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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Hugo Mercier: How can you change someone's mind? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

backfire

v. to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

synonym: recoil, boomerang, misfire

(1) **backfire** big time, (2) **backfire** spectacularly

The company's decision to lay off a large number of employees **backfired** as it led to a decrease in productivity.

tease

v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

synonym: bully, annoy, provoke

(1) **tease** the children, (2) **tease** wool

This ad is intended to **tease** a competing product.

upend

v. to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order

synonym: overturn, upset, invert

(1) **upend** a table, (2) **upend** a tradition

The sudden news **upended** their plans for the weekend.

axiom

n. a statement or principle that is regarded as being self-evidently true and does not require proof or

justification; a fundamental truth upon which other truths or theories are based

synonym: principle, maxim, postulate

(1) self-evident **axiom**, (2) fundamental **axiom**

It is an **axiom** in mathematics that two parallel lines never intersect.

reconcile

v. to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist

synonym: harmonize, moderate, conciliate

(1) **reconcile** these differences, (2) **reconcile** a dispute

Sometimes it is challenging to **reconcile** science and religion.

inclination

n. a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping

synonym: tendency, preference, angle

(1) consumer's **inclination** to spend, (2) the **inclination** of a slope

She had an **inclination** towards the arts.

rebuttal

n. a response or argument that opposes or counters a previous statement or claim; a refutation or denial of the validity of an argument or claim

synonym: refutation, counterargument, disproof

(1) **rebuttal** to the argument, (2) **rebuttal** of the claims

The defense attorney offered a strong **rebuttal** to the prosecution's case.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ba____re spectacularly *v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion
2. up__d a table *v.* to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order
3. the inc_____on of a slope *n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping
4. te__e wool *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
5. re____al to the argument *n.* a response or argument that opposes or counters a previous statement or claim; a refutation or denial of the validity of an argument or claim
6. fundamental ax__m *n.* a statement or principle that is regarded as being self-evidently true and does not require proof or justification; a fundamental truth upon which other truths or theories are based
7. te__e the children *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

ANSWERS: 1. backfire, 2. upend, 3. inclination, 4. tease, 5. rebuttal, 6. axiom, 7. tease

8. re_____al of the claims *n.* a response or argument that opposes or counters a previous statement or claim; a refutation or denial of the validity of an argument or claim
9. up__d a tradition *v.* to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order
10. re_____le these differences *v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
11. re_____le a dispute *v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist
12. consumer's inc_____on to spend *n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping
13. self-evident ax__m *n.* a statement or principle that is regarded as being self-evidently true and does not require proof or justification; a fundamental truth upon which other truths or theories are based
14. ba_____re big time *v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

ANSWERS: 8. rebuttal, 9. upend, 10. reconcile, 11. reconcile, 12. inclination, 13. axiom, 14. backfire

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. It is an _____ in mathematics that two parallel lines never intersect.
 - n.* a statement or principle that is regarded as being self-evidently true and does not require proof or justification; a fundamental truth upon which other truths or theories are based

2. The company's decision to lay off a large number of employees _____ as it led to a decrease in productivity.
 - v.* to have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended; to make a sudden noise like an explosion

3. The sudden news _____ their plans for the weekend.
 - v.* to turn or flip over; to overthrow or upset the established order

4. The defense attorney offered a strong _____ to the prosecution's case.
 - n.* a response or argument that opposes or counters a previous statement or claim; a refutation or denial of the validity of an argument or claim

5. She had an _____ towards the arts.
 - n.* a tendency or disposition to think, feel, or act in a certain way; a preference or bias; a degree of sloping

6. Sometimes it is challenging to _____ science and religion.
 - v.* to find a way of dealing with two or more ideas, needs, etc. that are opposed to each other to agree and coexist

7. This ad is intended to _____ a competing product.
 - v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

ANSWERS: 1. axiom, 2. backfired, 3. upended, 4. rebuttal, 5. inclination, 6. reconcile, 7. tease

ANSWERS: