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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Arleen Sugano: The physics of the "hardest move" in ballet | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

swan

n. a large waterbird with a long neck, bill, and webbed feet; known for their elegant and graceful appearance

synonym : cygnet, waterfowl, bird

(1) **swan** song, (2) black **swan**

The **swan's** feathers glistened in the sunlight.

perpetual

adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

synonym : enduring, unchanging, incessant

(1) **perpetual** motion machine, (2) **perpetual** struggle

The company employs a **perpetual** inventory system.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym : wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

synonym : separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

elevate

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

synonym: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

straighten

v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned

synonym: even up, align, untangle

(1) **straighten** out a problem, (2) **straighten** a crooked picture

I need to **straighten** my hair before I go to the party.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym: drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

ballerina

n. a female ballet (= a type of performance dance that tells a dramatic story or expresses an idea with music but no talking or singing) dancer

synonym: dancer, danseuse

(1) classical **ballerina**, (2) famous **ballerina**

The **ballerina's** graceful movements were a joy to watch.

retract

v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made

synonym: withdraw, take back, revoke

(1) **retract** a promise, (2) **retract** a lawsuit

I need to **retract** my statement because I realized it was incorrect.

replenish

v. to fill something that had previously been emptied

synonym: refill, reload, restock

(1) **replenish** a reserve fund, (2) **replenish** my spirit
Please **replenish** my glass with some more wine.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

inertia

n. the quality or state of being inactive, sluggish, or slow to move or act

synonym: sluggishness, lethargy, idleness

(1) **inertia** resistance, (2) Newton's law of **inertia**

The object's **inertia** kept it moving in a straight line until acted upon by an outside force.

conserve

v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

synonym: preserve, save, maintain

(1) means to **conserve** energy, (2) **conserve** coal resources

Children must be taught to **conserve** our natural environment.

sorcery

n. the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft

synonym: magic, witchcraft, enchantment

(1) mystical **sorcery**, (2) dark **sorcery**

He claimed that he could perform **sorcery** and cast spells.

captivate

v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of

synonym: enchant, charm, fascinate

(1) **captivate** public sentiment, (2) **captivate** the mind

The magician **captivated** the audience with his illusions.

supernatural

adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

synonym: paranormal, otherworldly, preternatural

(1) **supernatural** beings, (2) **supernatural** intuition

The **supernatural** powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

Session 2: Spelling

1. classical ba_____na
n. a female ballet (= a type of performance dance that tells a dramatic story or expresses an idea with music but no talking or singing) dancer
2. pr___l growth
v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
3. black s__n
n. a large waterbird with a long neck, bill, and webbed feet; known for their elegant and graceful appearance
4. re_____sh my spirit
v. to fill something that had previously been emptied
5. re_____t a promise
v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
6. re_____t a lawsuit
v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
7. ca_____te the mind
v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of
8. famous ba_____na
n. a female ballet (= a type of performance dance that tells a dramatic story or expresses an idea with music but no talking or singing) dancer
9. co_____ve coal resources
v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

ANSWERS: 1. ballerina, 2. propel, 3. swan, 4. replenish, 5. retract, 6. retract, 7. captivate, 8. ballerina, 9. conserve

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|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10. technical ma___l | <i>n.</i> | someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise |
| 11. el_____e educational standards | <i>v.</i> | to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position |
| 12. un_____l a plot | <i>v.</i> | undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it |
| 13. in_____a resistance | <i>n.</i> | the quality or state of being inactive, sluggish, or slow to move or act |
| 14. str_____en out a problem | <i>v.</i> | to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned |
| 15. s__n song | <i>n.</i> | a large waterbird with a long neck, bill, and webbed feet; known for their elegant and graceful appearance |
| 16. re_____sh a reserve fund | <i>v.</i> | to fill something that had previously been emptied |
| 17. r_t with age | <i>v.</i> | to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually |
| 18. ca_____te public sentiment | <i>v.</i> | to attract and hold the attention or interest of |
| 19. Newton's law of in_____a | <i>n.</i> | the quality or state of being inactive, sluggish, or slow to move or act |
| 20. pr___l the ship | <i>v.</i> | to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force |
| 21. dark so_____y | <i>n.</i> | the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft |

ANSWERS: 10. marvel, 11. elevate, 12. unravel, 13. inertia, 14. straighten, 15. swan, 16. replenish, 17. rot, 18. captivate, 19. inertia, 20. propel, 21. sorcery

22. un_____l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
23. means to co_____ve energy *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
24. str_____en a crooked picture *v.* to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
25. a ma____l of beauty *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
26. sup_____ral intuition *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
27. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
28. el_____e a close relationship *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
29. pe_____al struggle *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
30. sup_____ral beings *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
31. mystical so_____y *n.* the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft
32. pe_____al motion machine *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

ANSWERS: 22. unravel, 23. conserve, 24. straighten, 25. marvel, 26. supernatural, 27. rot, 28. elevate, 29. perpetual, 30. supernatural, 31. sorcery, 32. perpetual

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I need to _____ my hair before I go to the party.
 - v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned

2. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
 - v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

3. Please _____ my glass with some more wine.
 - v. to fill something that had previously been emptied

4. The _____ powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.
 - adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

5. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
 - v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

6. I need to _____ my statement because I realized it was incorrect.
 - v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made

7. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.
 - v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

8. The object's _____ kept it moving in a straight line until acted upon by an outside force.
 - n. the quality or state of being inactive, sluggish, or slow to move or act

ANSWERS: 1. straighten, 2. rot, 3. replenish, 4. supernatural, 5. unravel, 6. retract, 7. propel, 8. inertia

9. The company employs a _____ inventory system.

adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

10. The magician _____ the audience with his illusions.

v. to attract and hold the attention or interest of

11. The _____ feathers glistened in the sunlight.

n. a large waterbird with a long neck, bill, and webbed feet; known for their elegant and graceful appearance

12. The _____ graceful movements were a joy to watch.

n. a female ballet (= a type of performance dance that tells a dramatic story or expresses an idea with music but no talking or singing) dancer

13. He claimed that he could perform _____ and cast spells.

n. the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft

14. Children must be taught to _____ our natural environment.

v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

15. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

16. Eating food in a hurry _____ blood glucose levels.

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

ANSWERS: 9. perpetual, 10. captivated, 11. swan's, 12. ballerina's, 13. sorcery, 14. conserve, 15. marvel, 16. elevates

ANSWERS: