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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kate Darling: Why we have an emotional connection to robots | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

dinosaur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

synonym: reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

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.

squirm

v. to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness

synonym: squiggle, wiggle, writhe

(1) **squirm** uncomfortably, (2) **squirm** with excitement

The child **squirmed** out of his mother's grasp and ran off.

compel

v. to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

synonym: force, oblige, coerce

(1) **compel** a person to submission, (2) **compel** attention
The strict deadlines will **compel** the team to work efficiently.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym: intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**
When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

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.

minefield

n. an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps

synonym: hazard, danger, obstacle course

(1) enter a political **minefield**, (2) navigate the **minefield**
The corporate restructuring process was a **minefield** with many obstacles that needed to be navigated.

colonel

n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

synonym: officer, military, ranking officer

(1) **colonel** rank, (2) brevet **colonel**
The Army **colonel** led the troops into battle.

inhumane

adj. lacking compassion or mercy towards humans or animals; causing or involving extreme physical or mental pain

synonym: cruel, brutal, barbaric

(1) **inhumane** forms of punishment, (2) **inhumane** living conditions

The conditions at the factory were deemed **inhumane** and caused outrage among the public.

hardwired

adj. built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics

synonym: innate, ingrained, automatic

(1) **hardwired** behavior, (2) **hardwired** connection

The instinct to protect one's offspring is **hardwired** into many animal species.

salute

v. to show respect or recognition for someone or something, often by making a gesture or performing an action; to greet or acknowledge someone in a formal or ceremonious way

synonym: greet, acknowledge, acclaim

(1) **salute** to the flag, (2) **salute** him in military fashion

The soldiers stood at attention to **salute** their commanding officer.

roam

v. to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

synonym: wander, ramble, meander

(1) **roam** freely, (2) **roam** the countryside

I love to **roam** around the city and discover new neighborhoods.

evoke

v. to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind

synonym: arouse, raise, inspire

(1) **evoke** a sense of awe, (2) **evoke** sympathy

This movie is likely to **evoke** strong emotions in the viewer.

subconsciously

adv. in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of

synonym: unconsciously, without thinking

(1) **subconsciously** influenced, (2) controlled **subconsciously**

He **subconsciously** picked at his cuticles while he was on the phone.

lifelike

adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

synonym: realistic, naturalistic, vivid

(1) **lifelike** painting, (2) **lifelike** animation

The artist created a **lifelike** sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.

robotic

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

synonym: automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

domesticate

v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

synonym: tame, naturalize, cultivate

(1) easy to **domesticate**, (2) **domesticate** the plant

We **domesticate** cows to gain milk and meat.

weaponry

n. a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country

synonym: arms, munition, artillery

(1) **weaponry** development, (2) advanced **weaponry**

The army used various **weaponry** to defend the country from attack.

inefficient

adj. lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.

synonym : ineffective, counterproductive, inadequate

(1) **inefficient** use, (2) **inefficient** management

The system is still so **inefficient** that it is useless.

dementia

n. a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury

synonym : cognitive decline, memory loss, Alzheimer's disease

(1) **dementia** patients, (2) probably have **dementia**

The study found that regular exercise can help to prevent the onset of **dementia** in older age.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

unveil

v. to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time

synonym : reveal, uncover, expose

(1) **unveil** a monument, (2) **unveil** a comprehensive plan

The company plans to **unveil** its new product at the trade show next week.

hatchet

n. a small, lightweight axe used for chopping or cutting wood; a tool used for smoothing and shaping metal or stone

synonym : ax, cleaver, tomahawk

(1) **hatchet** job, (2) steel **hatchet** head

The woodsman used a sharp **hatchet** to chop firewood for the winter.

improvise

v. to create or perform something on the spot, without preparation or planning; to use what one has available to do or create something

synonym : ad-lib, extemporize

(1) **improvise** a joke, (2) **improvise** an escape plan

We had to **improvise** a tent using a tarp and sticks since we didn't have a proper one.

wince

v. to make a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement due to pain, distress, or embarrassment;
(noun) a facial expression or bodily gesture of pain, discomfort, or embarrassment in response to an unpleasant or unwelcome stimulus

synonym : flinch, grimace, twitch

(1) **wince** at the sound, (2) a slight **wince**

He **winc**ed as he saw his favorite vase fall and shatter on the ground.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym : great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

