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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kim Preshoff: What's a smartphone made of? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict
Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

phosphorescence

n. a form of luminescence that continues to emit light after direct exposure to a light source has ended; a glowing or luminous quality, often associated with living organisms or minerals

synonym: glow, luminescence, radiance

(1) **phosphorescence** glow, (2) ocean **phosphorescence**

The mesmerizing **phosphorescence** of the plankton in the water illuminated the beach.

conductivity

n. the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.

synonym : conduction

(1) low **conductivity**, (2) electrical **conductivity**

High thermal **conductivity** is also essential for the exterior of the machine.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym : agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

swath

n. a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something

synonym : strip, band, fodder

(1) a large **swath** of territory, (2) a **swath** of green grass

The charity organization has helped to provide education to a vast **swath** of the population.

palladium

n. chemical element with the symbol Pd and atomic number 46, which is a rare and lustrous metallic element often used in alloys, electronics, and catalytic converters

(1) **palladium** electrode, (2) **palladium** metal

The new car has a catalytic converter made of **palladium**.

tungsten

n. a hard, dense metallic element with the symbol W (from its German name, Wolfram) and atomic number 74, which has high melting and boiling points, often used in electrical wiring, light bulb filaments, and other high-stress applications

synonym : W, Wolfram

(1) **tungsten** carbide, (2) **tungsten** filament

Tungsten electrodes are used in welding applications due to their high melting point and conductivity

lithium

n. a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder

synonym : lithy, Li, salt

(1) **lithium** carbonate, (2) **lithium** mining

Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used in laptops, smartphones, and electric vehicles.

silica

n. a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler

synonym : silicon dioxide, quartz, sand

(1) **silica** gel, (2) **silica** fiber

The production of glass requires high-purity **silica** sand.

laborer

n. a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks

synonym : worker, employee, operative

(1) **laborer** job, (2) skilled **laborer**

The construction site hired many **laborers** to help with the heavy lifting.

entwine

v. to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group

synonym : twist, interlace, interweave

(1) **entwine** fingers, (2) **entwine** branches

The ideas and themes in the movie **entwine** to create a powerful commentary on society

inextricable

adj. unable to be separated or escaped from

synonym : inescapable, inseparable, entangled

(1) an **inextricable** part of life, (2) form an **inextricable** bond

The knot was **inextricable**, and she had to use scissors to cut it.

conundrum

n. a confusing and difficult problem or question

synonym: puzzle, riddle, enigma

(1) **conundrum** of choice, (2) pose a **conundrum**

The group faced a **conundrum** when they couldn't decide whether to go hiking or to the beach.

bounty

n. a reward offered for capturing or killing someone or for accomplishing a specific task

synonym: reward, premium, recompense

(1) cash **bounty**, (2) a **bounty** on exports

The **bounty** hunter was hired to capture the notorious criminal and bring him to justice.

recycle

v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

synonym: reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

refurbish

v. to renovate or improve something old or worn out, typically by cleaning, repairing, or replacing parts to restore its original condition or appearance

synonym: renovate, revamp, remodel

(1) **refurbish** a room, (2) **refurbish** a classic car

I plan to **refurbish** my old dresser with a fresh coat of paint and new drawer handles.

dismantle

v. to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

synonym: take apart, demolish, take down

(1) **dismantle** a machine, (2) **dismantle** a system

The old building had to be **dismantled** because it was structurally unsound.

underpaid

adj. paid less than a fair or reasonable wage

synonym: undervalued, under-compensated, under-rewarded

(1) **underpaid** mail, (2) **underpaid** position

Many people believe that they are **underpaid** for the work that they do.

disassemble

v. to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components

synonym: dismantle, take apart, break down

(1) **disassemble** a machine, (2) **disassemble** furniture

The mechanic had to **disassemble** the engine to locate and fix the problem.

leach

v. to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock

synonym: drain, filter, strain

(1) **leach** into the brewed coffee, (2) **leach** calcium from the bones

The chemicals from the landfill have begun to **leach** into the groundwater.

assemblage

n. a collection or gathering of things or persons; a group or ensemble of items that have been brought together in a particular way

synonym: gathering, collection, meeting

(1) sculptural **assemblage**, (2) an **assemblage** of tools

The **assemblage** of artists displayed their works in the gallery for all to see.

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym: open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a large sw__h of territory
n. a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something
2. tu____en filament
n. a hard, dense metallic element with the symbol W (from its German name, Wolfram) and atomic number 74, which has high melting and boiling points, often used in electrical wiring, light bulb filaments, and other high-stress applications
3. re_____sh a room
v. to renovate or improve something old or worn out, typically by cleaning, repairing, or replacing parts to restore its original condition or appearance
4. a bo___y on exports
n. a reward offered for capturing or killing someone or for accomplishing a specific task
5. re_____m a competitive position
v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
6. pa_____um metal
n. chemical element with the symbol Pd and atomic number 46, which is a rare and lustrous metallic element often used in alloys, electronics, and catalytic converters
7. re_____m land from the sea
v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
8. li_____m carbonate
n. a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder

ANSWERS: 1. swath, 2. tungsten, 3. refurbish, 4. bounty, 5. reclaim, 6. palladium, 7. reclaim, 8. lithium

9. en_____e fingers *v.* to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group
10. re_____e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
11. di_____le a system *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
12. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
13. li_____m mining *n.* a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder
14. un_____id mail *adj.* paid less than a fair or reasonable wage
15. form an ine_____ble bond *adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
16. an ass_____ge of tools *n.* a collection or gathering of things or persons; a group or ensemble of items that have been brought together in a particular way
17. tu_____en carbide *n.* a hard, dense metallic element with the symbol W (from its German name, Wolfram) and atomic number 74, which has high melting and boiling points, often used in electrical wiring, light bulb filaments, and other high-stress applications

