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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sarah Bergbreiter: Why I make robots the size of a grain of rice | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

robotic

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

synonym : automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

locomotion

n. the action or ability to move from one place to another

synonym : movement, travel, mobility

(1) **locomotion** system, (2) **locomotion** control

The **locomotion** of the robotic arm was smooth and precise.

cockroach

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

synonym : roach

(1) **cockroach** killer, (2) have a **cockroach** phobia

Cockroaches sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym : condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

actuate

v. to cause a machine or equipment to start to work

synonym: motivate, spark, drive

(1) **actuate** the circuits, (2) **actuate** a parking brake

A desire for success **actuated** her.

tweeze

v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools

synonym: pluck, pull out, extract

(1) **tweeze** unwanted hair, (2) **tweeze** hairs

She carefully **tweezed** the stray eyebrow hairs.

centimeter

n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

(1) **centimeter** measurement, (2) thirty **centimeters** tall

The room was only one **centimeter** wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.

onboard

v. to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device

synonym: embark, aboard, on-load

(1) **onboard** the new employees, (2) **onboard** computer

The passengers were instructed to **onboard** the aircraft as quickly as possible so that the flight could depart on time.

tic

n. a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism

synonym: twitch, spasm, jerk

(1) developmental **tic**, (2) facial **tic**

My nervous **tic** makes it hard for me to concentrate during

important events.

tumble

v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance

synonym: fall, stumble, plummet

(1) **tumble** down the hill, (2) confidence **tumbles** as unemployment rates rose

The value of the currency **tumbled** against major international currencies.

tether

v. to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog

synonym: tie, fasten, secure

(1) **tether** a horse, (2) **tether** strap

The hiker **tethered** their dog to a tree while they camped for the night.

flick

v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement

synonym: snap, tap, flip

(1) **flicker** candle, (2) **flick** through pages

He **flicked** the light switch, and the room was illuminated.

rubble

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

synonym: debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road

After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

termite

n. a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture

synonym:

woodworm, white ant, insect

(1) **termite** damage, (2) **termite** inspection

The house was infested with **termites** and required extensive repairs.

mound

n. a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

synonym: hill, knoll, rise

(1) **mound** of dirt, (2) burial **mound**

The team discovered a hidden **mound** in the desert.

ventilate

v. to supply fresh air to a room, building, etc.; to remove stale air from it

synonym: air out, circulate, freshen

(1) **ventilate** my opinion, (2) **ventilate** air

It's important to **ventilate** the room to avoid the buildup of harmful gases.

Session 2: Spelling

1. confidence tu___es as unemployment rates rose
v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance
2. facial t_c
n. a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism
3. te____e inspection
n. a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
4. ro____c guide operation
adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
5. clear away ru___e
n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
6. fl__ker candle
v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement
7. tw___e hairs
v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools

ANSWERS: 1. tumble, 2. tic, 3. termite, 4. robotic, 5. rubble, 6. flick, 7. tweeze

8. on____d computer *v.* to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device
9. burial mo__d *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
10. ac____e the circuits *v.* to cause a machine or equipment to start to work
11. on____d the new employees *v.* to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device
12. co____ch killer *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
13. ro____c arm *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
14. mo__d of dirt *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
15. fl__k through pages *v.* to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement

ANSWERS: 8. onboard, 9. mound, 10. actuate, 11. onboard, 12. cockroach, 13. robotic, 14. mound, 15. flick

16. te____e damage *n.* a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
17. developmental t_c *n.* a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism
18. thirty cen_____ers tall *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
19. cen_____er measurement *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
20. have a co_____ch phobia *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
21. co_____ss the chest *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
22. te____r a horse *v.* to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog
23. ru____e-strewn road *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
24. ve_____te air *v.* to supply fresh air to a room, building, etc.; to remove stale air from it

ANSWERS: 16. termite, 17. tic, 18. centimeter, 19. centimeter, 20. cockroach, 21. compress, 22. tether, 23. rubble, 24. ventilate

25. ac____e a parking brake v. to cause a machine or equipment to start to work
26. tu___e down the hill v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance
27. te___r strap v. to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog
28. ve_____te my opinion v. to supply fresh air to a room, building, etc.; to remove stale air from it
29. loc_____on system n. the action or ability to move from one place to another
30. tw___e unwanted hair v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools
31. loc_____on control n. the action or ability to move from one place to another
32. co_____ss gas v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

ANSWERS: 25. actuate, 26. tumble, 27. tether, 28. ventilate, 29. locomotion, 30. tweeze, 31. locomotion, 32. compress

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My nervous ____ makes it hard for me to concentrate during important events.
n. a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism

2. _____ sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.
n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

3. After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of _____.
n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

4. The house was infested with _____ and required extensive repairs.
n. a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture

5. The room was only one _____ wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.
n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

6. The surgeon removed the tumor using _____ video assistance.
adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

7. The team discovered a hidden _____ in the desert.
n. a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

ANSWERS: 1. tic, 2. Cockroaches, 3. rubble, 4. termites, 5. centimeter, 6. robotic, 7. mound

8. A desire for success _____ her.
- v. to cause a machine or equipment to start to work
9. She carefully _____ the stray eyebrow hairs.
- v. to pluck or remove hairs, particularly from the face or other sensitive areas, using a pair of tweezers (= a small hand-held tool used for grasping and manipulating small objects with precision) or other specialized tools
10. The hiker _____ their dog to a tree while they camped for the night.
- v. to tie or secure an animal, person, or object with a rope, chain, or other similar devices to prevent it from moving too far away; (noun) a rope or chain used to tie up or restrain an animal, such as a horse or dog
11. The _____ of the robotic arm was smooth and precise.
- n. the action or ability to move from one place to another
12. The passengers were instructed to _____ the aircraft as quickly as possible so that the flight could depart on time.
- v. to become or make part of a team, group, or system; to install, activate, or begin using a piece of equipment or software; (adjective) included or integrated into a particular system, machine, or device
13. He _____ the light switch, and the room was illuminated.
- v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement
14. It's important to _____ the room to avoid the buildup of harmful gases.
- v. to supply fresh air to a room, building, etc.; to remove stale air from it
15. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
- v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

ANSWERS: 8. actuated, 9. tweezed, 10. tethered, 11. locomotion, 12. onboard, 13. flicked, 14. ventilate, 15. compressed

16. The value of the currency _____ against major international currencies.

- v. to fall suddenly, often uncontrollably; to topple or turn over; to decline sharply and quickly in value, quality, or performance

ANSWERS: 16. tumbled