, 38. theologian, 39. yearn, 40. overwhelm, 41. aspen, 42. crumble, 43. yearn

49. humiliate, 50. blossom, 51. sham, 52. jellyfish

nightclub, 58. inexplicable, 59. obliterate, 60. empathy, 61. evasion

67. butler, 68. carve, 69. lash

ANSWERS: 70. terrify, 71. terrify, 72. weave, 73. downstairs, 74. humiliate, 75. plop, 76. plop, 77. deathbed, 78. certitude, 79. carve

stone; to turn sharply

88.	ovIm opponents by numbers	<i>v</i> .	to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
89.	mertic evaluation	adj.	based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
90.	grow bitter and reul	adj.	feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly
91.	adt boat	adj.	without purpose or direction; floating with no clear destination or goal; lacking a stable or secure position or status
92.	ineble event	adj.	unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
93.	huy teddy bear	adj.	showing a strong inclination to hug or embrace others, either for comfort or affection, often used in a playful or affectionate way
94.	leer goods	adj.	not consumed or used at the end of something
95.	astng achievement	adj.	surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
96.	the milal reign	adj.	relating to a period of a thousand years or the year 2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, also called Generation Y
97.	social antogy	n.	the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
AN	SWERS: 88. overwhelm, 89. meritocrat		•

93. huggy, 94. leftover, 95. astonishing, 96. millennial, 97. anthropology

98.	flexible mi	it
99.	unc	ed voter

100. unc____ed people

101. build in____cy

102. pu___y the blood

103. low-r_v engine

104. as_n grove

- the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
- adj. not pledged or bound to a specific opinion, belief, or course of action
- adj. not pledged or bound to a specific opinion, belief, or course of action
- close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
- v. to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
- n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
- a deciduous tree with smooth, white bark that often trembles or quakes in the wind; a type of skiing that involves quick, short turns on steep slopes

ANSWERS: 98. mindset, 99. uncommitted, 100. uncommitted, 101. intimacy, 102. purify, 103. rev, 104. aspen

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	It would be best not to your associates into doing complex tasks.
<i>v</i> .	to frighten someone very much
2.	is also necessary to understand history.
n.	the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
3.	The scientific method is often seen as an embodiment of as it seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.
n.	a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
4.	The wolves began to in the distance as the sunset.
v.	to make a prolonged, loud, mournful cry or noise, typically as a signal of distress, pain, or an intense emotion; to express one's strong feelings or emotions in a loud and unrestrained manner; (noun) a long, loud, mournful sound made by a person or an animal, often in response to pain, fear, or sadness
5.	Please get the desk
ad	on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
6.	This company into an enterprise company.
<i>v</i> .	to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
7.	I have no about what the future holds.
n.	a state of complete confidence or certainty; the quality of being assured or convinced beyond doubt
	SWERS: 1. terrify, 2. Empathy, 3. naturalism, 4. howl, 5. downstairs, 6. morphed

unfairly replaced her. feeling or expressing bitterness or anger because you have been treated unfairly
The personal announced that dinner was ready, and the guests went to the dining room.
a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties
Her research adopted a approach, focusing on the interconnectedness of different societal groups.
a philosophical or theoretical approach that emphasizes the importance of relationships between individuals or objects rather than their specific qualities or attributes
in politics tends to prioritize traditional values and limited government intervention.
a political and social ideology that seeks to preserve traditional values, institutions, and practices and resist change or innovation, often associated with a preference for limited government, free markets, and strong national defense
The beach was filled with hundreds of so swimming was not recommended.
a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
The trees turned a bright yellow in the fall, creating a beautiful sight.
a deciduous tree with smooth, white bark that often trembles or quakes in the wind; a type of skiing that involves quick, short turns on steep slopes
SWERS: 8. resentful, 9. butler, 10. relationism, 11. Conservatism, 12. jellyfish, 13. en
t Fi

22. The chef will make soup with the ham bone. adj. not consumed or used at the end of something
23. An ethic of encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.n. the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
24. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud
 a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
25. The ball fell into the water with a
 a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water
26. The accident at that nuclear power plant the local ecosystem.
v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory
27. She for the days when things were simpler.
v. to strongly desire or long for something
28. The reason for his sudden disappearance from work was
adj. unable to be explained, understood, or accounted for; mysterious or puzzling
29. Earth's ecosystems are greatly affected by changes in climate.
adj. relating to a period of a thousand years or the year 2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, also called Generation Y
ANSWERS: 22. leftover, 23. individualism, 24. rev, 25. plop, 26. obliterated, 27. yearned, 28. inexplicable, 29. millennial-scale

38.	The old building was startimaintenance.	ng to due to ye	ears of neglect and lack of
<i>v</i> .	to break or fall apart into decay, or lack of support	_	nts, especially due to age,
39.	The boss her	employee by belittling h	ner in front of her colleagues.
v.	to cause someone to fee public or through revealir		d, or degraded, especially in
40.	The family gathered aroun	d their grandfather's	to say goodbye.
n.	a person's bed, especiall expected to die or have or end of someone's life	•	ome, on which they are t that occurs shortly before the
41.	The tour guide warned us water.	not to step on a hidden	in the shallow
n.	a marine fish with a flatte venomous spines, and la	•	
42.	Death gets more than its s	hare of attention from _	·
n.	an expert or student who	studies theology	
43.	The company prides itself practices.	on being	_ in its hiring and promotion
adj	based on the principle the based on their achievement		e chosen and moved ahead
44.	The data he prepared was	completely	
n.	something that is not as general deceive people; a persor		
	SWERS: 38. crumble, 39. h meritocratic, 44. sham	numiliated, 40. deathbed	d, 41. stingray, 42. theologians,

	er Ref														
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Builder Ref from "David E			
ANSWERS:			