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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tim Urban: Inside the mind of a master procrastinator
| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

staircase

n. a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side

synonym: stairway, stairwell

(1) spiral **staircase**, (2) beetle up the **staircase**

She walked urgently down the emergency **staircase**.

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**.

procrastinate

v. to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring

synonym: delay, dawdle, hesitate

(1) **procrastinate** about a big challenge, (2) **procrastinate** on my homework

He **procrastinated** the matter until it was almost too late.

perplexity

n. confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled

synonym: confusion, bewilderment, uncertainty

(1) a **perplexity** issue, (2) resolve **perplexity**

The **perplexity** of the situation left everyone at a loss for words.

gratification

n. the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want

synonym: satisfaction, pleasure, contentment

(1) instant **gratification**, (2) aesthetic **gratification**

The **gratification** of completing a difficult task is a great feeling.

Wikipedia

n. an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

synonym: online encyclopedia, webpedia

(1) **Wikipedia** entry, (2) **Wikipedia** article

Not all teachers accept citing **Wikipedia** as a valid source for academic papers.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym: imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

unearned

adj. gained or earned without labor, service, or skill

synonym: unmerited, unwarranted, undeserved

(1) an **unearned** rise in the market value, (2) an **unearned** run

The book explains how to earn **unearned** income using Internet commerce.

dread

v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

synonym: fear, cringe, apprehend

(1) **dread** failure, (2) **dread** getting old

We all **dread** to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

dormant

adj. in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

synonym: inactive, sleeping, quiescent

(1) **dormant** volcano, (2) **dormant** account

The disease can remain **dormant** for years before it presents any symptoms.

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.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

mayhem

n. a state of chaos, disorder, and violence, typically caused by a riot, violent confrontation, or rapid and widespread destruction; a situation of extreme confusion, disorder, and damage

synonym: chaos, disorder, havoc

(1) snowstorm **mayhem**, (2) create **mayhem**

The rioters caused **mayhem** in the streets, breaking windows and starting fires.

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.

ethic

n. a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

synonym : moral code, code of conduct, principles

(1) moral **ethic**, (2) professional **ethic**

Having a strong work **ethic** is important for success in any field.

amaze

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym : astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

cram

v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

synonym : stuff, pack, jam

(1) **cram** more circuits into chips, (2) **cram** five people into a car

She had to **cram** for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.

spectator

n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

synonym : onlooker, observer, viewer

(1) mass **spectator** sport, (2) **spectator** seat

She enjoyed watching the game as a **spectator**.

epiphany

n. a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation;
a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the
visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus

synonym : revelation, enlightenment, insight

(1) **epiphany** about life, (2) Feast of **Epiphany**

She had an **epiphany** while meditating and realized the
answer to her problem.

sneaky

adj. behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way;
characterized by stealth or secretiveness

synonym : sly, crafty, deceitful

(1) **sneaky** tactics, (2) **sneaky** behavior

The **sneaky** thief slipped into the house through an unlocked
window.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|--|
| 1. an un_____ed rise in the market value | <i>adj.</i> gained or earned without labor, service, or skill |
| 2. the threats te_____y him | <i>v.</i> to frighten someone very much |
| 3. beetle up the st_____se | <i>n.</i> a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side |
| 4. do_____t account | <i>adj.</i> in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances |
| 5. mass sp_____or sport | <i>n.</i> someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it |
| 6. am__e everyone | <i>v.</i> to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration |
| 7. snowstorm ma____m | <i>n.</i> a state of chaos, disorder, and violence, typically caused by a riot, violent confrontation, or rapid and widespread destruction; a situation of extreme confusion, disorder, and damage |
| 8. ep_____ny about life | <i>n.</i> a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus |
| 9. go through a mir_____us change | <i>adj.</i> very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected |

ANSWERS: 1. unearned, 2. terrify, 3. staircase, 4. dormant, 5. spectator, 6. amaze, 7. mayhem, 8. epiphany, 9. miraculous

10. create ma___m *n.* a state of chaos, disorder, and violence, typically caused by a riot, violent confrontation, or rapid and widespread destruction; a situation of extreme confusion, disorder, and damage
11. dr__d getting old *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
12. dr__d failure *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
13. a mir_____us encounter *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
14. vi_____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
15. do_____t volcano *adj.* in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances
16. sp_____or seat *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
17. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
18. spiral st_____se *n.* a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side
19. a per_____ty issue *n.* confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled
20. 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

ANSWERS: 10. mayhem, 11. dread, 12. dread, 13. miraculous, 14. visualize, 15. dormant, 16. spectator, 17. embarrass, 18. staircase, 19. perplexity, 20. rev

21. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
22. aesthetic gra_____ion *n.* the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want
23. c__m more circuits into chips *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
24. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
25. professional et__c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
26. c__m five people into a car *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
27. resolve per_____ty *n.* confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled
28. Feast of Ep_____ny *n.* a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus
29. pro_____ate on my homework *v.* to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring

ANSWERS: 21. visualize, 22. gratification, 23. cram, 24. embarrass, 25. ethic, 26. cram, 27. perplexity, 28. epiphany, 29. procrastinate

30. sn___y tactics *adj.* behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness
31. pro_____ate about a big challenge *v.* to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring
32. moral et__c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
33. 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
34. sn___y behavior *adj.* behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness
35. an un_____ed run *adj.* gained or earned without labor, service, or skill
36. Wi_____ia entry *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
37. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
38. Wi_____ia article *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

ANSWERS: 30. sneaky, 31. procrastinate, 32. ethic, 33. rev, 34. sneaky, 35. unearned, 36. Wikipedia, 37. terrify, 38. Wikipedia

39. instant gra_____ion *n.* the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want
40. am__e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 39. gratification, 40. amaze

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of the situation left everyone at a loss for words.
n. confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled
2. The book explains how to earn _____ income using Internet commerce.
adj. gained or earned without labor, service, or skill
3. 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
4. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
5. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.
v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
6. The disease can remain _____ for years before it presents any symptoms.
adj. in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances
7. She walked urgently down the emergency _____.
n. a set of stairs inside a building, usually with posts and bars that are fixed at the side
8. He _____ the matter until it was almost too late.
v. to postpone doing what you should do, often because it is unpleasant or boring

ANSWERS: 1. perplexity, 2. unearned, 3. rev, 4. embarrass, 5. visualize, 6. dormant, 7. staircase, 8. procrastinated

9. The _____ thief slipped into the house through an unlocked window.
adj. behaving in a deceptive or underhanded way; characterized by stealth or secretiveness
10. Having a strong work _____ is important for success in any field.
n. a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
11. The rioters caused _____ in the streets, breaking windows and starting fires.
n. a state of chaos, disorder, and violence, typically caused by a riot, violent confrontation, or rapid and widespread destruction; a situation of extreme confusion, disorder, and damage
12. The _____ of completing a difficult task is a great feeling.
n. the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want
13. She had to _____ for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.
v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
14. She had an _____ while meditating and realized the answer to her problem.
n. a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus
15. We all _____ to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.
v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

ANSWERS: 9. sneaky, 10. ethic, 11. mayhem, 12. gratification, 13. cram, 14. epiphany, 15. dread

16. She enjoyed watching the game as a _____.

n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

17. He made a _____ recovery.

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

18. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.

v. to frighten someone very much

19. Not all teachers accept citing _____ as a valid source for academic papers.

n. an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

20. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 16. spectator, 17. miraculous, 18. terrify, 19. Wikipedia, 20. amazed