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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Adam Alter: Why our screens make us less happy | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

rumor

n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym: gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false **rumor**, (2) **rumor** mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict
Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

peninsula

n. a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land

synonym: cape, foreland

(1) the tip of the **peninsula**, (2) the Arab **peninsula**

That **peninsula** was an essential base for the country's defense.

sliver

n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something

synonym : splinter, shard, fragment

(1) **sliver** of wood, (2) **sliver** of metal

I had to be careful not to step on a **sliver** of glass on the floor.

miraculous

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

synonym : amazing, astonishing, awesome

(1) a **miraculous** encounter, (2) go through a **miraculous** change

He made a **miraculous** recovery.

enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym : enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services

Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

twit

n. a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating

synonym : fool, idiot, imbecile

(1) celebrity **twit**, (2) neighborhood **twit**

Please ignore that **twit** on social media; their opinions are irrelevant.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

mash

v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

synonym: crush, grind, pulverize

(1) **mash** his words, (2) potato **mash**

She **mashed** the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.

glide

v. to move smoothly and effortlessly

synonym: slide, skim, coast

(1) **glide** through the water, (2) **glide** down the mountain

The eagle gracefully **glided** on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a mir_____us encounter
adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
2. sl____r of metal
n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
3. the Arab pe_____la
n. a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land
4. antibiotic-resistant g__m
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
5. killer a_p
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
6. en____h public services
v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
7. a g__m-free environment
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
8. ind_____us worker
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 1. miraculous, 2. sliver, 3. peninsula, 4. germ, 5. app, 6. enrich, 7. germ, 8. industrious

9. sl___r of wood *n.* a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
10. neighborhood t__t *n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
11. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
12. gl__e down the mountain *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
13. en___h a gas with a balloon *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
14. gl__e through the water *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
15. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
16. ru__r mill *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
17. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
18. the tip of the pe_____la *n.* a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land
19. potato m__h *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

ANSWERS: 9. sliver, 10. twit, 11. smartphone, 12. glide, 13. enrich, 14. glide, 15. app, 16. rumor, 17. industrious, 18. peninsula, 19. mash

20. celebrity t__t *n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
21. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
22. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
23. go through a mir_____us change *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
24. m__h his words *v.* to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water

ANSWERS: 20. twit, 21. rumor, 22. smartphone, 23. miraculous, 24. mash

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
2. There was a baseless _____ that the company was going bankrupt.
n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
3. I had to be careful not to step on a _____ of glass on the floor.
n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
4. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
5. Reading not only increases knowledge but also _____ life.
v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
6. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
7. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 1. germ, 2. rumor, 3. sliver, 4. smartphones, 5. enriches, 6. industrious, 7. app's

8. Please ignore that _____ on social media; their opinions are irrelevant.
n. a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
9. She _____ the potatoes with a fork until they were smooth and creamy.
v. to crush or grind something into a soft, wet, pulpy mass; to talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions; (noun) a mixture of crushed malt grains and hot water
10. That _____ was an essential base for the country's defense.
n. a long piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but is linked to a larger part of the land
11. He made a _____ recovery.
adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
12. The eagle gracefully _____ on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.
v. to move smoothly and effortlessly

ANSWERS: 8. twit, 9. mashed, 10. peninsula, 11. miraculous, 12. glided