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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Stefan Al: Will there ever be a mile-high skyscraper? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

wright

n. a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal

synonym: builder, constructor, craftsman

(1) a car- **wright**, (2) aircraft **wright**

She was a skilled **wright**, able to craft intricate pieces of furniture.

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym: high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed **skyscraper**

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

titanic

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

synonym: colossal, massive, immense

(1) **titanic** battle, (2) **titanic** compound

The **titanic** ship sank on its maiden voyage.

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.

dictate

v. to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

synonym: read out, prescribe, order

(1) **dictate** a letter to secretary, (2) **dictate** to the associate

The allies **dictated** the terms of surrender to the country.

impractical

adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome

synonym: impracticable, unrealizable, unfeasible

(1) **impractical** idea, (2) **impractical** solution

It is **impractical** to expect everyone to work for free.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

sizable

adj. large in size or amount

synonym: large, significant, considerable

(1) **sizable** portion, (2) **sizable** audience

He has a **sizable** fortune and is one of the wealthiest people in the city.

exert

v. to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play

synonym: exert, apply, use

(1) **exert** control, (2) **exert** influence

He **exerted** himself to lift the heavyweight.

gust

n. a sudden, strong rush of wind or air

synonym: blast, flurry, burst

(1) sudden **gust**, (2) strong **gusts**

The **gust** of wind nearly knocked me off my feet as I walked to work.

aerodynamics

n. the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars

synonym: aeromechanics, aeronautics, airflow

(1) **aerodynamics** research, (2) **aerodynamics** design

The **aerodynamics** of the car allowed it to glide smoothly through the air.

sway

v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something

synonym: swing, oscillate, influence

(1) **sway** back and forth, (2) **sway** to the rhythm

The politician tried to **sway** public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.

counterweight

n. a weight that balances or opposes another weight to achieve stability or equilibrium; a weight that is used to offset the weight of another object or to provide mechanical advantage

synonym: balance, counterbalance, counterpoise

(1) **counterweight** system, (2) **counterweight** balance

The **counterweight** on the suspension bridge helped keep it stable during windy conditions.

orb

n. a sphere or ball-shaped object, often referring to celestial bodies such as planets or stars

synonym: globe, sphere, ball

(1) **orb** of light, (2) crystal **orb**

The planet Venus appeared as a bright **orb** in the sky during the night.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

Session 2: Spelling

1. gra_____nal waves *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
2. strong g__ts *n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
3. aer_____ics research *n.* the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars
4. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
5. imp_____al solution *adj.* not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
6. o_b of light *n.* a sphere or ball-shaped object, often referring to celestial bodies such as planets or stars
7. steel-framed sky_____er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
8. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
9. ex__t control *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
10. aircraft wr____t *n.* a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal

ANSWERS: 1. gravitational, 2. gust, 3. aerodynamics, 4. opportune, 5. impractical, 6. orb, 7. skyscraper, 8. stabilize, 9. exert, 10. wright

11. gra_____nal energy *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
12. st_____ze blood sugar levels *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
13. sudden g__t *n.* a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
14. ex__t influence *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
15. ti_____c compound *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
16. cou_____ght system *n.* a weight that balances or opposes another weight to achieve stability or equilibrium; a weight that is used to offset the weight of another object or to provide mechanical advantage
17. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
18. cou_____ght balance *n.* a weight that balances or opposes another weight to achieve stability or equilibrium; a weight that is used to offset the weight of another object or to provide mechanical advantage
19. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
20. crystal o_b *n.* a sphere or ball-shaped object, often referring to celestial bodies such as planets or stars

ANSWERS: 11. gravitational, 12. stabilize, 13. gust, 14. exert, 15. titanic, 16. counterweight, 17. opportune, 18. counterweight, 19. bury, 20. orb

21. ti____c battle *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
22. di____e a letter to secretary *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
23. a car-wr____t *n.* a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
24. s__y back and forth *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
25. sky____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
26. si____e audience *adj.* large in size or amount
27. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
28. aer____ics design *n.* the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars
29. s__y to the rhythm *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something

ANSWERS: 21. titanic, 22. dictate, 23. wright, 24. sway, 25. skyscraper, 26. sizable, 27. bury, 28. aerodynamics, 29. sway

30. di_____e to the associate *v.* to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded
31. imp_____al idea *adj.* not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
32. si_____e portion *adj.* large in size or amount

ANSWERS: 30. dictate, 31. impractical, 32. sizable

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The planet Venus appeared as a bright ____ in the sky during the night.
n. a sphere or ball-shaped object, often referring to celestial bodies such as planets or stars

2. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.
n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

3. He _____ himself to lift the heavyweight.
v. to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play

4. He has a _____ fortune and is one of the wealthiest people in the city.
adj. large in size or amount

5. The _____ ship sank on its maiden voyage.
adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

7. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

8. The _____ of the car allowed it to glide smoothly through the air.
n. the study of the motion of air, particularly its interaction with solid objects moving through it, such as aircraft or cars

ANSWERS: 1. orb, 2. skyscraper, 3. exerted, 4. sizable, 5. titanic, 6. opportune, 7. bury, 8. aerodynamics

9. The _____ of wind nearly knocked me off my feet as I walked to work.
n. a sudden, strong rush of wind or air
10. The _____ on the suspension bridge helped keep it stable during windy conditions.
n. a weight that balances or opposes another weight to achieve stability or equilibrium; a weight that is used to offset the weight of another object or to provide mechanical advantage
11. The politician tried to _____ public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.
v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
12. She was a skilled _____ able to craft intricate pieces of furniture.
n. a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
13. 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)
14. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.
v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
15. The allies _____ the terms of surrender to the country.
v. to state or give order with total authority; to say or read aloud for somebody else to write down or to be recorded

ANSWERS: 9. gust, 10. counterweight, 11. sway, 12. wright, 13. gravitational, 14. stabilizes, 15. dictated

16. It is _____ to expect everyone to work for free.

adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome

ANSWERS: 16. impractical