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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Grady Booch: Don't fear superintelligent AI | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

quintessence

n. the perfect example of a quality or class

synonym: essence, core, heart

(1) the **quintessence** of virtue, (2) **quintessence** of life

The **quintessence** of the author's writing is the depth of emotion conveyed.

nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym: geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

dusty

adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

synonym: stale, filthy, grimy

(1) **dusty** road, (2) **dusty** bookshelf

The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of **dusty** debris.

odyssey

n. a long wandering and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem attributed to Homer, describing the journey of

Odysseus after the fall of Troy

(1) go on a serious **odyssey**, (2) cross-country **odyssey**
He continued the extraordinary **odyssey** with his brother.

sentient

adj. having the ability to perceive or feel things, particularly through sense perception like touch or sight, especially at higher levels of intelligence and consciousness

synonym: conscious, aware, perceptive

(1) **sentient** beings, (2) **sentient** robots

Animals such as dolphins and elephants are highly **sentient** and intelligent creatures.

Jovian

adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

synonym: Jupiter, giant planet

(1) **Jovian** satellites, (2) **Jovian** planet

The **Jovian** moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.

subjugate

v. to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority

synonym: conquer, subdue, enslave

(1) **subjugate** the enemy, (2) **subjugate** my ego

The conqueror sought to **subjugate** the defeated country.

unfeeling

adj. lacking in sympathy or compassion; not experiencing or showing emotions; indifferent or insensitive

synonym: indifferent, cold, emotionless

(1) **unfeeling** remark, (2) **unfeeling** behavior

Her **unfeeling** response to the news shocked me.

indifferent

adj. having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral

synonym: apathetic, disinterested, unmoved

(1) an **indifferent** glance, (2) emotionally **indifferent**

Despite the good news, she remained **indifferent** to the situation.

unfounded

adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification

synonym : baseless, groundless, untrue

(1) **unfounded** allegations, (2) **unfounded** fears

The accusations were **unfounded** and lacked evidence.

humanoid

n. a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human

synonym : android, anthropomorphic

(1) **humanoid** hand, (2) **humanoid** design

The **humanoid** robot was able to mimic human movements and expressions.

homicide

n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

synonym : murder, killing, manslaughter

(1) mass **homicide**, (2) serial **homicide**

The detective was called to investigate a **homicide** in the city.

paraphrase

v. to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning

synonym : rephrase, reword, reinterpret

(1) **paraphrase** a poem into prose, (2) **paraphrase** the meaning

He **paraphrased** the article in his own words to avoid being accused of plagiarism.

converse

v. to talk informally

synonym : discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

emote

v. to communicate through facial expressions, gestures, and body language to express strong feelings or emotions

synonym : express, communicate, convey

(1) **emote** salute, (2) **emote** through art

The actor could **emote** a wide range of emotions on screen, earning them critical acclaim.

trepidation

n. a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous

synonym : fear, anxiety, apprehension

(1) trembling with **trepidation**, (2) sense of **trepidation**

She felt **trepidation** as she approached the podium to give her speech.

pervasive

adj. spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

synonym : extensive, ubiquitous, prevalent

(1) **pervasive** language, (2) the **pervasive** odor of garlic

Suspicion and worry were **pervasive** in our minds.

memorize

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

synonym : learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

embody

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

synonym : represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity

The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

discern

v. to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious

synonym: determine, distinguish, sense

(1) **discern** the big picture, (2) **discern** friend from foe

Parents need to help their children **discern** right and wrong.

fuse

n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

synonym: (verb) melt, (verb) blend

(1) **fuse** blows, (2) **fuse** with one another

He has a short **fuse**.

rogue

n. a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly

synonym: baddie, con artist, crook

(1) a **rogue** detective, (2) **rogue** state

The president states emphatically that the opponent country is a **rogue** state that supports terrorism.

inject

v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym: shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

metropolis

n. a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity

synonym: city, megacity, urban center

(1) **metropolis** skyline, (2) bustling **metropolis**

Paris is a romantic **metropolis** famous for its art, fashion, and cuisine.

superintelligence

n. a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind

(1) digital **superintelligence**, (2) artificial **superintelligence**

He is looking for evidence of the existence of **superintelligence** from cosmic signals.

insatiable

adj. impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable

synonym: voracious, unquenchable, insistent

(1) **insatiable** curiosity, (2) **insatiable** appetite

His **insatiable** hunger for success drove him to work countless hours.

thirst

n. a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something

synonym: craving, desire, appetite

(1) a burning **thirst**, (2) **thirst** for authority

He read books to quench his **thirst** for knowledge.

musky

adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss

synonym: musty, earthy, pungent

(1) **musky** aroma, (2) **musky** perfume

The **musky** scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.

hawk

n. a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations

synonym: militarist, jingo, aggressor

(1) cast off a **hawk**, (2) congressional **hawk**

That team signed a center forward who was a ball- **hawk**.

