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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Damion Searls: How does the Rorschach inkblot test work? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym : scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

blot

v. to soak up a liquid by using a piece of cloth, paper, etc.; to make a spot or spots onto paper

synonym : stain, smudge, mar

(1) **blot** my eyes, (2) **blot** anything out of existence

She tried to **blot** out the unpleasant memory with alcohol.

mystical

adj. relating to or characterized by spiritual powers; beyond ordinary understanding

synonym : occult, esoteric, enigmatic

(1) **mystical** intuition, (2) **mystical** belief

While meditating, he had a **mystical** experience and felt a sense of unity with the universe.

psychiatry

n. the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness

synonym : mental health, psychology, psychoanalysis

(1) **psychiatry** therapy, (2) biological **psychiatry**

The field of **psychiatry** is constantly evolving, with new treatments and approaches being developed all the time.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

puzzling

adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

synonym: baffling, confusing, enigmatic

(1) **puzzling** behavior, (2) **puzzling** questions

The detective found the clues **puzzling** and couldn't solve the case immediately.

enigmatic

adj. difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling

synonym: mysterious, puzzling, cryptic

(1) **enigmatic** smile, (2) **enigmatic** behavior

The **enigmatic** ancient civilization's disappearance remains unsolved.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym: conquer, crush, dominate

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

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

quantify

v. to express or measure something in numerical terms
synonym: measure, express, determine

(1) **quantify** the results, (2) **quantify** blood flow

He tried to **quantify** the amount of product that was needed to complete the job.

imaginative

adj. having or showing new and creative ideas
synonym: creative, innovative, inventive

(1) capable of **imaginative** creation, (2) **imaginative** as a child

She is a hard worker but not very **imaginative**.

pinpoint

v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something

synonym: name, direct, identify

(1) **pinpoint** the problem, (2) **pinpoint** signs of manipulation

This radar quickly **pinpoints** the position of the enemy.

nuanced

adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.

synonym: fine, subtle, slight

(1) **nuanced** view, (2) the common but **nuanced** opinion

The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the flavor of the wine.

speculate

v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

synonym: assume, conjecture, infer

(1) **speculate** about the reason, (2) **speculate** on the outcome

He **speculated** that this investment would lead to success.

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.

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.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

disprove

v. to show that something is not true or correct

synonym: refute, discredit, invalidate

(1) **disprove** global warming, (2) **disprove** the conjecture

The researchers were unable to **disprove** the theory.

standalone

adj. (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently

(1) **standalone** application, (2) **standalone** approach

We never prescribe medication as a **standalone** treatment.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. psy_____ry therapy | <i>n.</i> the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness |
| 2. ability to de___e the differences | <i>v.</i> to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand |
| 3. cast fri_____ng eyes | <i>adj.</i> causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming |
| 4. de___e a message | <i>v.</i> to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand |
| 5. capable of ima_____ve creation | <i>adj.</i> having or showing new and creative ideas |
| 6. pl____t against other major currencies | <i>v.</i> to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply |
| 7. qu____fy the results | <i>v.</i> to express or measure something in numerical terms |
| 8. di_____ct public opinion | <i>v.</i> to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do |
| 9. en_____ic smile | <i>adj.</i> difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling |
| 10. fri_____ng experience | <i>adj.</i> causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming |
| 11. b__t anything out of existence | <i>v.</i> to soak up a liquid by using a piece of cloth, paper, etc.; to make a spot or spots onto paper |

ANSWERS: 1. psychiatry, 2. decode, 3. frightening, 4. decode, 5. imaginative, 6. plummet, 7. quantify, 8. distract, 9. enigmatic, 10. frightening, 11. blot

12. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
13. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
14. en_____ic behavior *adj.* difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling
15. pu_____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
16. di_____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
17. sp_____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
18. my_____al intuition *adj.* relating to or characterized by spiritual powers; beyond ordinary understanding
19. di_____ve the conjecture *v.* to show that something is not true or correct
20. sta_____ne approach *adj.* (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently
21. pu_____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
22. social ant_____ogy *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

ANSWERS: 12. overwhelm, 13. fascinate, 14. enigmatic, 15. puzzling, 16. distract, 17. speculate, 18. mystical, 19. disprove, 20. standalone, 21. puzzling, 22. anthropology

23. sta_____ne application *adj.* (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently
24. ant_____ogy 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
25. pi_____nt signs of manipulation *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
26. the common but nu_____d opinion *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
27. sp_____te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
28. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
29. qu_____fy blood flow *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
30. my_____al belief *adj.* relating to or characterized by spiritual powers; beyond ordinary understanding
31. pl_____ting sales *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
32. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
33. di_____ve global warming *v.* to show that something is not true or correct

ANSWERS: 23. standalone, 24. anthropology, 25. pinpoint, 26. nuanced, 27. speculate, 28. overwhelm, 29. quantify, 30. mystical, 31. plummet, 32. fascinate, 33. disprove

34. pi_____nt the problem *v.* to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
35. b__t my eyes *v.* to soak up a liquid by using a piece of cloth, paper, etc.; to make a spot or spots onto paper
36. nu_____d view *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
37. ima_____ve as a child *adj.* having or showing new and creative ideas
38. biological psy_____ry *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness

ANSWERS: 34. pinpoint, 35. blot, 36. nuanced, 37. imaginative, 38. psychiatry

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. This radar quickly _____ the position of the enemy.
v. to locate or identify the exact position in space or time of something
2. The researchers were unable to _____ the theory.
v. to show that something is not true or correct
3. While meditating, he had a _____ experience and felt a sense of unity with the universe.
adj. relating to or characterized by spiritual powers; beyond ordinary understanding
4. 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
5. The sommelier can distinguish _____ variance in the flavor of the wine.
adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
6. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.
v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
7. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
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

ANSWERS: 1. pinpoints, 2. disprove, 3. mystical, 4. decode, 5. nuanced, 6. overwhelm, 7. anthropology

8. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.
v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
9. She is a hard worker but not very _____.
adj. having or showing new and creative ideas
10. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
11. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
12. We never prescribe medication as a _____ treatment.
adj. (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently
13. The field of _____ is constantly evolving, with new treatments and approaches being developed all the time.
n. the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness
14. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
15. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.
adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

ANSWERS: 8. speculated, 9. imaginative, 10. frightening, 11. plummeted, 12. standalone, 13. psychiatry, 14. fascinated, 15. puzzling

16. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

17. The _____ ancient civilization's disappearance remains unsolved.

adj. difficult to understand or explain; mysterious or puzzling

18. She tried to _____ out the unpleasant memory with alcohol.

v. to soak up a liquid by using a piece of cloth, paper, etc.; to make a spot or spots onto paper

19. He tried to _____ the amount of product that was needed to complete the job.

v. to express or measure something in numerical terms

ANSWERS: 16. distract, 17. enigmatic, 18. blot, 19. quantify