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.

visceral

adj. relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

synonym : instinctive, intuitive, gut

(1) **visceral** organ, (2) **visceral** fear

After watching the horror movie, she had a **visceral** reaction and couldn't sleep all night.

physicality

n. the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force

synonym : corporeality, animalism, embodiment

(1) **physicality** of dance, (2) express **physicality**

The athlete's success was largely due to her **physicality** and dedication to fitness.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ha____t job *n.* a small, lightweight axe used for chopping or cutting wood; a tool used for smoothing and shaping metal or stone
2. a sm____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
3. wi__e at the sound *v.* to make a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement due to pain, distress, or embarrassment; (noun) a facial expression or bodily gesture of pain, discomfort, or embarrassment in response to an unpleasant or unwelcome stimulus
4. in____ne forms of punishment *adj.* lacking compassion or mercy towards humans or animals; causing or involving extreme physical or mental pain
5. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
6. sq____m uncomfortably *v.* to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness
7. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 1. hatchet, 2. smashing, 3. wince, 4. inhumane, 5. mimic, 6. squirm, 7. app

8. aggressive in_____ct *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
9. co____l attention *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
10. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
11. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
12. controlled sub_____sly *adv.* in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of
13. co____l rank *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
14. co____l a person to submission *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
15. ex____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
16. ha_____ed behavior *adj.* built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics

ANSWERS: 8. instinct, 9. compel, 10. empathy, 11. app, 12. subconsciously, 13. colonel, 14. compel, 15. excite, 16. hardwired

17. probably have de_____ia *n.* a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury
18. un___l a comprehensive plan *v.* to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time
19. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
20. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
21. r__m freely *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
22. li_____ke animation *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
23. ro_____c guide operation *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
24. ine_____nt use *adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
25. di_____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
26. r__m the countryside *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
27. sq___m with excitement *v.* to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness

ANSWERS: 17. dementia, 18. unveil, 19. smashing, 20. excite, 21. roam, 22. lifelike, 23. robotic, 24. inefficient, 25. dinosaur, 26. roam, 27. squirm

28. a slight wi__e
- v. to make a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement due to pain, distress, or embarrassment; (noun) a facial expression or bodily gesture of pain, discomfort, or embarrassment in response to an unpleasant or unwelcome stimulus
29. sa___e to the flag
- v. to show respect or recognition for someone or something, often by making a gesture or performing an action; to greet or acknowledge someone in a formal or ceremonious way
30. im_____se a joke
- v. to create or perform something on the spot, without preparation or planning; to use what one has available to do or create something
31. sa___e him in military fashion
- v. to show respect or recognition for someone or something, often by making a gesture or performing an action; to greet or acknowledge someone in a formal or ceremonious way
32. ine_____nt management
- adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
33. phy_____ty of dance
- n.* the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force
34. ev__e a sense of awe
- v. to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind

ANSWERS: 28. wince, 29. salute, 30. improvise, 31. salute, 32. inefficient, 33. physicality, 34. evoke

35. express phy_____ty *n.* the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force
36. in_____ct for self-preservation *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
37. easy to dom_____te *v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
38. steel ha_____t head *n.* a small, lightweight axe used for chopping or cutting wood; a tool used for smoothing and shaping metal or stone
39. vi_____al organ *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
40. li_____ke painting *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
41. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
42. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
43. ha_____ed connection *adj.* built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics

ANSWERS: 35. physicality, 36. instinct, 37. domesticate, 38. hatchet, 39. visceral, 40. lifelike, 41. empathy, 42. mimic, 43. hardwired

44. 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
45. brevet co_____l *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
46. dom_____te the plant *v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
47. vi_____al fear *adj.* relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses
48. ev__e sympathy *v.* to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
49. sub_____sly influenced *adv.* in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of
50. hulking di_____ur *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
51. im_____se an escape plan *v.* to create or perform something on the spot, without preparation or planning; to use what one has available to do or create something
52. in_____ne living conditions *adj.* lacking compassion or mercy towards humans or animals; causing or involving extreme physical or mental pain
53. ro_____c arm *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

ANSWERS: 44. defuse, 45. colonel, 46. domesticate, 47. visceral, 48. evoke, 49. subconsciously, 50. dinosaur, 51. improvise, 52. inhumane, 53. robotic

54. we____ry development *n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
55. un____l a monument *v.* to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time
56. navigate the mi____ld *n.* an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps
57. 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
58. de____ia patients *n.* a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury
59. enter a political mi____ld *n.* an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps
60. advanced we____ry *n.* a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country

ANSWERS: 54. weaponry, 55. unveil, 56. minefield, 57. defuse, 58. dementia, 59. minefield, 60. weaponry

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The study found that regular exercise can help to prevent the onset of _____ in older age.
 - n.* a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury

2. The strict deadlines will _____ the team to work efficiently.
 - v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

3. The corporate restructuring process was a _____ with many obstacles that needed to be navigated.
 - n.* an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps

4. The discovery of a new _____ species made headlines in the scientific community.
 - n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

5. The soldiers stood at attention to _____ their commanding officer.
 - v.* to show respect or recognition for someone or something, often by making a gesture or performing an action; to greet or acknowledge someone in a formal or ceremonious way

6. The news of her promotion _____ her.
 - v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 1. dementia, 2. compel, 3. minefield, 4. dinosaur, 5. salute, 6. excited

7. He _____ picked at his cuticles while he was on the phone.
adv. in a way that is not fully conscious or aware of
8. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
9. The athlete's success was largely due to her _____ and dedication to fitness.
n. the physical nature or characteristics of something, especially the human body or movement; the state of being full of energy and force
10. The artist created a _____ sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.
adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
11. The surgeon removed the tumor using _____ video assistance.
adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
12. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
13. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
14. 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

ANSWERS: 7. subconsciously, 8. instinct, 9. physicality, 10. lifelike, 11. robotic, 12. mimic, 13. smashing, 14. defused

15. I love to _____ around the city and discover new neighborhoods.
v. to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
16. We had to _____ a tent using a tarp and sticks since we didn't have a proper one.
v. to create or perform something on the spot, without preparation or planning; to use what one has available to do or create something
17. The instinct to protect one's offspring is _____ into many animal species.
adj. built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics
18. He _____ as he saw his favorite vase fall and shatter on the ground.
v. to make a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement due to pain, distress, or embarrassment; (noun) a facial expression or bodily gesture of pain, discomfort, or embarrassment in response to an unpleasant or unwelcome stimulus
19. The army used various _____ to defend the country from attack.
n. a collection of weapons (e.g., guns, knives, bombs, missiles, etc.) used or owned by a particular individual, group, military, or country
20. The conditions at the factory were deemed _____ and caused outrage among the public.
adj. lacking compassion or mercy towards humans or animals; causing or involving extreme physical or mental pain
21. The woodsman used a sharp _____ to chop firewood for the winter.
n. a small, lightweight axe used for chopping or cutting wood; a tool used for smoothing and shaping metal or stone

ANSWERS: 15. roam, 16. improvise, 17. hardwired, 18. winced, 19. weaponry, 20. inhumane, 21. hatchet

22. The company plans to _____ its new product at the trade show next week.
v. to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time
23. The system is still so _____ that it is useless.
adj. lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
24. The child _____ out of his mother's grasp and ran off.
v. to twist, wiggle, or contort the body uncomfortably or awkwardly, often due to embarrassment, discomfort, or nervousness
25. The Army _____ led the troops into battle.
n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
26. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
27. We _____ cows to gain milk and meat.
v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
28. This movie is likely to _____ strong emotions in the viewer.
v. to bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image into your mind
29. After watching the horror movie, she had a _____ reaction and couldn't sleep all night.
adj. relating to or affecting the internal organs; instinctive or emotional rather than rational; characterized by deep-seated emotional reactions or responses

ANSWERS: 22. unveil, 23. inefficient, 24. squirmed, 25. colonel, 26. app's, 27. domesticate, 28. evoke, 29. visceral

30. _____ is also necessary to understand history.

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

ANSWERS: 30. Empathy