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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dao Nguyen: What makes something go viral? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

prank

n. a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others

synonym: hoax, trick, stunt

(1) **prank** caller, (2) harmless **prank**

The group of teenagers played an innocent **prank** on their teacher, but it backfired, and they got in trouble.

livestream

n. a real-time video or audio broadcast of an event, performance, or activity that is encoded and distributed over the Internet, usually through dedicated apps or websites, allowing distributed viewers to watch it remotely

synonym: webcast, stream, broadcast

(1) **livestream** tutorial, (2) **livestream** concert

We watched the concert **livestream** since we couldn't attend in person.

hypothesize

v. to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate

synonym: speculate, theorize, conjecture

(1) **hypothesize** as to outcomes, (2) **hypothesize** what could have happened

Scientists **hypothesize** that the new fish species evolved to survive in deep-sea environments.

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.

hazmat

n. abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment

synonym: hazardous material, toxic substances

(1) **hazmat** material, (2) **hazmat** incident

The hazardous materials team was called to the scene in their **hazmat** suits.

watermelon

n. a large, juicy fruit with a green rind and pink or red flesh, typically eaten in slices in the summer months

(1) **watermelon** slice, (2) **watermelon** seeds

I love to eat juicy **watermelon** on a hot summer day.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym: peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

categorize

v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.

synonym: classify, pigeonhole, sort

(1) **categorize** the image, (2) **categorize** the cause of

failure

The biologist **categorized** the viruses into four groups.

cartographer

v. a person who creates or produces maps, typically by gathering or analyzing geographic data and using specialized software or tools

synonym: mapmaker

(1) expert **cartographer**, (2) **cartographer's** tool

A **cartographer's** job requires a strong eye for detail and a deep understanding of geographic principles.

inoffensive

adj. not causing offense, annoyance, or harm; not objectionable or unpleasant; in accordance with good taste or social norms

synonym: harmless, innocuous, non-threatening

(1) **inoffensive** remark, (2) **inoffensive** joke

The cartoon series is designed to be **inoffensive** to viewers of all ages.

upbringing

n. the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development

synonym: childhood, background, nurturing

(1) Catholic **upbringing**, (2) family **upbringing**

His strict **upbringing** instilled in him a strong sense of responsibility.

fandom

n. a community or subculture of fans sharing a common interest in a particular work of fiction, creator, celebrity, or genre, typically expressed through fan fiction, fan art, fan theories, fan conventions, and other fan activities

synonym: fanbase, supporters, enthusiasts

(1) **fandom** culture, (2) online **fandom**

I'm part of the TV show **fandom** and love to attend conventions.

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.

brag

v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

synonym : boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge

Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from **bragging** about his success.

brainstorming

n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

(1) **brainstorming** session, (2) do a **brainstorming** about a new product

Many companies employ **brainstorming** as a good way of generating innovative ideas.

slap

v. to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly

synonym : smack, hit, whack

(1) **slap** on the back, (2) **slap** a heavy fine

The politician tried to **slap** down the rumors about his personal life.

brownie

n. a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful

synonym : bar, cake, square

(1) earn **Brownie** points, (2) **brownie** recipe

She baked a batch of chocolate chip **brownies** for the office party.

Session 2: Spelling

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|---|-----------|--|
| 1. wat_____on seeds | <i>n.</i> | a large, juicy fruit with a green rind and pink or red flesh, typically eaten in slices in the summer months |
| 2. s__p on the back | <i>v.</i> | to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly |
| 3. Catholic upb_____ng | <i>n.</i> | the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development |
| 4. hyp_____ze as to outcomes | <i>v.</i> | to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate |
| 5. online fa___m | <i>n.</i> | a community or subculture of fans sharing a common interest in a particular work of fiction, creator, celebrity, or genre, typically expressed through fan fiction, fan art, fan theories, fan conventions, and other fan activities |
| 6. ha___t material | <i>n.</i> | abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment |
| 7. do a bra_____ing about a new product | <i>n.</i> | a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas |

ANSWERS: 1. watermelon, 2. slap, 3. upbringing, 4. hypothesize, 5. fandom, 6. hazmat, 7. brainstorming

8. car_____her's tool *v.* a person who creates or produces maps, typically by gathering or analyzing geographic data and using specialized software or tools
9. ha___t incident *n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
10. ex_____e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
11. s__p a heavy fine *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
12. harmless pr__k *n.* a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
13. b__g to each other *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
14. wat_____on slice *n.* a large, juicy fruit with a green rind and pink or red flesh, typically eaten in slices in the summer months
15. liv_____am concert *n.* a real-time video or audio broadcast of an event, performance, or activity that is encoded and distributed over the Internet, usually through dedicated apps or websites, allowing distributed viewers to watch it remotely

ANSWERS: 8. cartographer, 9. hazmat, 10. explode, 11. slap, 12. prank, 13. brag, 14. watermelon, 15. livestream

16. ino_____ve remark *adj.* not causing offense, annoyance, or harm; not objectionable or unpleasant; in accordance with good taste or social norms
17. expert car_____her *v.* a person who creates or produces maps, typically by gathering or analyzing geographic data and using specialized software or tools
18. bra_____ing session *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
19. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
20. family upb_____ng *n.* the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development
21. cat_____ze the image *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
22. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
23. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
24. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

ANSWERS: 16. inoffensive, 17. cartographer, 18. brainstorming, 19. excite, 20. upbringing, 21. categorize, 22. excite, 23. determinant, 24. tweet

25. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
26. ex_____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
27. cat_____ze the cause of failure *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
28. ino_____ve joke *adj.* not causing offense, annoyance, or harm; not objectionable or unpleasant; in accordance with good taste or social norms
29. b__g about my knowledge *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
30. hyp_____ze what could have happened *v.* to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate
31. fa___m culture *n.* a community or subculture of fans sharing a common interest in a particular work of fiction, creator, celebrity, or genre, typically expressed through fan fiction, fan art, fan theories, fan conventions, and other fan activities
32. earn Br_____e points *n.* a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful

ANSWERS: 25. determinant, 26. explode, 27. categorize, 28. inoffensive, 29. brag, 30. hypothesize, 31. fandom, 32. brownie

33. pr__k caller *n.* a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
34. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
35. br____e recipe *n.* a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful
36. liv_____am tutorial *n.* a real-time video or audio broadcast of an event, performance, or activity that is encoded and distributed over the Internet, usually through dedicated apps or websites, allowing distributed viewers to watch it remotely

ANSWERS: 33. prank, 34. tweet, 35. brownie, 36. livestream

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
2. Scientists _____ that the new fish species evolved to survive in deep-sea environments.
v. to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate
3. We watched the concert _____ since we couldn't attend in person.
n. a real-time video or audio broadcast of an event, performance, or activity that is encoded and distributed over the Internet, usually through dedicated apps or websites, allowing distributed viewers to watch it remotely
4. The group of teenagers played an innocent _____ on their teacher, but it backfired, and they got in trouble.
n. a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
5. A _____ job requires a strong eye for detail and a deep understanding of geographic principles.
v. a person who creates or produces maps, typically by gathering or analyzing geographic data and using specialized software or tools
6. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.
v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
7. The biologist _____ the viruses into four groups.
v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. excited, 2. hypothesize, 3. livestream, 4. prank, 5. cartographer's, 6. exploded, 7. categorized

8. Many companies employ _____ as a good way of generating innovative ideas.
- n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
9. 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
10. The politician tried to _____ down the rumors about his personal life.
- v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
11. I love to eat juicy _____ on a hot summer day.
- n.* a large, juicy fruit with a green rind and pink or red flesh, typically eaten in slices in the summer months
12. The cartoon series is designed to be _____ to viewers of all ages.
- adj.* not causing offense, annoyance, or harm; not objectionable or unpleasant; in accordance with good taste or social norms
13. She baked a batch of chocolate chip _____ for the office party.
- n.* a small square or rectangular piece of chocolate cake, typically with nuts or chocolate chips; (brownie point) a figurative reward or recognition for doing something good or helpful
14. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.
- n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

ANSWERS: 8. brainstorming, 9. determinant, 10. slap, 11. watermelon, 12. inoffensive, 13. brownies, 14. tweet

15. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from _____ about his success.
- v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
16. His strict _____ instilled in him a strong sense of responsibility.
- n.* the conditions and experiences in which a child is cared for and taught, especially in relation to their moral and social development
17. The hazardous materials team was called to the scene in their _____ suits.
- n.* abbreviation of Hazardous Material, referring to substances that pose a risk to human health and the environment
18. I'm part of the TV show _____ and love to attend conventions.
- n.* a community or subculture of fans sharing a common interest in a particular work of fiction, creator, celebrity, or genre, typically expressed through fan fiction, fan art, fan theories, fan conventions, and other fan activities

ANSWERS: 15. bragging, 16. upbringing, 17. hazmat, 18. fandom