ANSWERS: 9. entwine, 10. recycle, 11. dismantle, 12. smartphone, 13. lithium, 14. underpaid, 15. inextricable, 16. assemblage, 17. tungsten

18. sculptural ass_____ge *n.* a collection or gathering of things or persons; a group or ensemble of items that have been brought together in a particular way
19. re_____sh a classic car *v.* to renovate or improve something old or worn out, typically by cleaning, repairing, or replacing parts to restore its original condition or appearance
20. di_____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
21. di_____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
22. le__h calcium from the bones *v.* to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock
23. pose a co_____um *n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question
24. ocean pho_____nce *n.* a form of luminescence that continues to emit light after direct exposure to a light source has ended; a glowing or luminous quality, often associated with living organisms or minerals
25. si___a gel *n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
26. co_____um of choice *n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question

ANSWERS: 18. assemblage, 19. refurbish, 20. disturb, 21. disturb, 22. leach, 23. conundrum, 24. phosphorescence, 25. silica, 26. conundrum

27. skilled la____r *n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
28. an ine_____ble part of life *adj.* unable to be separated or escaped from
29. electrical con_____ity *n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
30. si___a fiber *n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
31. re_____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
32. un___d the stroller *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
33. di_____le a machine *v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment
34. un___d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
35. le__h into the brewed coffee *v.* to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock

ANSWERS: 27. laborer, 28. inextricable, 29. conductivity, 30. silica, 31. recycle, 32. unfold, 33. dismantle, 34. unfold, 35. leach

36. en_____e branches *v.* to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group
37. pho_____nce glow *n.* a form of luminescence that continues to emit light after direct exposure to a light source has ended; a glowing or luminous quality, often associated with living organisms or minerals
38. dis_____le a machine *v.* to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
39. pa_____um electrode *n.* chemical element with the symbol Pd and atomic number 46, which is a rare and lustrous metallic element often used in alloys, electronics, and catalytic converters
40. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
41. cash bo____y *n.* a reward offered for capturing or killing someone or for accomplishing a specific task
42. a sw__h of green grass *n.* a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something
43. low con_____ity *n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
44. dis_____le furniture *v.* to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components

ANSWERS: 36. entwine, 37. phosphorescence, 38. disassemble, 39. palladium, 40. smartphone, 41. bounty, 42. swath, 43. conductivity, 44. disassemble

45. un_____id position

adj. paid less than a fair or reasonable wage

46. la_____r job

n. a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks

ANSWERS: 45. underpaid, 46. laborer

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The mesmerizing _____ of the plankton in the water illuminated the beach.
 - n.* a form of luminescence that continues to emit light after direct exposure to a light source has ended; a glowing or luminous quality, often associated with living organisms or minerals

2. The _____ hunter was hired to capture the notorious criminal and bring him to justice.
 - n.* a reward offered for capturing or killing someone or for accomplishing a specific task

3. _____ batteries are commonly used in laptops, smartphones, and electric vehicles.
 - n.* a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder

4. The new car has a catalytic converter made of _____.
 - n.* chemical element with the symbol Pd and atomic number 46, which is a rare and lustrous metallic element often used in alloys, electronics, and catalytic converters

5. The old building had to be _____ because it was structurally unsound.
 - v.* to take apart or demolish (a structure, machine, system, or the like); to strip off fittings or equipment

6. We largely _____ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.
 - v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

ANSWERS: 1. phosphorescence, 2. bounty, 3. Lithium-ion, 4. palladium, 5. dismantled, 6. recycle

7. The _____ of artists displayed their works in the gallery for all to see.
- n.* a collection or gathering of things or persons; a group or ensemble of items that have been brought together in a particular way
8. The production of glass requires high-purity _____ sand.
- n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
9. The group faced a _____ when they couldn't decide whether to go hiking or to the beach.
- n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question
10. You may be entitled to _____ some tax.
- v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
11. The ideas and themes in the movie _____ to create a powerful commentary on society
- v.* to twist or interlace two or more things or objects together; to interweave or interconnect in a complex way; to become deeply involved or entangled with another person or group
12. I plan to _____ my old dresser with a fresh coat of paint and new drawer handles.
- v.* to renovate or improve something old or worn out, typically by cleaning, repairing, or replacing parts to restore its original condition or appearance
13. The construction site hired many _____ to help with the heavy lifting.
- n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks

ANSWERS: 7. assemblage, 8. silica, 9. conundrum, 10. reclaim, 11. entwine, 12. refurbish, 13. laborers

14. The mechanic had to _____ the engine to locate and fix the problem.
v. to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
15. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
16. High thermal _____ is also essential for the exterior of the machine.
n. the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
17. The knot was _____ and she had to use scissors to cut it.
adj. unable to be separated or escaped from
18. _____ electrodes are used in welding applications due to their high melting point and conductivity
n. a hard, dense metallic element with the symbol W (from its German name, Wolfram) and atomic number 74, which has high melting and boiling points, often used in electrical wiring, light bulb filaments, and other high-stress applications
19. The chemicals from the landfill have begun to _____ into the groundwater.
v. to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock
20. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
21. The charity organization has helped to provide education to a vast _____ of the population.
n. a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something

ANSWERS: 14. disassemble, 15. smartphones, 16. conductivity, 17. inextricable, 18. Tungsten, 19. leach, 20. unfolded, 21. swath

22. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

23. Many people believe that they are _____ for the work that they do.

adj. paid less than a fair or reasonable wage

ANSWERS: 22. disturb, 23. underpaid