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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kevin B. Jones: Why curiosity is the key to science and medicine | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

conjure

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

synonym: summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

boredom

n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

synonym: ennui, tedium, monotony

(1) **boredom** relief, (2) chronic **boredom**

The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off **boredom**.

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.

Newtonian

adj. relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation

synonym: classical, physics, mechanics

(1) **Newtonian** physics, (2) **Newtonian** mechanics

The motion of planets can be described using **Newtonian** mechanics.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

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.

boardroom

n. a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets

synonym: meeting room, conference room, executive room

(1) **boardroom** meeting, (2) **boardroom** decision

The corporate **boardroom** was filled with tense silence as the CEO presented the new plan.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

lubricate

v. to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface

synonym: grease, oil, make slippery

(1) **lubricate** the economy, (2) **lubricate** the hinges with oil

The mechanic **lubricated** the gears to prevent them from grinding.

doohickey

n. an unspecified object, typically something small or unfamiliar in the name; a colloquial or slang term for a gadget, device, or widget

synonym: gadget, thingamajig, widget

(1) handy **doohickey**, (2) mechanical **doohickey**

I found this little **doohickey** in the garage, but I have no idea what it's used for.

sarcoma

n. a type of cancer that originates from connective tissues such as bones, muscles, blood vessels, or cartilage, which occurs in various parts of the body and are characterized by the abnormal growth of malignant cells

synonym: tumor, cancer, growth

(1) soft tissue **sarcoma**, (2) osteogenic **sarcoma**

My uncle is starting a new chemotherapy regimen for his bone **sarcoma** this week.

humility

n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

synonym: humbleness, modesty, unpretentiousness

(1) develop an attitude of **humility**, (2) lack of **humility**
We were filled with **humility** at the sight of the Queen.

repurpose

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

synonym: reutilize, recycle, reuse

(1) **repurpose** an old building, (2) **repurpose** a used car
The old barn was **repurposed** into a modern event space.

prosthetic

adj. of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant

(1) have **prosthetic** arms, (2) **prosthetic** limbs

New **prosthetic** joints are less prone to metal poisoning.

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.

crooked

adj. not straight or aligned; bent or curved to one side; not honest or fair; characterized by deception, fraud, or wrongdoing; irregular, uneven, or jagged in shape or form

synonym: bent, curved, twisted

(1) **crooked** smile, (2) **crooked** line

The table leg was **crooked**, causing all the cups to slide to one side.

oncology

n. the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies

synonym: cancer treatment, study of tumors

(1) **oncology** center, (2) modern **oncology** treatment

The pharmaceutical company unveiled its latest breakthrough drug for the **oncology** market.

transmissible

adj. of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another

synonym : contagious, infectious, transferable

(1) **transmissible** through contact, (2) maximum **transmissible** data size

The disease is highly **transmissible** and can be transmitted through close contact with infected individuals.

fraught

adj. causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress

synonym : tense, anxious, stressed

(1) become increasingly **fraught**, (2) **fraught** with danger

The negotiations were **fraught** with challenges and setbacks.

flashlight

n. a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off

synonym : torch, lamp, beacon

(1) **flashlight** beam, (2) **flashlight** batteries

He used a backup **flashlight** to find his way through the dark cave.

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.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym : coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

bravado

n. a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere

synonym : boldness, swagger, arrogance

(1) lose my **bravado**, (2) heroic **bravado**

The show of **bravado** by the bully only served to mask his insecurity and fear.

brim

n. the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat

synonym : beak, edge, bound

(1) the **brim** of a hat, (2) the pelvic **brim**

The glass was filled to the **brim** with beer.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym : consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

nodule

n. a small lump or mass that protrudes from a larger surface, often found on the skin or in the body's tissues

synonym : bump, swelling, knot

(1) thyroid **nodule**, (2) renal **nodule**

During a routine check-up, the doctor discovered a **nodule** in the patient's lung.

junction

n. a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam

synonym : turning point, crossroads, crisis

(1) the **junction** of Eastern and Western cultures,

(2) decisive **junction**

At this **junction** in the project, we must reassess our plans and make some changes.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

overconfidence

n. excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior

synonym: overestimation, hubris, arrogance

(1) **overconfidence** bias, (2) false **overconfidence**

The student's **overconfidence** in their writing abilities caused them not to bother to proofread their essay, resulting in a poor grades.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ove_____nce bias *n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
2. osteogenic sa_____a *n.* a type of cancer that originates from connective tissues such as bones, muscles, blood vessels, or cartilage, which occurs in various parts of the body and are characterized by the abnormal growth of malignant cells
3. Ne_____an physics *adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
4. tra_____ble through contact *adj.* of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another
5. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
6. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
7. decisive ju_____re *n.* a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam
8. false ove_____nce *n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior

ANSWERS: 1. overconfidence, 2. sarcoma, 3. Newtonian, 4. transmissible, 5. embarrass, 6. afterward, 7. juncture, 8. overconfidence

9. bo_____om meeting *n.* a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets
10. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
11. lu_____te the hinges with oil *v.* to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface
12. chronic bo_____m *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
13. co_____e a vision *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
14. thyroid no_____e *n.* a small lump or mass that protrudes from a larger surface, often found on the skin or in the body's tissues
15. have pro_____ic arms *adj.* of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant
16. co_____e evil spirits away *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
17. lu_____te the economy *v.* to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface
18. Ne_____an mechanics *adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
19. the b__m of a hat *n.* the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat

ANSWERS: 9. boardroom, 10. afterward, 11. lubricate, 12. boredom, 13. conjure, 14. nodule, 15. prosthetic, 16. conjure, 17. lubricate, 18. Newtonian, 19. brim

20. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
21. bo_____om decision *n.* a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets
22. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
23. cr_____d smile *adj.* not straight or aligned; bent or curved to one side; not honest or fair; characterized by deception, fraud, or wrongdoing; irregular, uneven, or jagged in shape or form
24. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
25. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
26. the pelvic b__m *n.* the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
27. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
28. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

ANSWERS: 20. opportune, 21. boardroom, 22. medicinal, 23. crooked, 24. rev, 25. rev, 26. brim, 27. quitter, 28. quitter

29. mechanical do_____ey *n.* an unspecified object, typically something small or unfamiliar in the name; a colloquial or slang term for a gadget, device, or widget
30. pro_____ic limbs *adj.* of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant
31. fr_____t with danger *adj.* causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress
32. wax a ha_____y floor *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
33. co_____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
34. maximum tra_____ble data size *adj.* of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another
35. re_____se a used car *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
36. fla_____ht batteries *n.* a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
37. become increasingly fr_____t *adj.* causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress
38. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
39. develop an attitude of hu_____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

ANSWERS: 29. doohickey, 30. prosthetic, 31. fraught, 32. hallway, 33. confer, 34. transmissible, 35. repurpose, 36. flashlight, 37. fraught, 38. fascinate, 39. humility

40. renal no___e *n.* a small lump or mass that protrudes from a larger surface, often found on the skin or in the body's tissues
41. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
42. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
43. try hard to me_____ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
44. lack of hu_____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
45. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
46. soft tissue sa_____a *n.* a type of cancer that originates from connective tissues such as bones, muscles, blood vessels, or cartilage, which occurs in various parts of the body and are characterized by the abnormal growth of malignant cells
47. handy do_____ey *n.* an unspecified object, typically something small or unfamiliar in the name; a colloquial or slang term for a gadget, device, or widget
48. re_____se an old building *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
49. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 40. nodule, 41. obsess, 42. confer, 43. memorize, 44. humility, 45. institutionalize, 46. sarcoma, 47. doohickey, 48. repurpose, 49. medicinal

50. the ju____re of Eastern and Western cultures *n.* a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam
51. Jo____n satellites *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
52. modern on____gy treatment *n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies
53. Jo____n planet *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
54. bo____m relief *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
55. cr____d line *adj.* not straight or aligned; bent or curved to one side; not honest or fair; characterized by deception, fraud, or wrongdoing; irregular, uneven, or jagged in shape or form
56. fla____ht beam *n.* a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
57. em____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
58. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
59. heroic br____o *n.* a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere

ANSWERS: 50. juncture, 51. Jovian, 52. oncology, 53. Jovian, 54. boredom, 55. crooked, 56. flashlight, 57. embarrass, 58. institutionalize, 59. bravado

60. lose my br____o *n.* a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere
61. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
62. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
63. on_____gy center *n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies
64. me_____ze musical scores *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
65. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
66. the head of a ha_____y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

ANSWERS: 60. bravado, 61. opportune, 62. obsess, 63. oncology, 64. memorize, 65. fascinate, 66. hallway

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The old barn was _____ into a modern event space.
v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
2. I found this little _____ in the garage, but I have no idea what it's used for.
n. an unspecified object, typically something small or unfamiliar in the name; a colloquial or slang term for a gadget, device, or widget
3. During a routine check-up, the doctor discovered a _____ in the patient's lung.
n. a small lump or mass that protrudes from a larger surface, often found on the skin or in the body's tissues
4. The pharmaceutical company unveiled its latest breakthrough drug for the _____ market.
n. the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies
5. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
6. He used a backup _____ to find his way through the dark cave.
n. a portable electric light with a handle and a switch that can be turned on and off
7. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.
v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
8. The corporate _____ was filled with tense silence as the CEO presented the new plan.
n. a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets

ANSWERS: 1. repurposed, 2. doohickey, 3. nodule, 4. oncology, 5. obsessed, 6. flashlight, 7. memorize, 8. boardroom

9. The student's _____ in their writing abilities caused them not to bother to proofread their essay, resulting in a poor grades.
- n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
10. The motion of planets can be described using _____ mechanics.
- adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
11. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
- adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
12. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
- v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
13. The disease is highly _____ and can be transmitted through close contact with infected individuals.
- adj.* of or connected with something, such as a disease or trait, able to be passed or transmitted from one person or organism to another
14. The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off _____.
- n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
15. New _____ joints are less prone to metal poisoning.
- adj.* of or relating to an artificial part of the body, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant
16. My uncle is starting a new chemotherapy regimen for his bone _____ this week.
- n.* a type of cancer that originates from connective tissues such as bones, muscles, blood vessels, or cartilage, which occurs in various parts of the body and are characterized by the abnormal growth of malignant cells

ANSWERS: 9. overconfidence, 10. Newtonian, 11. Jovian, 12. confer, 13. transmissible, 14. boredom, 15. prosthetic, 16. sarcoma

17. At this _____ in the project, we must reassess our plans and make some changes.
- n.* a critical point or moment in time, often indicating a key decision or turning point; a place or point of connection, such as a joint or seam
18. We were filled with _____ at the sight of the Queen.
- n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
19. The negotiations were _____ with challenges and setbacks.
- adj.* causing, accompanied by, or full of anxiety, tension, or stress
20. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
- adv.* after the time mentioned
21. The glass was filled to the _____ with beer.
- n.* the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
22. The magician _____ up a rabbit out of thin air.
- v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
23. The table leg was _____ causing all the cups to slide to one side.
- adj.* not straight or aligned; bent or curved to one side; not honest or fair; characterized by deception, fraud, or wrongdoing; irregular, uneven, or jagged in shape or form
24. He dashed down a _____ to a bathroom.
- n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

ANSWERS: 17. juncture, 18. humility, 19. fraught, 20. afterward, 21. brim, 22. conjured, 23. crooked, 24. hallway

25. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
- v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
26. The magic tricks _____ the children.
- v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
27. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
28. The mechanic _____ the gears to prevent them from grinding.
- v.* to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface
29. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
30. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
- n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
31. The show of _____ by the bully only served to mask his insecurity and fear.
- n.* a bold, swaggering display of courage or confidence that is intended to impress or intimidate people, often in a way that is exaggerated or insincere
32. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 25. institutionalize, 26. fascinated, 27. embarrass, 28. lubricated, 29. rev, 30. quitter, 31. bravado, 32. opportune

33. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 33. medicinal