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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Stan Lee: What makes a superhero? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

superhero

n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

(1) **superhero** movies, (2) **superhero** comics

Superman is a classic **superhero** known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.

adventure

n. a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous

synonym: experience, happening, incident

(1) gastronomic **adventures**, (2) **adventure** film

He sailed the Atlantic Ocean multiple times during his **adventures**.

graphic

adj. relating to visual art or involving the use of diagrams or illustrations; very clear and powerful

synonym: illustrative, picturesque, visual

(1) **graphic** design, (2) a **graphic** description of an accident

The **graphic** novel was a masterpiece with stunning illustrations that brought the story to life.

chakra

n. any of the seven energy centers in the human body, according to traditional Indian medicine and yoga philosophy

synonym: energy point, center, vortex

(1) **chakra** meditation, (2) healing **chakra**

Many people believe in the power of balancing their **chakras** for spiritual and physical wellness.

invincible

adj. incapable of being conquered, defeated, or overcome;
unassailable

synonym: unassailable, unbeatable, indomitable

(1) **invincible** army, (2) **invincible** will

The team felt **invincible** after their winning streak.

concept

n. an idea or principle associated with something abstract

synonym: idea, notion, vision

(1) learn new **concepts**, (2) **concept** car

One such rapidly growing **concept** is quantum cryptography.

spark

v. to start something or make it grow, especially suddenly;
to emit a tiny piece of fire or electricity

synonym: start, inspire, provoke

(1) **spark** his interest, (2) **spark** a chain reaction

The bankruptcy of the giant conglomerate **sparked** turmoil in the stock market.

imaginary

adj. existing only in someone's mind

synonym: fictional, ideal, fantastical

(1) **imaginary** number, (2) **imaginary** pregnancy

Little children tend to have **imaginary** friends.

regardless

adv. not paying attention or considering something or
someone even if the situation is bad or there are
difficulties

synonym: anyhow, nevertheless, still

(1) **regardless** of the difficulties, (2) **regardless** tread

People can pick out superior products **regardless** of the quality of the advertising.

background

n. the details of a person's social heritage, such as family, vocational or educational experience; past information that is essential to understanding a situation or problem

synonym : ground, experience, backdrop

(1) a **background** color, (2) a criminal **background**

The company's hiring criteria emphasize personality, not a person's **background**.

represent

v. to speak, act, or be present on behalf of another person or group; to form or constitute

synonym : depict, express, describe

(1) **represent** by a diagram, (2) the characters that **represent** numbers

We elected him to **represent** us at the international conference.

fairy

n. a mythical being of folklore and romance usually depicted as having magic powers

synonym : sprite, pixie, elf

(1) **fairy** tale, (2) a water **fairy**

The mischievous **fairy** flew gracefully through the forest, spreading magic wherever she went.

tale

n. a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure

synonym : canard, fiction, fable

(1) a fairy **tale**, (2) **tale** of horror

Ghosts in folk **tales** are almost always malicious.

giant

adj. enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are

synonym : big, gigantic, huge

(1) **giant** trees, (2) **giant** tech company

The **giant** jets gradually dominate the world's airlines.

witch

n. a person, typically a woman, who is believed to have magic powers and practices witchcraft

synonym : sorceress, enchantress, healer

(1) **witch** hunt, (2) **witch** trial

Many people in the medieval period believed in **witches** and their ability to cast spells.

wizard

n. a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field

synonym : sorcerer, magician, alchemist

(1) a **wizard** at chess, (2) financial **wizard**

He was a **wizard** at solving complex mathematical equations.

monster

n. an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful

synonym : giant, freak, behemoth

(1) horde of **monsters**, (2) **monster** film

This car has a **monster** engine.

outgrow

v. to grow too large for something; to grow taller or faster than another person

(1) **outgrow** my coat, (2) **outgrow** its usefulness

Bamboo will soon **outgrow** the other plants.

superpower

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

synonym : great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

invisible

adj. impossible or nearly impossible to see

synonym : hidden, imperceptible, unseen

(1) an **invisible** asset, (2) **invisible** stars

The phenomenon is **invisible** at optical wavelengths.

relive

v. to experience again or bring back the memory of a past event or time

synonym: revisit, recall, remember

(1) **relive** my youth, (2) **relive** moments

I like to watch old movies to **relive** memories of my childhood.

excitement

n. a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness

synonym: thrill, exhilaration, incitement

(1) the **excitement** in the business world, (2) aesthetic **excitement**

The **excitement** of the upcoming concert was palpable among the crowd.

aspect

n. one part or feature of a situation, problem, subject, etc.

synonym: characteristic, element, factor

(1) nontechnical **aspects** of the job, (2) **aspects** of social, political, and economic life

His professional experience includes all **aspects** of media production.

assume

v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance

synonym: guess, presume, suppose

(1) **assume** a lousy attitude to his boss, (2) **assume** an important role

The following example **assumes** that the capacity of each battery is the same.

comet

n. a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

synonym: meteor, asteroid, meteoroid

(1) the surface of the **comet**, (2) **comet** Halley

The **comet's** bright tail could be seen in the night sky.

shallow

adj. not having much distance from the top to the bottom
synonym : superficial, external, surface

(1) **shallow** people, (2) **shallow** water

Shallow brooks are noisier than deep rivers.

involve

v. to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

synonym : implicate, include, engage

(1) **involve** a lot of paperwork, (2) **involve** a high degree of risk

The investigation **involves** several government agencies and is expected to take several months.

dimension

n. a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length

synonym : extent, measurement, size

(1) new **dimension**, (2) the crosswise **dimension**

Overall **dimensions** are approximately 400x200mm.

mention

v. to speak or write about something or someone briefly

synonym : reference, allude, cite

(1) **mention** name, (2) **mention** in a report

I **mentioned** to him that I had seen his sister at the grocery store earlier that day.

unfortunate

adj. having bad luck or fortune; unlucky

synonym : unlucky, pitiful, wretched

(1) an **unfortunate** orphan, (2) an **unfortunate** situation

The **unfortunate** accident caused many injuries and some fatalities.

proportion

n. a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole

synonym : ratio, balance, consonance

(1) direct **proportion**, (2) a building of vast **proportions**

He is more concerned about the **proportion** of his body fat

than usual because of an upcoming bodybuilding competition.

wrap

v. to cover or enclose something entirely with paper, cloth, or other material

synonym: surround, cover, bandage

(1) **wrap** a fish in foil, (2) **wrap** up a meeting

Wrap the bandage tightly around the injured arm.

fantastic

adj. extremely good; excellent

synonym: incredible, unbelievable, marvelous

(1) a **fantastic** dress, (2) absolutely **fantastic** event

The new amusement park ride was **fantastic**, with twists, turns, and drops that left riders screaming with excitement.

suddenly

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

synonym: abruptly, unexpectedly, unawares

(1) **suddenly** attacked by an enemy, (2) die **suddenly**

Who answers **suddenly** knows little.

believable

adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible

synonym: plausible, credible, convincing

(1) **believable** story, (2) **believable** excuse

The novel's plot was so well-written that it seemed **believable** and realistic.

origin

n. the first existence or beginning of something

synonym: root, source, ancestor

(1) **origin** of information, (2) racial **origin**

There are various hypotheses concerning the **origin** of life.

radioactive

adj. emitting powerful and dangerous energy when the nuclei (= central parts) of atoms are broken up

synonym: dangerous, contaminated, emanating

(1) **radioactive** decay, (2) **radioactive** isotope

The **radioactive** material was carefully stored in a lead-lined container.

spider

n. a small, eight-legged creature that spins webs to catch insects as food; a computer program that systematically browses the World Wide Web for purposes of web indexing

synonym : arachnid, wanderer

(1) **spider** venom, (2) web **spider**

The **spider** spun an intricate web in the corner of the room.

overkill

n. an excessive or extreme amount of something, often used to describe an unnecessary or disproportionate use of force or resources

synonym : excessive, surplus, extreme

(1) **overkill** strategy, (2) marketing **overkill**

The excessive use of force by the police was an example of **overkill** in their attempt to arrest a suspect.

