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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Fabio Pacucci: The battle that formed the universe |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

contender

n. the contestant you hope to defeat

synonym: rival, competitor, challenger

(1) championship **contender**, (2) presidential **contender**

We were looking at a severe **contender** indeed.

ripple

n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym: wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water

Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

baryon

n. a subatomic particle, such as a proton or neutron, that is composed of three quarks and is responsible for the formation of atomic nuclei

synonym: particle, hadron, nucleon

(1) **baryon** number, (2) **baryon** resonance

The **baryon** density in the early universe is believed to have significantly impacted the formation of galaxies.

innumerable

adj. too many to be counted

synonym: many, infinite, countless

(1) **innumerable** stars, (2) give **innumerable** interviews

We have overcome **innumerable** difficulties since our founding.

proton

n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

(1) **proton** decay, (2) **proton** conductivity

The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and **protons**.

tug

v. to pull something quickly and hard, often several times
synonym: draw, jerk, pull

(1) **tug** a rope, (2) **tug** at his hand

This movie **tugs** at everyone's heartstrings.

exert

v. to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
synonym: exert, apply, use

(1) **exert** control, (2) **exert** influence

He **exerted** himself to lift the heavyweight.

forceful

adj. having or showing great strength or energy
synonym: powerful, strong, energetic

(1) **forceful** argument, (2) take **forceful** action

She spoke with a **forceful** tone and made her point clear.

shove

v. to push someone or something in a rough way
synonym: push, jab, elbow

(1) **shove** a person aside, (2) **shove** hamburger into my mouth

He forcibly **shoved** the flyer into my bag.

heave

v. to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea

synonym: lift, hoist, tug

(1) **heave** a sigh, (2) **heave** a boulder

The workers had to **heave** the heavy equipment up the staircase to the top floor.

oscillate

v. to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive

synonym: fluctuate, swing, vibrate

(1) **oscillate** back and forth, (2) **oscillate** between joy and anger

The fan in the room **oscillates**, making the airflow more evenly.

imaginable

adj. capable of being imagined

synonym: conceivable, plausible, possible

(1) easily **imaginable**, (2) worst **imaginable** case

This is the only **imaginable** strategy.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

trough

n. a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity

synonym: trough, channel, depression

(1) the **trough** in an economic cycle, (2) **trough-shaped** valley

The farmers filled the feeding **trough** with hay for the livestock.

brawl

n. a noisy and violent fight involving a group of people; a chaotic and unruly disturbance or conflict

synonym : fight, scuffle, skirmish

(1) barroom **brawl**, (2) street **brawl**

The **brawl** at the nightclub resulted in several injuries and arrests.

stalemate

n. a situation in which neither side of a conflict or dispute can make progress or gain an advantage, typically resulting in a deadlock or impasse

synonym : deadlock, impasse, standstill

(1) political **stalemate**, (2) **stalemate** situation

The negotiations between the two companies reached a **stalemate**, and neither side would compromise.

dissipated

adj. dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline

synonym : debauched, dissolute, decadent

(1) **dissipated** lifestyle, (2) **dissipated** energy

His **dissipated** behavior at the party concerned his friends, who wondered if he had a substance abuse problem.

recombine

v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)

(1) **recombine** at the surface, (2) ability to **recombine**

Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially **recombined**.

reckless

adj. marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions

synonym : impetuous, irresponsible, thoughtless

(1) **reckless** driving, (2) in a **reckless** manner

Reckless youth makes rueful age.

illuminating

adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

synonym : enlightening, informative, clarifying

(1) **illuminating** light, (2) an **illuminating** answer

The lecture was **illuminating** and gave me a new perspective on the topic.

undefeated

adj. not having been beaten or conquered; having won every contest or battle

synonym : invincible, unbeaten

(1) **undefeated** record, (2) an **undefeated** team

The football team remained **undefeated** throughout the entire season.

pervasive

adj. spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

synonym : extensive, ubiquitous, prevalent

(1) **pervasive** language, (2) the **pervasive** odor of garlic

Suspicion and worry were **pervasive** in our minds.

rivalry

n. competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

synonym : competition, contest, struggle

(1) fierce **rivalry**, (2) **rivalry** among airlines

The **rivalry** between the two teams was intense and heated.

inward

adj. directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

synonym : internal, introspective, interior

(1) **inward** peace, (2) **inward** cargo

The **inward** motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.

challenger

n. a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge

synonym : contender, rival, contestant

(1) **challenger** brand, (2) political **challenger**

The **challenger** in the boxing match put up a good fight.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. a det_____nt of crop yields | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 2. fierce ri_____y | <i>n.</i> competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business |
| 3. in____d cargo | <i>adj.</i> directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking |
| 4. inn_____le stars | <i>adj.</i> too many to be counted |
| 5. easily ima_____le | <i>adj.</i> capable of being imagined |
| 6. an und_____ed team | <i>adj.</i> not having been beaten or conquered; having won every contest or battle |
| 7. und_____ed record | <i>adj.</i> not having been beaten or conquered; having won every contest or battle |
| 8. he__e a boulder | <i>v.</i> to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea |
| 9. tr____h-shaped valley | <i>n.</i> a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity |
| 10. political st_____te | <i>n.</i> a situation in which neither side of a conflict or dispute can make progress or gain an advantage, typically resulting in a deadlock or impasse |

ANSWERS: 1. determinant, 2. rivalry, 3. inward, 4. innumerable, 5. imaginable, 6. undefeated, 7. undefeated, 8. heave, 9. trough, 10. stalemate

