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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dina Zielinski: How we can store digital data in DNA | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

tempting

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

synonym: alluring, attractive, inviting

(1) **tempting** offer, (2) sound very **tempting**

The chocolate cake was too **tempting** for me to resist.

repurpose

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

synonym: reutilize, recycle, reuse

(1) **repurpose** an old building, (2) **repurpose** a used car

The old barn was **repurposed** into a modern event space.

externalize

v. to give external form, expression, or material existence to something that was previously internal or subjective; to make explicit or apparent something that was previously unconscious or repressed

synonym: express, manifest, materialize

(1) **externalize** responsibilities, (2) **externalize** costs
It's important to **externalize** your feelings and not keep them bottled up.

decipher

v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

synonym: interpret, decode, translate

(1) **decipher** code, (2) **decipher** message

He spent hours trying to **decipher** the ancient text.

minuscule

adj. extremely small; tiny

synonym: tiny, insignificant, microscopic

(1) **minuscule** amount, (2) **minuscule** letters

This ore emits **minuscule** quantities of radiation

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

human-made

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial

synonym: artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst **human-made** disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

synthesize

v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

synonym: incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information

The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

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.

decode

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

synonym: decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences

The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

depict

v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

synonym: illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

extraterrestrial

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

synonym: alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence

Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

time-consuming

adj. requiring a significant amount of time or effort to complete

synonym: lengthy, prolonged, protracted

(1) **time-consuming** project, (2) **time-consuming** process

Writing a research paper can be a **time-consuming** task.

ephemeral

adj. lasting or used for only a short time

synonym : temporary, momentary, brief

(1) **ephemeral** joys, (2) **ephemeral** materials

His success as a famous actor was **ephemeral**.

nominate

v. to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

synonym : appoint, designate, elect

(1) **nominate** him for an award, (2) **nominate** government representatives

The organization **nominated** her to be the next president.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ep_____al joys *adj.* lasting or used for only a short time
2. de___e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
3. re_____se an old building *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
4. a computer n__d *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
5. ext_____ial planet *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
6. de_____er code *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
7. de_____er message *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
8. no_____te government representatives *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
9. syn_____ze molecules *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

ANSWERS: 1. ephemeral, 2. decode, 3. repurpose, 4. nerd, 5. extraterrestrial, 6. decipher, 7. decipher, 8. nominate, 9. synthesize

10. mi_____le letters *adj.* extremely small; tiny
11. tim_____ing process *adj.* requiring a significant amount of time or effort to complete
12. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
13. ext_____ze responsibilities *v.* to give external form, expression, or material existence to something that was previously internal or subjective; to make explicit or apparent something that was previously unconscious or repressed
14. ext_____ial intelligence *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
15. tim_____ing project *adj.* requiring a significant amount of time or effort to complete
16. no_____te him for an award *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
17. ability to de___e the differences *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
18. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 10. minuscule, 11. time-consuming, 12. electrify, 13. externalize, 14. extraterrestrial, 15. time-consuming, 16. nominate, 17. decode, 18. excite

29. fo_____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
30. de___t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
31. mi_____le amount *adj.* extremely small; tiny
32. de___t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
33. sound very te_____ng *adj.* likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe
34. the worst hum_____de disaster *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial

ANSWERS: 29. footprint, 30. depict, 31. minuscule, 32. depict, 33. tempting, 34. human-made

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His success as a famous actor was _____.
adj. lasting or used for only a short time
2. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
3. Writing a research paper can be a _____ task.
adj. requiring a significant amount of time or effort to complete
4. The spider can _____ multiple different silk proteins.
v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
5. The old barn was _____ into a modern event space.
v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
6. He was, by nature, a cyber _____.
n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
7. The software could _____ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.
v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
8. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

ANSWERS: 1. ephemeral, 2. depicted, 3. time-consuming, 4. synthesize, 5. repurposed, 6. nerd, 7. decode, 8. footprint

9. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
10. This ore emits _____ quantities of radiation
adj. extremely small; tiny
11. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.
adj. created or produced by humans; artificial
12. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
13. It's important to _____ your feelings and not keep them bottled up.
v. to give external form, expression, or material existence to something that was previously internal or subjective; to make explicit or apparent something that was previously unconscious or repressed
14. He spent hours trying to _____ the ancient text.
v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
15. The organization _____ her to be the next president.
v. to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
16. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of _____ life in the universe.
adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

ANSWERS: 9. excited, 10. minuscule, 11. human-made, 12. electrify, 13. externalize, 14. decipher, 15. nominated, 16. extraterrestrial

17. The chocolate cake was too _____ for me to resist.

adj. likely to attract or persuade someone to do something, especially something that may not be wise or safe

ANSWERS: 17. tempting