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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Eleanor Nelsen: Mary's Room: A philosophical thought experiment | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

retina

n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball

(1) **retinal** cells, (2) **retina** scanner

Damage to the **retina** may play a role in the development of glaucoma.

malfunction

v. to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

synonym: misfunction, break down, fail

(1) **malfunction** alarm, (2) **malfunction** and start moving unpredictably

The car's engine **malfunctioned** on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.

contradict

v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite;
to be in conflict with

synonym: conflict, oppose, belie

(1) **contradict** each other, (2) **contradict** the principle

The book contains numerous statements that **contradict** previous reports.

physic

n. a medicine or drug used to treat or alleviate illnesses;
the practice of medicine or healing

synonym: medicine, remedy, treatment

(1) herbal **physic**, (2) **physic** garden

The doctor suggested a dose of **physic** to help with his digestive issues.

transcend

v. to rise above or go beyond the limits of something

synonym: surpass, exceed, overcome

(1) **transcend** boundaries, (2) **transcend** limits

The music **transcended** cultural barriers and reached audiences globally.

ineffable

adj. too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words; too sacred or spiritual to be spoken of

synonym: indescribable, inexpressible, unutterable

(1) **ineffable** happiness, (2) **ineffable** joy

The **ineffable** beauty of the sunset left me speechless.

quale

n. a philosophical term referring to the subjective or qualitative aspects of a conscious experience, often used to describe the qualities or characteristics of something that cannot be easily measured or objectively explained, such as the subjective experience of color or taste

synonym: aspect, feature, property

(1) **quale** of richness, (2) **quale** perception

The artist's painting captured the **quale** of serenity found in nature.

- itch**
- v. to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
- synonym*: scratch, tingle, irritate
- (1) **itch** constantly, (2) **itch** to speak
- I can't stop **itching** my arm because of the mosquito bite.
- recreate**
- v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
- synonym*: renovate, vivify, revive
- (1) **recreate** a single country, (2) **recreate** the feeling of the 1920s
- She **recreated** the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.
- 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.
- neuron**
- n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
- synonym*: nerve cell
- (1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body
- Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|---|
| 1. a theoretical concept in
neu_____nce | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of the function,
structure, and disorder of the brain and
the nervous system |
| 2. re_____te the feeling of the 1920s | <i>v.</i> to make something that existed
previously happen or appear to exist
again |
| 3. herbal ph____c | <i>n.</i> a medicine or drug used to treat or
alleviate illnesses; the practice of
medicine or healing |
| 4. re_____te a single country | <i>v.</i> to make something that existed
previously happen or appear to exist
again |
| 5. ph____c garden | <i>n.</i> a medicine or drug used to treat or
alleviate illnesses; the practice of
medicine or healing |
| 6. mal_____on alarm | <i>v.</i> to fail to operate or work properly; to
break down or stop functioning as
expected or intended; (noun) a failure or
defect in the way a machine, system, or
device is supposed to operate |
| 7. tr_____nd boundaries | <i>v.</i> to rise above or go beyond the limits of
something |
| 8. ne____n cell body | <i>n.</i> a cell that is specialized to carry
information within the brain and
between the brain and other parts of the
body |
| 9. in_____le joy | <i>adj.</i> too great or extreme to be expressed or
described in words; too sacred or
spiritual to be spoken of |

ANSWERS: 1. neuroscience, 2. recreate, 3. physic, 4. recreate, 5. physic, 6. malfunction, 7. transcend, 8. neuron, 9. ineffable

10. qu__e of richness *n.* a philosophical term referring to the subjective or qualitative aspects of a conscious experience, often used to describe the qualities or characteristics of something that cannot be easily measured or objectively explained, such as the subjective experience of color or taste
11. i__h constantly *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
12. i__h to speak *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
13. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
14. re___al cells *n.* the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
15. re___a scanner *n.* the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
16. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
17. con_____ct the principle *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
18. con_____ct each other *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
19. in_____le happiness *adj.* too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words; too sacred or spiritual to be spoken of

ANSWERS: 10. quale, 11. itch, 12. itch, 13. neuroscience, 14. retina, 15. retina, 16. mimic, 17. contradict, 18. contradict, 19. ineffable

20. tr_____nd limits *v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
21. mal_____on and start moving unpredictably *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
22. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
23. qu__e perception *n.* a philosophical term referring to the subjective or qualitative aspects of a conscious experience, often used to describe the qualities or characteristics of something that cannot be easily measured or objectively explained, such as the subjective experience of color or taste
24. excite the ne___ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

ANSWERS: 20. transcend, 21. malfunction, 22. mimic, 23. quale, 24. neuron

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The music _____ cultural barriers and reached audiences globally.
v. to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
2. I can't stop _____ my arm because of the mosquito bite.
v. to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
3. She _____ the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.
v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
4. Damage to the _____ may play a role in the development of glaucoma.
n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
5. The book contains numerous statements that _____ previous reports.
v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
6. The car's engine _____ on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.
v. to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
7. 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
8. The _____ beauty of the sunset left me speechless.
adj. too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words; too sacred or spiritual to be spoken of

ANSWERS: 1. transcended, 2. itching, 3. recreated, 4. retina, 5. contradict, 6. malfunctioned, 7. mimic, 8. ineffable

9. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
- n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
10. The doctor suggested a dose of _____ to help with his digestive issues.
- n.* a medicine or drug used to treat or alleviate illnesses; the practice of medicine or healing
11. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
- n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
12. The artist's painting captured the _____ of serenity found in nature.
- n.* a philosophical term referring to the subjective or qualitative aspects of a conscious experience, often used to describe the qualities or characteristics of something that cannot be easily measured or objectively explained, such as the subjective experience of color or taste

ANSWERS: 9. neuron, 10. physic, 11. neuroscience, 12. quale