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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Matt Goldman: The search for "aha!" moments | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

singe

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

synonym: sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

instruct

v. to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something

synonym: train, coach, guide

(1) **instruct** a student, (2) **instruct** a computer

The facility manager **instructed** the security guards to be on high alert.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym: sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

proclivity

n. a natural tendency or inclination towards a particular behavior, activity, or worldview; a predisposition or liking for something

synonym : inclination, tendency, propensity

(1) **proclivity** for chocolate, (2) **proclivity** towards laziness
Her **proclivity** for procrastination meant she always left her assignments until the last minute.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

synonym : cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy
Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

reshape

v. to change the form or structure of something

synonym : alter, adjust, modify

(1) **reshape** education policy, (2) **reshape** my thoughts
The advent of the Internet completely **reshaped** the manufacturing industry.

cultivate

v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants

synonym : boost, foster, nurture

(1) **cultivate** a field, (2) **cultivate** relationships
University is a great place to **cultivate** our minds and expertise.

conducive

adj. tending to make something likely or possible

synonym : beneficial, advantageous, helpful

(1) **conducive** question, (2) **conducive** to growth
The quiet and peaceful environment was **conducive** to concentration and productivity.

Broadway

n. a famous street in New York City, specifically in the borough of Manhattan, renowned for its theaters and

musical productions; the commercial theater district and the theater industry in general

(1) **Broadway** show, (2) **Broadway** theater

We watched an incredible **Broadway** musical last night.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

anthropology

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

(1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion

The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

bliss

n. extreme happiness or joy

synonym: delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

grit

n. very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

synonym: determination, fortitude, courage

(1) **grit** determination, (2) **grit** washer

She has a lot of **grit** and determination to succeed.

perseverance

n. steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

synonym: persistence, tenacity, determination

(1) unwavering **perseverance**, (2) dogged **perseverance**

Despite facing numerous setbacks and obstacles, his **perseverance** and determination led him to success.

instill

v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
synonym: implant, ingrain, inculcate

(1) **instill** confidence, (2) **instill** medication into my eye
The teacher attempted to **instill** the importance of hard work in her students.

aspiration

n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

synonym: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs
He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

sew

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym: stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

oatmeal

n. a type of cereal made from oats that have been ground or steel-cut

synonym: porridge, grits, meal

(1) **oatmeal** cookies, (2) **oatmeal** breakfast

I love starting my day with a bowl of warm **oatmeal** and fresh fruit.

tapioca

n. a starchy substance derived from the cassava plant, typically used in cooking and baking as a thickening agent or as the base for puddings or desserts

synonym: cassava, manioc

(1) **tapioca** balls, (2) **tapioca** pearls

I love the texture and taste of **tapioca** pudding.

slippery

adj. difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted

synonym: smooth, glistening, furtive

(1) a **slippery** customer, (2) **slippery** ice

How extraordinarily **slippery** a liar the camera is.

ooze

v. to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily

synonym: flow, seep, drip

(1) **ooze** from the speakers, (2) **ooze** with confidence

The wound on his leg continued to **ooze** blood even after he applied pressure.

slam

v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

synonym: bang, crash, shut

(1) **slam** the door, (2) **slam** the book against a wall

She **slammed** the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.

reinvent

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

synonym: recreate, remake, revive

(1) **reinvent** local dishes, (2) **reinvent** our life

They have tried to **reinvent** their grocery stores.

hallway

n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

synonym: foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor

He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

mastery

n. complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity

synonym: proficiency, aptitude, domination

(1) **mastery** of mathematics, (2) strive for **mastery**

The country finally gained **mastery** over the whole land of its neighbors.

byproduct

n. a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else

synonym: side effect, spinoff, outgrowth

(1) toxic **byproducts**, (2) **byproduct** of technology

The **byproduct** of the energy production process is a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions.

prioritize

v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

synonym: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

prestige

n. respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality

synonym: honor, distinction, reputation

(1) national **prestige**, (2) **prestige** company

The university has great **prestige** in the academic community.

harmonious

adj. characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone

synonym: concordant, consistent, melodious

(1) **harmonious** relationship, (2) **harmonious** blend

The painting's **harmonious** composition and balance of colors made it a masterpiece.

limitless

adj. without end, limit, or boundary; infinite

synonym: boundless, infinite, unrestricted

(1) for a **limitless** time, (2) **limitless** potential

The possibilities for scientific discovery are **limitless**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. asp_____on into the lungs | <i>n.</i> a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath |
| 2. ma_____y of mathematics | <i>n.</i> complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity |
| 3. national pr_____ge | <i>n.</i> respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality |
| 4. unwavering per_____nce | <i>n.</i> steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success |
| 5. s__m the book against a wall | <i>v.</i> to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily |
| 6. co_____ve question | <i>adj.</i> tending to make something likely or possible |
| 7. ultimate bl__s | <i>n.</i> extreme happiness or joy |
| 8. wax a ha_____y floor | <i>n.</i> an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open |
| 9. no asp_____on for fame | <i>n.</i> a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath |
| 10. ant_____ogy of religion | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species |

ANSWERS: 1. aspiration, 2. mastery, 3. prestige, 4. perseverance, 5. slam, 6. conducive, 7. bliss, 8. hallway, 9. aspiration, 10. anthropology

11. re_____nt local dishes *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
12. s_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
13. dogged per_____nce *n.* steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
14. for a li_____ss time *adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
15. cu_____te relationships *v.* to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
16. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
17. cu_____te a field *v.* to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
18. har_____us blend *adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
19. m__d allergy *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
20. g__t determination *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

ANSWERS: 11. reinvent, 12. sew, 13. perseverance, 14. limitless, 15. cultivate, 16. onstage, 17. cultivate, 18. harmonious, 19. mold, 20. grit

21. g__t washer *n.* very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles
22. pri_____ze people over cars *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
23. a sl_____ry customer *adj.* difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted
24. s__m the door *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
25. si__e the edges of a fabric *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
26. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
27. har_____us relationship *adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
28. oa_____l cookies *n.* a type of cereal made from oats that have been ground or steel-cut
29. Br_____ay theater *n.* a famous street in New York City, specifically in the borough of Manhattan, renowned for its theaters and musical productions; the commercial theater district and the theater industry in general

ANSWERS: 21. grit, 22. prioritize, 23. slippery, 24. slam, 25. singe, 26. ironic, 27. harmonious, 28. oatmeal, 29. Broadway

30. social ant_____ogy *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
31. pr_____ge company *n.* respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality
32. in_____ct a computer *v.* to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something
33. pri_____ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
34. a casting m__d *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
35. in_____l medication into my eye *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
36. ta_____a pearls *n.* a starchy substance derived from the cassava plant, typically used in cooking and baking as a thickening agent or as the base for puddings or desserts
37. li_____ss potential *adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
38. ignorance is bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy

ANSWERS: 30. anthropology, 31. prestige, 32. instruct, 33. prioritize, 34. mold, 35. instill, 36. tapioca, 37. limitless, 38. bliss

39. sl_____ry ice *adj.* difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted
40. toxic by_____cts *n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
41. strive for ma_____y *n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
42. s_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
43. co_____ve to growth *adj.* tending to make something likely or possible
44. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
45. in_____l confidence *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
46. o__e from the speakers *v.* to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily
47. the head of a ha_____y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
48. Br_____ay show *n.* a famous street in New York City, specifically in the borough of Manhattan, renowned for its theaters and musical productions; the commercial theater district and the theater industry in general

ANSWERS: 39. slippery, 40. byproduct, 41. mastery, 42. sew, 43. conducive, 44. onstage, 45. instill, 46. ooze, 47. hallway, 48. Broadway

49. si__e off the hair over the flames *v.* to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
50. re_____e education policy *v.* to change the form or structure of something
51. in_____ct a student *v.* to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something
52. re_____nt our life *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
53. ta_____a balls *n.* a starchy substance derived from the cassava plant, typically used in cooking and baking as a thickening agent or as the base for puddings or desserts
54. an ir___c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
55. by_____ct of technology *n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
56. o__e with confidence *v.* to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily
57. re_____e my thoughts *v.* to change the form or structure of something
58. oa_____l breakfast *n.* a type of cereal made from oats that have been ground or steel-cut
59. pro_____ty towards laziness *n.* a natural tendency or inclination towards a particular behavior, activity, or worldview; a predisposition or liking for something

ANSWERS: 49. singe, 50. reshape, 51. instruct, 52. reinvent, 53. tapioca, 54. ironic, 55. byproduct, 56. ooze, 57. reshape, 58. oatmeal, 59. proclivity

60. pro_____ty for chocolate

n. a natural tendency or inclination towards a particular behavior, activity, or worldview; a predisposition or liking for something

ANSWERS: 60. proclivity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The organization _____ the needs of the community in its decision-making.
 - v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

2. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and _____ my dress.
 - v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

3. The wound on his leg continued to _____ blood even after he applied pressure.
 - v. to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily

4. The facility manager _____ the security guards to be on high alert.
 - v. to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something

5. The teacher attempted to _____ the importance of hard work in her students.
 - v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually

6. How extraordinarily _____ a liar the camera is.
 - adj. difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted

7. University is a great place to _____ our minds and expertise.
 - v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants

8. She has a lot of _____ and determination to succeed.
 - n. very small pieces of stone or sand; mental toughness and determination or perseverance in the face of challenges or obstacles

ANSWERS: 1. prioritized, 2. singed, 3. ooze, 4. instructed, 5. instill, 6. slippery, 7. cultivate, 8. grit

9. The _____ of the energy production process is a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions.
- n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
10. The country finally gained _____ over the whole land of its neighbors.
- n.* complete control or power of something to dominate or defeat; great skill or knowledge in a particular subject or activity
11. The painting's _____ composition and balance of colors made it a masterpiece.
- adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
12. He dashed down a _____ to a bathroom.
- n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
13. He has an _____ to become a doctor.
- n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
14. The possibilities for scientific discovery are _____.
- adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
15. They have tried to _____ their grocery stores.
- v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
16. I love starting my day with a bowl of warm _____ and fresh fruit.
- n.* a type of cereal made from oats that have been ground or steel-cut

ANSWERS: 9. byproduct, 10. mastery, 11. harmonious, 12. hallway, 13. aspiration, 14. limitless, 15. reinvent, 16. oatmeal

17. The quiet and peaceful environment was _____ to concentration and productivity.

adj. tending to make something likely or possible

18. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

19. I love the texture and taste of _____ pudding.

n. a starchy substance derived from the cassava plant, typically used in cooking and baking as a thickening agent or as the base for puddings or desserts

20. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

21. We watched an incredible _____ musical last night.

n. a famous street in New York City, specifically in the borough of Manhattan, renowned for its theaters and musical productions; the commercial theater district and the theater industry in general

22. The university has great _____ in the academic community.

n. respect and admiration felt or shown for someone or something based on a perception of their achievements or quality

23. She _____ the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.

v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

24. Despite facing numerous setbacks and obstacles, his _____ and determination led him to success.

n. steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

ANSWERS: 17. conducive, 18. onstage, 19. tapioca, 20. anthropology, 21. Broadway, 22. prestige, 23. slammed, 24. perseverance

25. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.
v. to change the form or structure of something
26. My mother taught me how to _____.
v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
27. The first two years of her marriage were sheer _____.
n. extreme happiness or joy
28. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.
adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
29. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.
n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
30. Her _____ for procrastination meant she always left her assignments until the last minute.
n. a natural tendency or inclination towards a particular behavior, activity, or worldview; a predisposition or liking for something

ANSWERS: 25. reshaped, 26. sew, 27. bliss, 28. ironic, 29. mold, 30. proclivity