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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mai Lan: "Autopilote" "Pumper" | TED Talk

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

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

croissant

n. a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries

synonym: crescent roll, pastry, Danish pastry

(1) butter **croissant**, (2) delicious **croissant**

I had a cup of coffee and a **croissant** for breakfast this morning.

noir

adj. a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French

synonym: dark, shadowy, black

(1) **noir** crime novel, (2) **noir** atmosphere

The film **noir** genre is known for its dark and brooding atmosphere.

viola

n. a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower

synonym: alto violin, viola da gamba, viola d'amore

(1) **viola** section, (2) pick up a **viola**

She had been playing the **viola** for over a decade.

jamais-vu

n. (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't

synonym : never, nevermore, not ever

(1) a moment of **jamais-vu**, (2) episodes of **jamais-vu**

I walked into my old high school, but instead of a wave of nostalgia, I experienced a strange sense of **jamais-vu**.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym : slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

resonant

adj. tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling

synonym : echoing, reverberating, resonating

(1) **resonant** with the sound, (2) **resonant** cavity

The **resonant** frequency of the guitar string was measured with a tuner.

mien

n. a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off

synonym : demeanor, appearance, bearing

(1) **mien** of authority, (2) somber **mien**

His confident **mien** suggested that he was in charge of the situation.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked

through the garden.

autopilot

n. a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft

synonym: self-pilot, self-driving, self-navigating

(1) **autopilot** function, (2) aircraft **autopilot**

The airplane was on **autopilot** during the long flight.

brothel

n. a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution

synonym: bagnio, bordello, whorehouse

(1) illegal **brothel**, (2) underground **brothel**

The police raided the **brothel** in the red-light district and arrested all the prostitutes and customers.

lucid

adj. expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright

synonym: clear, transparent, understandable

(1) **lucid** writing, (2) **lucid** explanation

His argument was so **lucid** that even his opponents agreed with him.

dizzy

adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

synonym: addled, confounded, unsteady

(1) feel **dizzy**, (2) had a **dizzy** spell

Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting **dizzy**.

weld

v. to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse

synonym: fuse, join, bond

(1) **weld** a team of such people, (2) **weld** two broken pipes

He learned how to **weld** metal in his high school shop class.

wan

adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy

synonym: pale, pallid, ashen

(1) **wan** light, (2) a **wan** smile

His **wan** complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.

firefighter

n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires

(1) forest **firefighter**, (2) decided to be a **firefighter**

The **firefighter** broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.

Session 2: Spelling

1. n__r atmosphere *adj.* a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French
2. lu__d explanation *adj.* expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright
3. decided to be a fir_____er *n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires
4. re_____nt cavity *adj.* tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling
5. feel di__y *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
6. forest fir_____er *n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires
7. aircraft au_____ot *n.* a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft
8. illegal br_____l *n.* a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution
9. delicious cr_____nt *n.* a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries

ANSWERS: 1. noir, 2. lucid, 3. firefighter, 4. resonant, 5. dizzy, 6. firefighter, 7. autopilot, 8. brothel, 9. croissant

10. somber m__n *n.* a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off
11. pick up a vi__a *n.* a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower
12. re____nt with the sound *adj.* tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling
13. au____ot function *n.* a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft
14. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
15. butter cr____nt *n.* a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries
16. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
17. vi__a section *n.* a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower
18. w__d a team of such people *v.* to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse
19. lu__d writing *adj.* expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright

ANSWERS: 10. mien, 11. viola, 12. resonant, 13. autopilot, 14. motto, 15. croissant, 16. humming, 17. viola, 18. weld, 19. lucid

20. m__n of authority *n.* a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off
21. w__d two broken pipes *v.* to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse
22. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
23. underground br____l *n.* a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution
24. episodes of ja____vu *n.* (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't
25. w_n light *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
26. a moment of ja____vu *n.* (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't
27. n__r crime novel *adj.* a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French

ANSWERS: 20. mien, 21. weld, 22. humming, 23. brothel, 24. jamais-vu, 25. wan, 26. jamais-vu, 27. noir

28. a w_n smile *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
29. had a di__y spell *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
30. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

ANSWERS: 28. wan, 29. dizzy, 30. motto

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
2. The _____ broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.
n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires
3. His confident _____ suggested that he was in charge of the situation.
n. a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off
4. The _____ frequency of the guitar string was measured with a tuner.
adj. tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling
5. Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting _____.
adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
6. His _____ complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.
adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
7. His argument was so _____ that even his opponents agreed with him.
adj. expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright
8. The police raided the _____ in the red-light district and arrested all the prostitutes and customers.
n. a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution

ANSWERS: 1. motto, 2. firefighter, 3. mien, 4. resonant, 5. dizzy, 6. wan, 7. lucid, 8. brothel

9. I had a cup of coffee and a _____ for breakfast this morning.
- n.* a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries
10. The airplane was on _____ during the long flight.
- n.* a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft
11. I walked into my old high school, but instead of a wave of nostalgia, I experienced a strange sense of _____.
- n.* (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't
12. The film _____ genre is known for its dark and brooding atmosphere.
- adj.* a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French
13. He learned how to _____ metal in his high school shop class.
- v.* to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse
14. She had been playing the _____ for over a decade.
- n.* a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower
15. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
- adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

ANSWERS: 9. croissant, 10. autopilot, 11. jamais-vu, 12. noir, 13. weld, 14. viola, 15. humming

ANSWERS: