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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mehdi Ordikhani-Seyedlar: What happens in your brain when you pay attention? | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/mehdi_ordikhani_seyedlar_what_happens_in_your_brain_when_you_pay_attenti
on

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

impressive

adj. arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill

synonym: impactful, remarkable, exceptional

(1) **impressive** performances, (2) an **impressive** array of facts

The budget reduction was an **impressive** feat for our nation.

brain

n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling

synonym: intellect, mind, encephalon

(1) basic **brain** function, (2) permanent **brain** damage

X-rays revealed a small tumor in his **brain**.

filter

n. any of several types of equipment or systems used to separate particles from liquids or gases or to remove specific forms of light

synonym: strainer

(1) gas **filter**, (2) clogged **filter**

Ozone is a primary **filter** to protect Earth's surface from harmful UV rays.

overt

adj. open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret

synonym : open, unhidden, obvious

(1) **overt** hostility, (2) **overt** symptoms

His **overt** lack of enthusiasm was noticeable to everyone in the room.

covert

adj. kept secret or concealed; not openly practiced or engaged in

synonym : secretive, hidden, disguised

(1) **covert** negotiations, (2) **covert** mission

The government was conducting a **covert** operation to gather information on the enemy.

constantly

adv. all the time

synonym : continuously, always, frequently

(1) a **constantly** innovative enterprise, (2) a **constantly** varying mind

The mobile application industry is **constantly** changing.

scan

v. to examine something hastily, with the eyes or with a machine, to get information

synonym : look over, scrutinize, browse

(1) **scan** the face of the man, (2) **scan** a document into PDF

She stood on the podium and **scanned** an audience.

surrounding

adj. that is near or around, or closely encircling something

synonym : circumferent, encircling, neighboring

(1) **surrounding** areas, (2) a fence **surrounding** a castle

The **surrounding** mountains make the city difficult to be invaded.

computation

n. the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator

synonym : calculation, estimation, arithmetic

(1) parallel **computation**, (2) theory of **computation**

The researcher demonstrated the superiority of quantum **computation** in several mathematical tasks.

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**.

cognitive

adj. of or relating to mental processes of understanding

synonym: perceivable, mind, mental

(1) improve **cognitive** function, (2) research on **cognitive** psychology

His **cognitive** faculties were getting worse because of a lack of sleep.

interface

n. (computer science) a program that controls a display for the user and that allows the user to interact with the system; (chemistry) a surface forming a common boundary between two things

synonym: junction, surface, UI

(1) **interface** between gas and liquid, (2) the user **interface**

Detergent weakens the surface tension at the **interface** of two liquids.

recognize

v. to acknowledge or realize something or someone; to identify, remember, or become aware of something that was previously known or encountered

synonym: acknowledge, identify, admit

(1) **recognize** talent, (2) **recognize** achievement

It's important to **recognize** your strengths and weaknesses.

function

n. the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose

synonym: purpose, mapping, job

(1) **function** properly, (2) immune **function**

The brain is an incredibly complex organ that controls the body's **function**.

assist

v. to help someone in doing anything

synonym: help, support, aid

(1) **assist** a patient, (2) **assist** his goal

Please **assist** her with the furniture relocation.

device

n. a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic

synonym: gadget, instrument, tool

(1) electronic **device**, (2) tracking **device**

I always carry a backup **device** in case my phone runs out of battery.

therapy

n. the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.

synonym: antidote, medicine, treatment

(1) **therapy** for a patient, (2) field of gene **therapy**

I underwent aversion **therapy** for my addiction to alcohol.

shift

n. a slight transition in position, direction, or trend

synonym: transition, change, modification

(1) Doppler **shift**, (2) major paradigm **shift**

Could you help me **shift** some furniture?

brainwave

n. a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity

synonym: inspiration, brainstorm, revelation

(1) **brainwave** idea, (2) sudden **brainwave**

The engineer had a **brainwave** and redesigned the product to be more efficient.

experiment

n. the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

synonym: experimentation, investigation

(1) **experiment** design, (2) series of **experiments**

His **experiments** showed highly positive results.

flickering

adj. shining or flashing in an unsteady or irregular way; fluctuating or wavering, often with regards to light or flame

synonym: shining, flashing, twinkling

(1) **flickering** flames, (2) **flickering** hope

The **flickering** candlelight added a cozy ambiance to the room.

flicker

v. to shine unsteadily or intermittently, as if with a faint light

synonym: flash, spark, glimmer

(1) **flicker** every two seconds, (2) **flicker** out like a candle

The fireflies **flickered** in the darkness.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym: echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

analyze

v. to think about in-depth and evaluate to discover essential features or meaning

synonym: explore, examine, investigate

(1) **analyze** a chemical compound, (2) **analyze** your real motives

The teacher attempted to **analyze** the root cause of our mistake.

surprisingly

adv. in a way that causes amazement or wonder

synonym: exceptionally, notably, unusually

(1) **surprisingly** advanced culture, (2) have **surprisingly**

little effect

The exam was **surprisingly** tricky for everyone.

responsible

adj. answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management

synonym : accountable, answerable, liable

(1) **responsible** action, (2) **responsible** for a customer service

She's a **responsible** pet owner who ensures her dog gets enough exercise and a healthy diet.

process

n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

synonym : procedure, method, system

(1) **process** improvement, (2) decision-making **process**

The **process** for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.

visual

adj. relating to seeing or sight

synonym : optical, graphical, visible

(1) **visual** navigation, (2) field of **visual** arts

The building makes a remarkable **visual** impact.

handle

v. to deal with a situation, problem, or strong emotion

synonym : control, manage, deal with

(1) **handle** a precious object, (2) **handled** the incident

We all should learn how to **handle** stress.

inhibit

v. to prevent something, such as an action, process, etc., from happening or make it less likely to happen than normal

synonym : deter, hinder, impede

(1) **inhibit** desires, (2) **inhibit** tumor growth

Excessive parental interference may **inhibit** children's eagerness to learn.

ignore

v. to intentionally not listen or pay attention to

synonym: neglect, disregard, shun

(1) **ignore** her advice, (2) **ignore** a ban

Since independence, the area has been completely **ignored**.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

specific

adj. clearly defined or particular to a certain thing or situation; distinct, explicit, and precise

synonym: particular, definite, distinct

(1) **specific** instructions, (2) industry- **specific** regulations

The scientist conducted a study that provided **specific** details about the species' behavior.

stroke

n. a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.

synonym: blow

(1) suffer **stroke**, (2) a **stroke** of the putter

This year's extreme heat has resulted in many heat **stroke** cases.

illiterate

adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

synonym: unlettered, uneducated, unschooled

(1) **illiterate** population, (2) computer- **illiterate**

Despite attending school, he remained **illiterate** and unable to read or write.

silent

adj. without any or little sound

synonym : quiet, hushed, mute

(1) **silent** reading, (2) give **silent** consent

The politician remained **silent** despite intense media scrutiny.

communicate

v. to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals

synonym : convey, share, transmit

(1) **communicate** his anxieties to the psychiatrist,

(2) **communicate** well with my advisor

Dolphins use sound to **communicate** with each other.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. a con_____ly varying mind | <i>adv.</i> all the time |
| 2. clogged fi____r | <i>n.</i> any of several types of equipment or systems used to separate particles from liquids or gases or to remove specific forms of light |
| 3. sudden br_____ve | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity |
| 4. give si____t consent | <i>adj.</i> without any or little sound |
| 5. an_____e your real motives | <i>v.</i> to think about in-depth and evaluate to discover essential features or meaning |
| 6. gas fi____r | <i>n.</i> any of several types of equipment or systems used to separate particles from liquids or gases or to remove specific forms of light |
| 7. sur_____gly advanced culture | <i>adv.</i> in a way that causes amazement or wonder |
| 8. as____t a patient | <i>v.</i> to help someone in doing anything |
| 9. sp_____ic instructions | <i>adj.</i> clearly defined or particular to a certain thing or situation; distinct, explicit, and precise |
| 10. fl_____r out like a candle | <i>v.</i> to shine unsteadily or intermittently, as if with a faint light |
| 11. vi____l navigation | <i>adj.</i> relating to seeing or sight |
| 12. an imp_____ve array of facts | <i>adj.</i> arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill |

ANSWERS: 1. constantly, 2. filter, 3. brainwave, 4. silent, 5. analyze, 6. filter, 7. surprisingly, 8. assist, 9. specific, 10. flicker, 11. visual, 12. impressive

- | | |
|--|--|
| 13. permanent br__n damage | <i>n.</i> the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling |
| 14. series of exp_____nts | <i>n.</i> the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge |
| 15. s__n a document into PDF | <i>v.</i> to examine something hastily, with the eyes or with a machine, to get information |
| 16. immune fu_____on | <i>n.</i> the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose |
| 17. industry-sp_____ic regulations | <i>adj.</i> clearly defined or particular to a certain thing or situation; distinct, explicit, and precise |
| 18. research on co_____ve psychology | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to mental processes of understanding |
| 19. re_____ze talent | <i>v.</i> to acknowledge or realize something or someone; to identify, remember, or become aware of something that was previously known or encountered |
| 20. deeply re_____te with the consumers | <i>v.</i> to be filled with a deep echoing sound |
| 21. com_____te his anxieties to the psychiatrist | <i>v.</i> to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals |

ANSWERS: 13. brain, 14. experiment, 15. scan, 16. function, 17. specific, 18. cognitive, 19. recognize, 20. resonate, 21. communicate

22. re_____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
23. field of vi___l arts *adj.* relating to seeing or sight
24. a con_____ly innovative enterprise *adv.* all the time
25. a st___e of the putter *n.* a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.
26. ig___e a ban *v.* to intentionally not listen or pay attention to
27. a fence sur_____ng a castle *adj.* that is near or around, or closely encircling something
28. sur_____ng areas *adj.* that is near or around, or closely encircling something
29. in_____t desires *v.* to prevent something, such as an action, process, etc., from happening or make it less likely to happen than normal
30. fl_____r every two seconds *v.* to shine unsteadily or intermittently, as if with a faint light
31. pr_____s improvement *n.* a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products
32. in_____t tumor growth *v.* to prevent something, such as an action, process, etc., from happening or make it less likely to happen than normal

ANSWERS: 22. resonate, 23. visual, 24. constantly, 25. stroke, 26. ignore, 27. surrounding, 28. surrounding, 29. inhibit, 30. flicker, 31. process, 32. inhibit

33. ig___e her advice *v.* to intentionally not listen or pay attention to
34. suffer st___e *n.* a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.
35. in_____ce between gas and liquid *n.* (computer science) a program that controls a display for the user and that allows the user to interact with the system; (chemistry) a surface forming a common boundary between two things
36. br_____ve idea *n.* a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity
37. co___t mission *adj.* kept secret or concealed; not openly practiced or engaged in
38. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
39. re_____ze achievement *v.* to acknowledge or realize something or someone; to identify, remember, or become aware of something that was previously known or encountered
40. th_____y for a patient *n.* the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.
41. res_____le for a customer service *adj.* answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management
42. ov__t hostility *adj.* open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret

ANSWERS: 33. ignore, 34. stroke, 35. interface, 36. brainwave, 37. covert, 38. neuroscience, 39. recognize, 40. therapy, 41. responsible, 42. overt

43. as___t his goal *v.* to help someone in doing anything
44. res_____le action *adj.* answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management
45. imp_____ve performances *adj.* arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill
46. electronic de___e *n.* a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
47. fli_____ng hope *adj.* shining or flashing in an unsteady or irregular way; fluctuating or wavering, often with regards to light or flame
48. parallel com_____on *n.* the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator
49. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
50. com_____te well with my advisor *v.* to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals
51. decision-making pr_____s *n.* a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

ANSWERS: 43. assist, 44. responsible, 45. impressive, 46. device, 47. flickering, 48. computation, 49. illiterate, 50. communicate, 51. process

52. si___t reading *adj.* without any or little sound
53. an_____e a chemical compound *v.* to think about in-depth and evaluate to discover essential features or meaning
54. fli_____ng flames *adj.* shining or flashing in an unsteady or irregular way; fluctuating or wavering, often with regards to light or flame
55. ha___e a precious object *v.* to deal with a situation, problem, or strong emotion
56. major paradigm sh__t *n.* a slight transition in position, direction, or trend
57. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
58. Doppler sh__t *n.* a slight transition in position, direction, or trend
59. the user in_____ce *n.* (computer science) a program that controls a display for the user and that allows the user to interact with the system; (chemistry) a surface forming a common boundary between two things
60. basic br__n function *n.* the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
61. fu_____on properly *n.* the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 52. silent, 53. analyze, 54. flickering, 55. handle, 56. shift, 57. neuroscience, 58. shift, 59. interface, 60. brain, 61. function

62. field of gene th____y *n.* the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.
63. s__n the face of the man *v.* to examine something hastily, with the eyes or with a machine, to get information
64. ov__t symptoms *adj.* open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret
65. exp_____nt design *n.* the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge
66. theory of com_____on *n.* the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator
67. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
68. have sur_____gly little effect *adv.* in a way that causes amazement or wonder
69. ha___ed the incident *v.* to deal with a situation, problem, or strong emotion
70. improve co_____ve function *adj.* of or relating to mental processes of understanding
71. co___t negotiations *adj.* kept secret or concealed; not openly practiced or engaged in
72. di_____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
73. tracking de___e *n.* a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic

ANSWERS: 62. therapy, 63. scan, 64. overt, 65. experiment, 66. computation, 67. illiterate, 68. surprisingly, 69. handle, 70. cognitive, 71. covert, 72. distract, 73. device

74. di____ct public opinion

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

ANSWERS: 74. distract

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. This year's extreme heat has resulted in many heat _____ cases.
n. a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain causes cell death; the act of swinging or striking at a ball with a club, racket, etc.
2. Despite attending school, he remained _____ and unable to read or write.
adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
3. The engineer had a _____ and redesigned the product to be more efficient.
n. a sudden idea or inspiration; a moment of great insight or creativity
4. The government was conducting a _____ operation to gather information on the enemy.
adj. kept secret or concealed; not openly practiced or engaged in
5. The teacher attempted to _____ the root cause of our mistake.
v. to think about in-depth and evaluate to discover essential features or meaning
6. She's a _____ pet owner who ensures her dog gets enough exercise and a healthy diet.
adj. answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management
7. The brain is an incredibly complex organ that controls the body's _____.
n. the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 1. stroke, 2. illiterate, 3. brainwave, 4. covert, 5. analyze, 6. responsible, 7. function

8. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

9. The budget reduction was an _____ feat for our nation.

adj. arousing admiration due to size, quality, or skill

10. Detergent weakens the surface tension at the _____ of two liquids.

n. (computer science) a program that controls a display for the user and that allows the user to interact with the system; (chemistry) a surface forming a common boundary between two things

11. The politician remained _____ despite intense media scrutiny.

adj. without any or little sound

12. The _____ for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.

n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

13. Ozone is a primary _____ to protect Earth's surface from harmful UV rays.

n. any of several types of equipment or systems used to separate particles from liquids or gases or to remove specific forms of light

14. The mobile application industry is _____ changing.

adv. all the time

15. His _____ showed highly positive results.

n. the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

ANSWERS: 8. distract, 9. impressive, 10. interface, 11. silent, 12. process, 13. filter, 14. constantly, 15. experiments

16. I always carry a backup _____ in case my phone runs out of battery.
n. a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
17. X-rays revealed a small tumor in his _____.
n. the organ inside the head that is responsible for one's movement, thought, memory, and feeling
18. The researcher demonstrated the superiority of quantum _____ in several mathematical tasks.
n. the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator
19. Please _____ her with the furniture relocation.
v. to help someone in doing anything
20. His _____ lack of enthusiasm was noticeable to everyone in the room.
adj. open, evident, or clear, especially in a way that is not intended to be secret
21. The fireflies _____ in the darkness.
v. to shine unsteadily or intermittently, as if with a faint light
22. Excessive parental interference may _____ children's eagerness to learn.
v. to prevent something, such as an action, process, etc., from happening or make it less likely to happen than normal
23. I underwent aversion _____ for my addiction to alcohol.
n. the act of caring for someone through medication, remedial training, etc.

ANSWERS: 16. device, 17. brain, 18. computation, 19. assist, 20. overt, 21. flickered, 22. inhibit, 23. therapy

24. The _____ candlelight added a cozy ambiance to the room.

adj. shining or flashing in an unsteady or irregular way; fluctuating or wavering, often with regards to light or flame

25. We all should learn how to _____ stress.

v. to deal with a situation, problem, or strong emotion

26. The scientist conducted a study that provided _____ details about the species' behavior.

adj. clearly defined or particular to a certain thing or situation; distinct, explicit, and precise

27. The building makes a remarkable _____ impact.

adj. relating to seeing or sight

28. Dolphins use sound to _____ with each other.

v. to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals

29. The sound _____ well in this theater.

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

30. His _____ faculties were getting worse because of a lack of sleep.

adj. of or relating to mental processes of understanding

31. 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

ANSWERS: 24. flickering, 25. handle, 26. specific, 27. visual, 28. communicate, 29. resonates, 30. cognitive, 31. neuroscience

32. Could you help me _____ some furniture?

n. a slight transition in position, direction, or trend

33. The exam was _____ tricky for everyone.

adv. in a way that causes amazement or wonder

34. She stood on the podium and _____ an audience.

v. to examine something hastily, with the eyes or with a machine, to get information

35. Since independence, the area has been completely _____.

v. to intentionally not listen or pay attention to

36. It's important to _____ your strengths and weaknesses.

v. to acknowledge or realize something or someone; to identify, remember, or become aware of something that was previously known or encountered

37. The _____ mountains make the city difficult to be invaded.

adj. that is near or around, or closely encircling something

ANSWERS: 32. shift, 33. surprisingly, 34. scanned, 35. ignored, 36. recognize, 37. surrounding