unpack

v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

synonym : dissect, unwrap, unbox

(1) **unpack** a crate, (2) **unpack** a concept

I need to **unpack** my suitcase and put my clothes away.

capricious

adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; unpredictable; governed by a whim or fancy

synonym : volatile, unpredictable, whimsical

(1) **capricious** decisions, (2) **capricious** mood

The **capricious** weather made it difficult to plan outdoor activities.

chaotic

adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

synonym : disorderly, cluttered, topsy-turvy

(1) the **chaotic** economic situation, (2) **chaotic** theory

Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of **chaotic** reform.

unplug

v. to disconnect the plug of electrical equipment from the electricity supply

synonym : disconnect, clear, open

(1) **unplug** the power cord, (2) **unplug** a USB stick

Please **unplug** the heater before you go to bed.

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.

societal

adj. relating to society or social relationships

synonym : social, communal, cultural

(1) **societal** norms, (2) **societal** expectations

The **societal** pressure to conform is strong in this community.

diminish

v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

synonym: decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling

As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

Session 2: Spelling

1. un___k a crate
v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
2. se_____nt robots
adj. having the ability to perceive or feel things, particularly through sense perception like touch or sight, especially at higher levels of intelligence and consciousness
3. em__e salute
v. to communicate through facial expressions, gestures, and body language to express strong feelings or emotions
4. par_____se the meaning
v. to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning
5. di_____ct public opinion
v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
6. ch_____c theory
adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
7. the ch_____c economic situation
adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
8. qui_____nce of life
n. the perfect example of a quality or class
9. em___y my goal
v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

ANSWERS: 1. unpack, 2. sentient, 3. emote, 4. paraphrase, 5. distract, 6. chaotic, 7. chaotic, 8. quintessence, 9. embody

10. me_____ze musical scores *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
11. du__y road *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
12. met_____is skyline *n.* a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
13. trembling with tre_____on *n.* a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous
14. un_____ed fears *adj.* not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
15. un___k a concept *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
16. un_____ng remark *adj.* lacking in sympathy or compassion; not experiencing or showing emotions; indifferent or insensitive
17. pe_____ve language *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
18. Jo___n planet *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

ANSWERS: 10. memorize, 11. dusty, 12. metropolis, 13. trepidation, 14. unfounded, 15. unpack, 16. unfeeling, 17. pervasive, 18. Jovian

19. a burning th__t *n.* a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something
20. in__t under the skin *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
21. du__y bookshelf *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
22. ins_____le appetite *adj.* impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
23. a computer n__d *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
24. emotionally ind_____nt *adj.* having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral
25. un__g a USB stick *v.* to disconnect the plug of electrical equipment from the electricity supply
26. di_____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
27. cap_____us decisions *adj.* given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; unpredictable; governed by a whim or fancy
28. ro__e state *n.* a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly

ANSWERS: 19. thirst, 20. inject, 21. dusty, 22. insatiable, 23. nerd, 24. indifferent, 25. unplug, 26. distract, 27. capricious, 28. rogue

29. di____sh swelling *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
30. ins_____le curiosity *adj.* impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable
31. bustling met_____is *n.* a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
32. un____g the power cord *v.* to disconnect the plug of electrical equipment from the electricity supply
33. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
34. artificial sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
35. di____n friend from foe *v.* to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious
36. f__e blows *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat
37. hu____id design *n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human

ANSWERS: 29. diminish, 30. insatiable, 31. metropolis, 32. unplug, 33. opportune, 34. superintelligence, 35. discern, 36. fuse, 37. humanoid

38. digital sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
39. em__e through art *v.* to communicate through facial expressions, gestures, and body language to express strong feelings or emotions
40. co____se with an acquaintance *v.* to talk informally
41. try hard to me____ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
42. an ind_____nt glance *adj.* having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral
43. in__t a personal opinion into a debate *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
44. di____sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
45. the qui_____nce of virtue *n.* the perfect example of a quality or class
46. Jo____n satellites *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
47. cap_____us mood *adj.* given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; unpredictable; governed by a whim or fancy
48. the pe_____ve odor of garlic *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

ANSWERS: 38. superintelligence, 39. emote, 40. converse, 41. memorize, 42. indifferent, 43. inject, 44. diminish, 45. quintessence, 46. Jovian, 47. capricious, 48. pervasive

49. cast off a h__k *n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
50. mu__y perfume *adj.* having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
51. un_____ng behavior *adj.* lacking in sympathy or compassion; not experiencing or showing emotions; indifferent or insensitive
52. so_____al norms *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
53. un_____ed allegations *adj.* not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
54. se_____nt beings *adj.* having the ability to perceive or feel things, particularly through sense perception like touch or sight, especially at higher levels of intelligence and consciousness
55. hu_____id hand *n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
56. congressional h__k *n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
57. em___y a spirit of charity *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
58. ask a co_____se question *v.* to talk informally
59. par_____se a poem into prose *v.* to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning

ANSWERS: 49. hawk, 50. musky, 51. unfeeling, 52. societal, 53. unfounded, 54. sentient, 55. humanoid, 56. hawk, 57. embody, 58. converse, 59. paraphrase

60. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
61. cross-country od_____y *n.* a long wandering and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem attributed to Homer, describing the journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy
62. f__e with one another *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat
63. di_____n the big picture *v.* to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious
64. su_____te my ego *v.* to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority
65. a ro__e detective *n.* a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly
66. th___t for authority *n.* a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something
67. mass ho_____de *n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
68. mu__y aroma *adj.* having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
69. sense of tre_____on *n.* a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous

ANSWERS: 60. opportune, 61. odyssey, 62. fuse, 63. discern, 64. subjugate, 65. rogue, 66. thirst, 67. homicide, 68. musky, 69. trepidation

70. n__d neck *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
71. go on a serious od____y *n.* a long wandering and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem attributed to Homer, describing the journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy
72. so____al expectations *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
73. serial ho____de *n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
74. su____te the enemy *v.* to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority

ANSWERS: 70. nerd, 71. odyssey, 72. societal, 73. homicide, 74. subjugate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

2. I need to _____ my suitcase and put my clothes away.
v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

3. As people get old, their energies may _____.
v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

4. The _____ pressure to conform is strong in this community.
adj. relating to society or social relationships

5. He continued the extraordinary _____ with his brother.
n. a long wandering and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem attributed to Homer, describing the journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy

6. Animals such as dolphins and elephants are highly _____ and intelligent creatures.
adj. having the ability to perceive or feel things, particularly through sense perception like touch or sight, especially at higher levels of intelligence and consciousness

7. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. Jovian, 2. unpack, 3. diminish, 4. societal, 5. odyssey, 6. sentient, 7. opportune

8. The accusations were _____ and lacked evidence.

adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification

9. He is looking for evidence of the existence of _____ from cosmic signals.

n. a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind

10. The conqueror sought to _____ the defeated country.

v. to bring under control; to conquer; to make subservient to one's authority

11. The detective was called to investigate a _____ in the city.

n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

12. That team signed a center forward who was a ball-_____.

n. a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations

13. The president states emphatically that the opponent country is a _____ state that supports terrorism.

n. a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly

14. He read books to quench his _____ for knowledge.

n. a feeling of needing something to drink; a strong desire for something

15. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.

v. to talk informally

ANSWERS: 8. unfounded, 9. superintelligence, 10. subjugate, 11. homicide, 12. hawk, 13. rogue, 14. thirst, 15. converse

16. The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of _____ debris.

adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

17. Her _____ response to the news shocked me.

adj. lacking in sympathy or compassion; not experiencing or showing emotions; indifferent or insensitive

18. The _____ robot was able to mimic human movements and expressions.

n. a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human

19. Despite the good news, she remained _____ to the situation.

adj. having no strong feelings or preferences one way or the other, neutral

20. Paris is a romantic _____ famous for its art, fashion, and cuisine.

n. a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity

21. The _____ scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.

adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss

22. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

23. Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of _____ reform.

adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

24. He _____ the article in his own words to avoid being accused of plagiarism.

v. to restate or reword a passage in one's own words, often to clarify or simplify the original meaning

ANSWERS: 16. dusty, 17. unfeeling, 18. humanoid, 19. indifferent, 20. metropolis, 21. musky, 22. memorize, 23. chaotic, 24. paraphrased

25. He has a short _____.

- n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

26. The actor could _____ a wide range of emotions on screen, earning them critical acclaim.

- v.* to communicate through facial expressions, gestures, and body language to express strong feelings or emotions

27. Please _____ the heater before you go to bed.

- v.* to disconnect the plug of electrical equipment from the electricity supply

28. He was, by nature, a cyber _____.

- n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

29. His _____ hunger for success drove him to work countless hours.

- adj.* impossible to satisfy or content; having a strong desire or craving that is excessive or unquenchable

30. Suspicion and worry were _____ in our minds.

- adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

31. The _____ of the author's writing is the depth of emotion conveyed.

- n.* the perfect example of a quality or class

32. She felt _____ as she approached the podium to give her speech.

- n.* a feeling of fear, anxiety, or apprehension about something uncertain or unknown; a state of alarm or nervousness that results from anticipating something frightening or dangerous

ANSWERS: 25. fuse, 26. emote, 27. unplug, 28. nerd, 29. insatiable, 30. pervasive, 31. quintessence, 32. trepidation

33. Parents need to help their children _____ right and wrong.
v. to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious
34. The company's new products _____ the values of innovation and sustainability.
v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
35. The _____ weather made it difficult to plan outdoor activities.
adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; unpredictable; governed by a whim or fancy
36. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
37. Let's try to _____ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

ANSWERS: 33. discern, 34. embody, 35. capricious, 36. distract, 37. inject