provable

adj. capable of being demonstrated or shown to be true; able to be verified through evidence or logical reasoning

synonym : evident, verifiable, demonstrable

(1) **provable** fact, (2) **provable** theory

The defense found no **provable** evidence to support the accusations against their client.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. the crosswise di_____on | <i>n.</i> a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length |
| 2. me_____n in a report | <i>v.</i> to speak or write about something or someone briefly |
| 3. inv_____le army | <i>adj.</i> incapable of being conquered, defeated, or overcome; unassailable |
| 4. ad_____re film | <i>n.</i> a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous |
| 5. ou_____w my coat | <i>v.</i> to grow too large for something; to grow taller or faster than another person |
| 6. ou_____w its usefulness | <i>v.</i> to grow too large for something; to grow taller or faster than another person |
| 7. sp__k his interest | <i>v.</i> to start something or make it grow, especially suddenly; to emit a tiny piece of fire or electricity |
| 8. a bac_____nd color | <i>n.</i> the details of a person's social heritage, such as family, vocational or educational experience; past information that is essential to understanding a situation or problem |
| 9. fa__y tale | <i>n.</i> a mythical being of folklore and romance usually depicted as having magic powers |
| 10. an unf_____te orphan | <i>adj.</i> having bad luck or fortune; unlucky |
| 11. gi__t tech company | <i>adj.</i> enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are |

ANSWERS: 1. dimension, 2. mention, 3. invincible, 4. adventure, 5. outgrow, 6. outgrow, 7. spark, 8. background, 9. fairy, 10. unfortunate, 11. giant

12. me____n name *v.* to speak or write about something or someone briefly
13. gi__t trees *adj.* enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are
14. mo____r film *n.* an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful
15. wi__h trial *n.* a person, typically a woman, who is believed to have magic powers and practices witchcraft
16. in____e a high degree of risk *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
17. im____ry pregnancy *adj.* existing only in someone's mind
18. in____e a lot of paperwork *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
19. the surface of the co__t *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
20. in____le stars *adj.* impossible or nearly impossible to see
21. bel____le excuse *adj.* able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
22. im____ry number *adj.* existing only in someone's mind
23. t__e of horror *n.* a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure

ANSWERS: 12. mention, 13. giant, 14. monster, 15. witch, 16. involve, 17. imaginary, 18. involve, 19. comet, 20. invisible, 21. believable, 22. imaginary, 23. tale

24. inv_____le will *adj.* incapable of being conquered, defeated, or overcome; unassailable
25. re___e moments *v.* to experience again or bring back the memory of a past event or time
26. gastronomic ad_____res *n.* a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous
27. su_____ro comics *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
28. co_____t car *n.* an idea or principle associated with something abstract
29. aesthetic exc_____nt *n.* a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness
30. web sp___r *n.* a small, eight-legged creature that spins webs to catch insects as food; a computer program that systematically browses the World Wide Web for purposes of web indexing
31. sp__k a chain reaction *v.* to start something or make it grow, especially suddenly; to emit a tiny piece of fire or electricity
32. racial or___n *n.* the first existence or beginning of something
33. su_____ly attacked by an enemy *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
34. wi__h hunt *n.* a person, typically a woman, who is believed to have magic powers and practices witchcraft
35. sup_____er country *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

ANSWERS: 24. invincible, 25. relive, 26. adventure, 27. superhero, 28. concept, 29. excitement, 30. spider, 31. spark, 32. origin, 33. suddenly, 34. witch, 35. superpower

36. a building of vast pro_____ons *n.* a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole
37. healing ch___a *n.* any of the seven energy centers in the human body, according to traditional Indian medicine and yoga philosophy
38. or___n of information *n.* the first existence or beginning of something
39. a water fa__y *n.* a mythical being of folklore and romance usually depicted as having magic powers
40. pr_____le theory *adj.* capable of being demonstrated or shown to be true; able to be verified through evidence or logical reasoning
41. an in_____le asset *adj.* impossible or nearly impossible to see
42. financial wi___d *n.* a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field
43. w__p up a meeting *v.* to cover or enclose something entirely with paper, cloth, or other material
44. as___e an important role *v.* to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
45. nontechnical as___ts of the job *n.* one part or feature of a situation, problem, subject, etc.
46. absolutely fa_____ic event *adj.* extremely good; excellent
47. reg_____ss tread *adv.* not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties

ANSWERS: 36. proportion, 37. chakra, 38. origin, 39. fairy, 40. provable, 41. invisible, 42. wizard, 43. wrap, 44. assume, 45. aspect, 46. fantastic, 47. regardless

