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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jack Dorsey: How Twitter needs to change | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

misinformation

n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

synonym: falsity, misreport, misstatement

(1) **misinformation** about a vaccine, (2) combat **misinformation** on social media

The government called for caution against pseudoscientific **misinformation** about vaccines.

harass

v. to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention

synonym: pester, annoy, bother

(1) **harass** the enemy, (2) **harass** with constant criticism

She was constantly **harassed** by her ex-boyfriend and had to get a restraining order.

amnesty

n. a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes

synonym: pardon, clemency, reprieve

(1) grant an **amnesty**, (2) **amnesty** for debt

The government declared **amnesty** for all political prisoners.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym : peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

midway

adv. in the middle of a process or journey; halfway between two points or stages

synonym : halfway, in the middle

(1) **midway** between our houses, (2) **midway** through the flight

We stopped at a restaurant **midway** through our road trip for lunch.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym : compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

incentivize

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

synonym : encourage, motivate

(1) **incentivize** carpooling, (2) **incentivize** the right behavior

Governments **incentivize** their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

hashtag

n. a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic

(1) marked with a **hashtag**, (2) trending **hashtag**

Our brand's campaign uses a unique **hashtag** to track engagement and reach.

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.

gladiator

n. a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences

synonym: fighter, warrior, combatant

(1) act like a **gladiator**, (2) the Christian **gladiator**

The **gladiator's** training regimen included physical conditioning, weapons training, and strategy.

provocative

adj. arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately

synonym: instigating, provoking, inciting

(1) **provocative** questions, (2) a **provocative** smile

His **provocative** style frequently sparked controversies.

obnoxious

adj. extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm

synonym: offensive, unpleasant, irritating

(1) **obnoxious** habits, (2) **obnoxious** odor

His **obnoxious** behavior at the party made everyone uncomfortable.

eloquent

adj. able to speak or write clearly and impressively

synonym: persuasive, fluent, well-spoken

(1) an **eloquent** speaker, (2) **eloquent** writing

She gave an **eloquent** speech at the graduation ceremony.

defuse

v. to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved

synonym: calm, reduce, deactivate

(1) **defuse** a crisis, (2) **defuse** a bomb

The negotiator skillfully **defused** the tense situation with calm words and gestures.

meddle

v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own

synonym: interfere, intrude, tamper

(1) **meddle** in relationships, (2) **meddle** with the evidence
She always tries to **meddle** in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.

disparate

adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

synonym: different, distinct, separate

(1) **disparate** impact, (2) physically **disparate** location
The organization worked to bring together **disparate** groups in the community.

converse

v. to talk informally

synonym: discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

receptive

adj. willing to listen to or accept new ideas or suggestions

synonym: open-minded, sensory, sensorial

(1) **receptive** audience, (2) **receptive** to change

The voters appeared to be **receptive** to his new ideas.

puzzled

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

synonym: confused, perplexed, bewildered

(1) **puzzled** expression, (2) **puzzled** by the question

She was **puzzled** by the strange behavior of her cat.

extremist

n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views

synonym: radical, fanatic, zealot

(1) **extremist** political views, (2) radical **extremist**

The **extremist** group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.

episodic

adj. happening or appearing at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady; of or relating to writing or narration

synonym: intermittent, recurrent, sporadic

(1) **episodic** story, (2) **episodic** event

The patient's memory loss is **episodic**, with periods of normal memory followed by episodes of amnesia.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

scour

v. to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically

synonym: cleanse, scrub, clean

(1) **scour** a pot, (2) **scour** the Internet

She had to **scour** the kitchen to find a clean dish to use for dinner.

midterm

adj. referring to the middle of a term or period, especially in politics or education

synonym: intermediate, central, halfway

(1) **midterm** election, (2) leave school in the **midterm**

The **midterm** exams determined how much students had learned so far.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

tweak

v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

synonym: nip, pinch, fine-tune

(1) **tweak** his cheek, (2) **tweak** the economy

He didn't **tweak** the plan, even though he had time.

discourage

v. to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something

synonym: dishearten, depress, demoralize

(1) **discourage** customers, (2) **discourage** bacterial growth

His parents tried to **discourage** him from becoming an artist.

disparity

n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things

synonym: difference, inequality, gap

(1) the **disparity** between theory and reality, (2) income **disparity**

There is a significant **disparity** in pay between men and women in the company.

constrain

v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

synonym: restrict, limit, confine

(1) **constrain** his freedom, (2) **constrain** information flow

The political situation **constrained** the country's economic growth and foreign relations.

moth

n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

addict

n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

synonym : devotee, buff, freak

(1) a drug **addict**, (2) Internet **addict**

We have become TV **addicts** due to video streaming services.

enigma

n. a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution

synonym : mystery, puzzle, riddle

(1) mysterious **enigma**, (2) artistic **enigma**

The ancient text remains an **enigma**, challenging scholars to unravel its meaning.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

synonym : guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

iceberg

n. a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier

synonym : glacier, ice mass, floe

(1) hit an **iceberg**, (2) **iceberg** melting

The ship encountered a series of **icebergs** and had to change its course.

layoff

n. the temporary or permanent dismissal of employees from a company or organization due to a lack of work or financial difficulties; involuntary termination of employment

synonym : dismissal, redundancy, termination

(1) temporary **layoff**, (2) mass **layoff**

The workers protested against the unfairness of the **layoff**, claiming they should have been consulted first.

superficial

adj. existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely

synonym: shallow, facile, cursory

(1) **superficial** wound, (2) **superficial** knowledge

The journalist's **superficial** reporting should have captured the full scope of the issue.

prioritize

v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

synonym: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym: robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

Session 2: Spelling

1. el____nt writing *adj.* able to speak or write clearly and impressively
2. pu____d by the question *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
3. re_____ve audience *adj.* willing to listen to or accept new ideas or suggestions
4. tw__k the economy *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
5. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
6. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
7. inc_____ze the right behavior *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
8. re_____ve to change *adj.* willing to listen to or accept new ideas or suggestions
9. temporary la____f *n.* the temporary or permanent dismissal of employees from a company or organization due to a lack of work or financial difficulties; involuntary termination of employment
10. st__r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

ANSWERS: 1. eloquent, 2. puzzled, 3. receptive, 4. tweak, 5. moth, 6. moth, 7. incentivize, 8. receptive, 9. layoff, 10. steer

11. the Christian gl_____or *n.* a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences
12. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
13. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
14. co_____se with an acquaintance *v.* to talk informally
15. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
16. mi____y between our houses *adv.* in the middle of a process or journey; halfway between two points or stages
17. mass la____f *n.* the temporary or permanent dismissal of employees from a company or organization due to a lack of work or financial difficulties; involuntary termination of employment
18. Internet ad____t *n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
19. a hard and re_____nt steel *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
20. ha____s the enemy *v.* to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention

ANSWERS: 11. gladiator, 12. opportune, 13. intellect, 14. converse, 15. tweet, 16. midway, 17. layoff, 18. addict, 19. resilient, 20. harass

21. ep____ic story *adj.* happening or appearing at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady; of or relating to writing or narration
22. radical ex_____st *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
23. income di_____ty *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
24. mis_____ion about a vaccine *n.* information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately
25. dis_____ge bacterial growth *v.* to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
26. ob_____us habits *adj.* extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm
27. me___e in relationships *v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
28. tw__k his cheek *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
29. ac___e each other *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
30. de___e a crisis *v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved

ANSWERS: 21. episodic, 22. extremist, 23. disparity, 24. misinformation, 25. discourage, 26. obnoxious, 27. meddle, 28. tweak, 29. accuse, 30. defuse

31. ex_____st political views *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
32. pro_____ve questions *adj.* arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately
33. grant an am_____y *n.* a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes
34. ep_____ic event *adj.* happening or appearing at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady; of or relating to writing or narration
35. sup_____al wound *adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
36. artistic en____a *n.* a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
37. ha____s with constant criticism *v.* to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention
38. combat mis_____ion on social media *n.* information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately
39. sc__r a pot *v.* to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically

ANSWERS: 31. extremist, 32. provocative, 33. amnesty, 34. episodic, 35. superficial, 36. enigma, 37. harass, 38. misinformation, 39. scour

40. co_____in information flow *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
41. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
42. ac___e his rudeness *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
43. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
44. am_____y for debt *n.* a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes
45. dis_____ge customers *v.* to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
46. co_____in his freedom *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
47. ic_____g melting *n.* a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier
48. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
49. pri_____ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
50. mi_____y through the flight *adv.* in the middle of a process or journey; halfway between two points or stages
51. a pro_____ve smile *adj.* arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately

ANSWERS: 40. constrain, 41. incentivize, 42. accuse, 43. opportune, 44. amnesty, 45. discourage, 46. constrain, 47. iceberg, 48. intellect, 49. prioritize, 50. midway, 51. provocative

52. hit an ic____g *n.* a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier
53. trending ha____g *n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
54. em____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
55. me____e with the evidence *v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
56. physically di____te location *adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
57. mi____m election *adj.* referring to the middle of a term or period, especially in politics or education
58. mysterious en____a *n.* a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
59. pri____ze people over cars *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
60. pu____d expression *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
61. re____nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

ANSWERS: 52. iceberg, 53. hashtag, 54. empathy, 55. meddle, 56. disparate, 57. midterm, 58. enigma, 59. prioritize, 60. puzzled, 61. resilient

62. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
63. act like a gl____or *n.* a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences
64. sup____al knowledge *adj.* existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely
65. sc__r the Internet *v.* to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically
66. an el____nt speaker *adj.* able to speak or write clearly and impressively
67. the di____ty between theory and reality *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
68. st__r a conversation *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
69. de____e a bomb *v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved
70. leave school in the mi____m *adj.* referring to the middle of a term or period, especially in politics or education

ANSWERS: 62. tweet, 63. gladiator, 64. superficial, 65. scour, 66. eloquent, 67. disparity, 68. steer, 69. defuse, 70. midterm

71. marked with a ha____g *n.* a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
72. full of em____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
73. di____te impact *adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
74. a drug ad____t *n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
75. ask a co____se question *v.* to talk informally
76. ob____us odor *adj.* extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm

ANSWERS: 71. hashtag, 72. empathy, 73. disparate, 74. addict, 75. converse, 76. obnoxious

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ exams determined how much students had learned so far.
adj. referring to the middle of a term or period, especially in politics or education
2. We stopped at a restaurant _____ through our road trip for lunch.
adv. in the middle of a process or journey; halfway between two points or stages
3. The workers protested against the unfairness of the _____ claiming they should have been consulted first.
n. the temporary or permanent dismissal of employees from a company or organization due to a lack of work or financial difficulties; involuntary termination of employment
4. The ancient text remains an _____ challenging scholars to unravel its meaning.
n. a puzzling or mysterious person, place, or thing; something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a riddle or mysterious puzzle that requires a solution
5. The _____ training regimen included physical conditioning, weapons training, and strategy.
n. a person who fought in ancient Rome's public contests, typically armed with weapons and wearing armor to entertain audiences
6. The journalist's _____ reporting should have captured the full scope of the issue.
adj. existing or occurring only at or on the surface; appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely

ANSWERS: 1. midterm, 2. midway, 3. layoff, 4. enigma, 5. gladiator's, 6. superficial

7. She was _____ by the strange behavior of her cat.

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

8. We have become TV _____ due to video streaming services.

n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

9. Governments _____ their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

10. His parents tried to _____ him from becoming an artist.

v. to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something

11. His _____ style frequently sparked controversies.

adj. arousing anger, interest, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately

12. The ship encountered a series of _____ and had to change its course.

n. a large piece of ice floating in the sea, detached from a glacier

13. The government declared _____ for all political prisoners.

n. a general pardon for crimes, especially political crimes

14. The government called for caution against pseudoscientific _____ about vaccines.

n. information that is false or inaccurate, or the act of giving wrong information, especially deliberately

15. He didn't _____ the plan, even though he had time.

v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

ANSWERS: 7. puzzled, 8. addicts, 9. incentivize, 10. discourage, 11. provocative, 12. icebergs, 13. amnesty, 14. misinformation, 15. tweak

16. The organization _____ the needs of the community in its decision-making.
v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
17. The witness _____ the defendant of committing the robbery.
v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
18. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
19. She always tries to _____ in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.
v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
20. Our brand's campaign uses a unique _____ to track engagement and reach.
n. a word or phrase preceded by the symbol #, used on social media websites and applications to identify messages on a specific topic
21. She gave an _____ speech at the graduation ceremony.
adj. able to speak or write clearly and impressively
22. The patient's memory loss is _____ with periods of normal memory followed by episodes of amnesia.
adj. happening or appearing at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady; of or relating to writing or narration
23. The _____ group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.
n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views

ANSWERS: 16. prioritized, 17. accused, 18. resilient, 19. meddle, 20. hashtag, 21. eloquent, 22. episodic, 23. extremist

24. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
25. She had to _____ the kitchen to find a clean dish to use for dinner.
- v.* to clean thoroughly and vigorously by scrubbing or rubbing; to search or examine something thoroughly and systematically
26. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
- n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
27. The organization worked to bring together _____ groups in the community.
- adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
28. The negotiator skillfully _____ the tense situation with calm words and gestures.
- v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved
29. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
30. The political situation _____ the country's economic growth and foreign relations.
- v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
31. She was constantly _____ by her ex-boyfriend and had to get a restraining order.
- v.* to annoy, torment, or pester persistently; to subject someone to repeated or chronic attacks or unwelcome attention

ANSWERS: 24. intellect, 25. scour, 26. moth, 27. disparate, 28. defused, 29. opportune, 30. constrained, 31. harassed

32. There is a significant _____ in pay between men and women in the company.

n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things

33. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

34. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

35. _____ is also necessary to understand history.

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

36. The voters appeared to be _____ to his new ideas.

adj. willing to listen to or accept new ideas or suggestions

37. His _____ behavior at the party made everyone uncomfortable.

adj. extremely unpleasant or offensive; annoying or irritating to the point of causing discomfort or harm

38. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.

v. to talk informally

ANSWERS: 32. disparity, 33. steer, 34. tweet, 35. Empathy, 36. receptive, 37. obnoxious, 38. converse