11. cha_____er brand *n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
12. pr___n conductivity *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
13. take fo_____ul action *adj.* having or showing great strength or energy
14. ri___e in the water *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
15. a ri___e of laughter *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
16. os_____te between joy and anger *v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
17. barroom br___l *n.* a noisy and violent fight involving a group of people; a chaotic and unruly disturbance or conflict
18. political cha_____er *n.* a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
19. ex__t control *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play

ANSWERS: 11. challenger, 12. proton, 13. forceful, 14. ripple, 15. ripple, 16. oscillate, 17. brawl, 18. challenger, 19. exert

20. presidential co_____er *n.* the contestant you hope to defeat
21. t_g at his hand *v.* to pull something quickly and hard, often several times
22. sh__e hamburger into my mouth *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
23. dis_____ed lifestyle *adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
24. pe_____ve language *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
25. fo_____ul argument *adj.* having or showing great strength or energy
26. re_____ss driving *adj.* marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
27. in___d peace *adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
28. he__e a sigh *v.* to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea
29. st_____te situation *n.* a situation in which neither side of a conflict or dispute can make progress or gain an advantage, typically resulting in a deadlock or impasse
30. in a re_____ss manner *adj.* marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions

ANSWERS: 20. contender, 21. tug, 22. shove, 23. dissipated, 24. pervasive, 25. forceful, 26. reckless, 27. inward, 28. heave, 29. stalemate, 30. reckless

31. sh__e a person aside *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
32. dis_____ed energy *adj.* dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
33. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
34. ba___n number *n.* a subatomic particle, such as a proton or neutron, that is composed of three quarks and is responsible for the formation of atomic nuclei
35. ri_____y among airlines *n.* competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business
36. re_____ne at the surface *v.* to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
37. give inn_____le interviews *adj.* too many to be counted
38. ex__t influence *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
39. os_____te back and forth *v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive

ANSWERS: 31. shove, 32. dissipated, 33. determinant, 34. baryon, 35. rivalry, 36. recombine, 37. innumerable, 38. exert, 39. oscillate

40. ba___n resonance *n.* a subatomic particle, such as a proton or neutron, that is composed of three quarks and is responsible for the formation of atomic nuclei
41. street br___l *n.* a noisy and violent fight involving a group of people; a chaotic and unruly disturbance or conflict
42. the pe_____ve odor of garlic *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
43. t_g a rope *v.* to pull something quickly and hard, often several times
44. pr___n decay *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
45. worst ima_____le case *adj.* capable of being imagined
46. ability to re_____ne *v.* to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
47. the tr___h in an economic cycle *n.* a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity
48. championship co_____er *n.* the contestant you hope to defeat
49. ill_____ing light *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

ANSWERS: 40. baryon, 41. brawl, 42. pervasive, 43. tug, 44. proton, 45. imaginable, 46. recombine, 47. trough, 48. contender, 49. illuminating

50. an ill_____ing answer

adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

ANSWERS: 50. illuminating

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His _____ behavior at the party concerned his friends, who wondered if he had a substance abuse problem.
adj. dispersed or scattered in different directions; wasted or squandered on excessive or extravagant pleasures such as drinking, partying, or gambling; characterized by a lack of focus or discipline
2. The _____ in the boxing match put up a good fight.
n. a person or thing that challenges or competes with someone or something else; a contestant in a competition or challenge
3. The lecture was _____ and gave me a new perspective on the topic.
adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
4. _____ youth makes rueful age.
adj. marked by a lack of care about danger and the likely results of your actions
5. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
6. This is the only _____ strategy.
adj. capable of being imagined
7. The _____ between the two teams was intense and heated.
n. competition or opposition between people or groups, especially in sports or business

ANSWERS: 1. dissipated, 2. challenger, 3. illuminating, 4. Reckless, 5. determinant, 6. imaginable, 7. rivalry

8. The _____ density in the early universe is believed to have significantly impacted the formation of galaxies.
n. a subatomic particle, such as a proton or neutron, that is composed of three quarks and is responsible for the formation of atomic nuclei
9. The _____ at the nightclub resulted in several injuries and arrests.
n. a noisy and violent fight involving a group of people; a chaotic and unruly disturbance or conflict
10. He _____ himself to lift the heavyweight.
v. to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
11. The fan in the room _____ making the airflow more evenly.
v. to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
12. The workers had to _____ the heavy equipment up the staircase to the top floor.
v. to lift or hoist something heavy with effort; to throw or hurl something, often with force; to rise or fall with a rhythmic motion, as in the heaving of the sea
13. She spoke with a _____ tone and made her point clear.
adj. having or showing great strength or energy
14. We have overcome _____ difficulties since our founding.
adj. too many to be counted
15. The _____ motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.
adj. directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

ANSWERS: 8. baryon, 9. brawl, 10. exerted, 11. oscillates, 12. heave, 13. forceful, 14. innumerable, 15. inward

16. This movie _____ at everyone's heartstrings.

v. to pull something quickly and hard, often several times

17. Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially _____.

v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)

18. The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and _____.

n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

19. The farmers filled the feeding _____ with hay for the livestock.

n. a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity

20. He forcibly _____ the flyer into my bag.

v. to push someone or something in a rough way

21. We were looking at a severe _____ indeed.

n. the contestant you hope to defeat

22. The football team remained _____ throughout the entire season.

adj. not having been beaten or conquered; having won every contest or battle

23. Many businesses felt the _____ effect of the economy's decline.

n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

ANSWERS: 16. tugs, 17. recombined, 18. protons, 19. trough, 20. shoved, 21. contender, 22. undefeated, 23. ripple

24. Suspicion and worry were _____ in our minds.

adj. spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

25. The negotiations between the two companies reached a _____ and neither side would compromise.

n. a situation in which neither side of a conflict or dispute can make progress or gain an advantage, typically resulting in a deadlock or impasse

ANSWERS: 24. pervasive, 25. stalemate,