48. the characters that re_____nt numbers
v. to speak, act, or be present on behalf of another person or group; to form or constitute
49. as___e a lousy attitude to his boss
v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance
50. die su_____ly
adv. quickly and unexpectedly
51. ov_____ll strategy
n. an excessive or extreme amount of something, often used to describe an unnecessary or disproportionate use of force or resources
52. co__t Halley
n. a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
53. direct pro_____on
n. a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole
54. ch___a meditation
n. any of the seven energy centers in the human body, according to traditional Indian medicine and yoga philosophy
55. bel_____le story
adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
56. gr_____c design
adj. relating to visual art or involving the use of diagrams or illustrations; very clear and powerful
57. re_____nt by a diagram
v. to speak, act, or be present on behalf of another person or group; to form or constitute

ANSWERS: 48. represent, 49. assume, 50. suddenly, 51. overkill, 52. comet, 53. proportion, 54. chakra, 55. believable, 56. graphic, 57. represent

58. learn new co_____ts
n. an idea or principle associated with something abstract
59. rad_____ve decay
adj. emitting powerful and dangerous energy when the nuclei (= central parts) of atoms are broken up
60. sh_____w people
adj. not having much distance from the top to the bottom
61. reg_____ss of the difficulties
adv. not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties
62. a fairy t__e
n. a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure
63. pr_____le fact
adj. capable of being demonstrated or shown to be true; able to be verified through evidence or logical reasoning
64. a gr_____c description of an accident
adj. relating to visual art or involving the use of diagrams or illustrations; very clear and powerful
65. re___e my youth
v. to experience again or bring back the memory of a past event or time
66. an unf_____te situation
adj. having bad luck or fortune; unlucky
67. a fa_____ic dress
adj. extremely good; excellent
68. the exc_____nt in the business world
n. a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness
69. w__p a fish in foil
v. to cover or enclose something entirely with paper, cloth, or other material

ANSWERS: 58. concept, 59. radioactive, 60. shallow, 61. regardless, 62. tale, 63. provable, 64. graphic, 65. relive, 66. unfortunate, 67. fantastic, 68. excitement, 69. wrap

70. a criminal bac_____nd *n.* the details of a person's social heritage, such as family, vocational or educational experience; past information that is essential to understanding a situation or problem
71. new di_____on *n.* a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length
72. rad_____ve isotope *adj.* emitting powerful and dangerous energy when the nuclei (= central parts) of atoms are broken up
73. marketing ov_____ll *n.* an excessive or extreme amount of something, often used to describe an unnecessary or disproportionate use of force or resources
74. sp____r venom *n.* a small, eight-legged creature that spins webs to catch insects as food; a computer program that systematically browses the World Wide Web for purposes of web indexing
75. su_____ro movies *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
76. a wi____d at chess *n.* a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field
77. as____ts of social, political, and economic life *n.* one part or feature of a situation, problem, subject, etc.
78. sh_____w water *adj.* not having much distance from the top to the bottom
79. horde of mo_____rs *n.* an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful

ANSWERS: 70. background, 71. dimension, 72. radioactive, 73. overkill, 74. spider, 75. superhero, 76. wizard, 77. aspect, 78. shallow, 79. monster

80. sup_____er leader

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

ANSWERS: 80. superpower

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He sailed the Atlantic Ocean multiple times during his _____.
n. a journey or a series of events that is unusual, exciting, or dangerous

2. The mischievous _____ flew gracefully through the forest, spreading magic wherever she went.
n. a mythical being of folklore and romance usually depicted as having magic powers

3. I like to watch old movies to _____ memories of my childhood.
v. to experience again or bring back the memory of a past event or time

4. Many people in the medieval period believed in _____ and their ability to cast spells.
n. a person, typically a woman, who is believed to have magic powers and practices witchcraft

5. The _____ material was carefully stored in a lead-lined container.
adj. emitting powerful and dangerous energy when the nuclei (= central parts) of atoms are broken up

6. Overall _____ are approximately 400x200mm.
n. a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length

7. Many people believe in the power of balancing their _____ for spiritual and physical wellness.
n. any of the seven energy centers in the human body, according to traditional Indian medicine and yoga philosophy

ANSWERS: 1. adventures, 2. fairy, 3. relive, 4. witches, 5. radioactive, 6. dimensions, 7. chakras

8. The _____ jets gradually dominate the world's airlines.

adj. enormous; much bigger or more important than similar items usually are

9. The bankruptcy of the giant conglomerate _____ turmoil in the stock market.

v. to start something or make it grow, especially suddenly; to emit a tiny piece of fire or electricity

10. His professional experience includes all _____ of media production.

n. one part or feature of a situation, problem, subject, etc.

11. The _____ accident caused many injuries and some fatalities.

adj. having bad luck or fortune; unlucky

12. _____ brooks are noisier than deep rivers.

adj. not having much distance from the top to the bottom

13. Superman is a classic _____ known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.

n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

14. Little children tend to have _____ friends.

adj. existing only in someone's mind

15. Who answers _____ knows little.

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

16. He was a _____ at solving complex mathematical equations.

n. a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field

ANSWERS: 8. giant, 9. sparked, 10. aspects, 11. unfortunate, 12. Shallow, 13. superhero, 14. imaginary, 15. suddenly, 16. wizard

17. The team felt _____ after their winning streak.

adj. incapable of being conquered, defeated, or overcome; unassailable

18. The _____ novel was a masterpiece with stunning illustrations that brought the story to life.

adj. relating to visual art or involving the use of diagrams or illustrations; very clear and powerful

19. We elected him to _____ us at the international conference.

v. to speak, act, or be present on behalf of another person or group; to form or constitute

20. The following example _____ that the capacity of each battery is the same.

v. to think or accept something to be true without having proof of it; to take or begin to have power; to begin to exhibit a specific quality or appearance

21. Bamboo will soon _____ the other plants.

v. to grow too large for something; to grow taller or faster than another person

22. This car has a _____ engine.

n. an imaginary creature that is large and has various human and animal parts; someone or something large and powerful

23. Ghosts in folk _____ are almost always malicious.

n. a story made up in someone's imagination, especially one full of action and adventure

24. The phenomenon is _____ at optical wavelengths.

adj. impossible or nearly impossible to see

ANSWERS: 17. invincible, 18. graphic, 19. represent, 20. assumes, 21. outgrow, 22. monster, 23. tales, 24. invisible

25. The _____ of the upcoming concert was palpable among the crowd.
n. a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness
26. People can pick out superior products _____ of the quality of the advertising.
adv. not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties
27. There are various hypotheses concerning the _____ of life.
n. the first existence or beginning of something
28. The new amusement park ride was _____ with twists, turns, and drops that left riders screaming with excitement.
adj. extremely good; excellent
29. He is more concerned about the _____ of his body fat than usual because of an upcoming bodybuilding competition.
n. a part, share, or amount of something considered in comparative relation to a whole
30. The excessive use of force by the police was an example of _____ in their attempt to arrest a suspect.
n. an excessive or extreme amount of something, often used to describe an unnecessary or disproportionate use of force or resources
31. The company's hiring criteria emphasize personality, not a person's _____.
n. the details of a person's social heritage, such as family, vocational or educational experience; past information that is essential to understanding a situation or problem

ANSWERS: 25. excitement, 26. regardless, 27. origin, 28. fantastic, 29. proportion, 30. overkill, 31. background

32. The novel's plot was so well-written that it seemed _____ and realistic.
adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
33. _____ the bandage tightly around the injured arm.
v. to cover or enclose something entirely with paper, cloth, or other material
34. The defense found no _____ evidence to support the accusations against their client.
adj. capable of being demonstrated or shown to be true; able to be verified through evidence or logical reasoning
35. The _____ spun an intricate web in the corner of the room.
n. a small, eight-legged creature that spins webs to catch insects as food; a computer program that systematically browses the World Wide Web for purposes of web indexing
36. One such rapidly growing _____ is quantum cryptography.
n. an idea or principle associated with something abstract
37. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a _____ in comic books and movies.
n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
38. I _____ to him that I had seen his sister at the grocery store earlier that day.
v. to speak or write about something or someone briefly
39. The _____ bright tail could be seen in the night sky.
n. a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

ANSWERS: 32. believable, 33. Wrap, 34. provable, 35. spider, 36. concept, 37. superpower, 38. mentioned, 39. comet's

40. The investigation _____ several government agencies and is expected to take several months.
- v. to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

ANSWERS: 40. involves