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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Erin McKean: Go ahead, make up new words! | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

lexicographer

n. a person who compiles or edits dictionaries, often by studying and documenting the meanings, origins, and usage of words and phrases

synonym: lexicologist, dictionary maker

(1) academic **lexicographer**, (2) famous **lexicographer**

The well-respected **lexicographer** published an innovative new dictionary that redefined the way words are defined

plural

n. the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person

synonym: multiple, numerous, several

(1) **plural** form, (2) **plural** culture

We use **plural** nouns when there is more than one of something

jean

n. a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing

synonym: denim, cotton, pants

(1) a **jean** skirt, (2) **jean** denim

She wore her favorite pair of **jeans** to the party.

linguist

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

synonym : grammatist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

discourage

v. to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something

synonym : dishearten, depress, demoralize

(1) **discourage** customers, (2) **discourage** bacterial growth

His parents tried to **discourage** him from becoming an artist.

kumquat

n. a small citrus fruit with an edible rind and a sour or sweet-tart flavor, native to Southeast Asia

synonym : citrus fruit, small orange

(1) juicy **kumquat**, (2) ripe **kumquat**

This year, the **kumquat** tree in my backyard produced a bountiful harvest of delicious fruits.

caramel

n. a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly

synonym : toffee, dulce de leche, butterscotch

(1) **caramel** candy, (2) **caramel** topping

The **caramel** sauce on the ice cream was the perfect finishing touch.

ninja

n. a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan

synonym : assassin, spy

(1) **ninja** costume, (2) **ninja** warrior

The skilled **ninja** moved stealthily through the shadows to carry out their mission.

squish

v. to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted

synonym : crush, smash, squeeze

(1) **squish** the ellipse, (2) **squish** a tomato

He **squished** the insect between his fingers to get rid of it.

heartbreak

n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment

synonym: grief, sorrow, bitterness

(1) ease her **heartbreak**, (2) go through **heartbreak**

They had experienced the **heartbreak** of losing two children due to premature births.

bookworm

n. a person who loves to read and spends much time doing so; a term often used in a positive sense to indicate someone knowledgeable and well-read

synonym: booklover, bibliophile, library mouse

(1) shy **bookworm**, (2) **bookworm** club

His **bookworm** obsession sometimes makes him forget to eat his meals.

brunch

n. a meal that is typically eaten in the late morning or early afternoon, combining elements of breakfast and lunch, often including eggs, meat, pastries, and salads

synonym: breakfast-lunch, mid-morning meal

(1) weekend **brunch**, (2) Sunday **brunch**

Let's meet for **brunch** next Sunday and catch up over pancakes and coffee.

electrocution

n. death or serious injury caused by electric shock; the act of killing or injuring someone with electricity

synonym: shock, high voltage, burning

(1) fatal **electrocution**, (2) **electrocution** victim

The construction worker was rushed to the hospital after suffering from **electrocution** on the job site.

adjective

n. a word that describes a noun or pronoun

synonym: modifier, accessory, attribute

(1) **adjective** clause, (2) an attributive **adjective**

The **adjective** "red" describes the color of the apple.

bulldoze

v. to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way

synonym: level, clear, demolish

(1) **bulldoze** a mound, (2) **bulldoze** a person into buying
They **bulldozed** the old building to make way for a new one.

butler

n. a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties

synonym: valet, majordomo, manservant

(1) **butler** service, (2) household **butler**

The personal **butler** announced that dinner was ready, and the guests went to the dining room.

burglar

n. a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime

synonym: thief, robber, intruder

(1) ex-convict **burglar**, (2) caught the **burglar**

The skilled **burglar** bypassed the alarm system and entered the house without making a sound.

aeronautics

n. the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft

synonym: aviation, aerospace, flying

(1) **aeronautics** industry, (2) **aeronautics** research

He studied **aeronautics** in college and worked as an aerospace engineer.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ni__a costume *n.* a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan
2. pl___l culture *n.* the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person
3. aer_____cs research *n.* the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft
4. cognitive li____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
5. Sunday br___h *n.* a meal that is typically eaten in the late morning or early afternoon, combining elements of breakfast and lunch, often including eggs, meat, pastries, and salads
6. go through hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
7. a j__n skirt *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
8. ex-convict bu____r *n.* a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime
9. ele_____ion victim *n.* death or serious injury caused by electric shock; the act of killing or injuring someone with electricity

ANSWERS: 1. ninja, 2. plural, 3. aeronautics, 4. linguist, 5. brunch, 6. heartbreak, 7. jean, 8. burglar, 9. electrocution

10. ripe ku____t *n.* a small citrus fruit with an edible rind and a sour or sweet-tart flavor, native to Southeast Asia
11. ca____l candy *n.* a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly
12. dis____ge bacterial growth *v.* to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
13. ease her hea____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
14. juicy ku____t *n.* a small citrus fruit with an edible rind and a sour or sweet-tart flavor, native to Southeast Asia
15. aer____cs industry *n.* the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft
16. fatal ele____ion *n.* death or serious injury caused by electric shock; the act of killing or injuring someone with electricity
17. dis____ge customers *v.* to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
18. ni__a warrior *n.* a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan
19. bu____ze a person into buying *v.* to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way

ANSWERS: 10. kumquat, 11. caramel, 12. discourage, 13. heartbreak, 14. kumquat, 15. aeronautics, 16. electrocution, 17. discourage, 18. ninja, 19. bulldoze

20. sq___h a tomato *v.* to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted
21. bu_____ze a mound *v.* to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
22. pl___l form *n.* the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person
23. household bu___r *n.* a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties
24. j__n denim *n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
25. ad_____ve clause *n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
26. an attributive ad_____ve *n.* a word that describes a noun or pronoun
27. bu___r service *n.* a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties
28. ca_____l topping *n.* a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly
29. foreign li_____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

ANSWERS: 20. squish, 21. bulldoze, 22. plural, 23. butler, 24. jean, 25. adjective, 26. adjective, 27. butler, 28. caramel, 29. linguist

30. academic lex_____her *n.* a person who compiles or edits dictionaries, often by studying and documenting the meanings, origins, and usage of words and phrases
31. sq___h the ellipse *v.* to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted
32. caught the bu_____r *n.* a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime
33. bo_____rm club *n.* a person who loves to read and spends much time doing so; a term often used in a positive sense to indicate someone knowledgeable and well-read
34. shy bo_____rm *n.* a person who loves to read and spends much time doing so; a term often used in a positive sense to indicate someone knowledgeable and well-read
35. famous lex_____her *n.* a person who compiles or edits dictionaries, often by studying and documenting the meanings, origins, and usage of words and phrases
36. weekend br___h *n.* a meal that is typically eaten in the late morning or early afternoon, combining elements of breakfast and lunch, often including eggs, meat, pastries, and salads

ANSWERS: 30. lexicographer, 31. squish, 32. burglar, 33. bookworm, 34. bookworm, 35. lexicographer, 36. brunch

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His parents tried to _____ him from becoming an artist.
v. to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
2. The skilled _____ moved stealthily through the shadows to carry out their mission.
n. a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan
3. Let's meet for _____ next Sunday and catch up over pancakes and coffee.
n. a meal that is typically eaten in the late morning or early afternoon, combining elements of breakfast and lunch, often including eggs, meat, pastries, and salads
4. He _____ the insect between his fingers to get rid of it.
v. to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted
5. They had experienced the _____ of losing two children due to premature births.
n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
6. Though I love literature, I'm a bad _____.
n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
7. He studied _____ in college and worked as an aerospace engineer.
n. the science or art of designing, building, and flying aircraft

ANSWERS: 1. discourage, 2. ninja, 3. brunch, 4. squished, 5. heartbreak, 6. linguist, 7. aeronautics

8. The well-respected _____ published an innovative new dictionary that redefined the way words are defined
- n.* a person who compiles or edits dictionaries, often by studying and documenting the meanings, origins, and usage of words and phrases
9. She wore her favorite pair of _____ to the party.
- n.* a sturdy cotton twill fabric, typically blue, used for jeans and other clothing
10. We use _____ nouns when there is more than one of something
- n.* the grammatical form of a noun or pronoun indicating that it refers to more than one thing or person
11. The skilled _____ bypassed the alarm system and entered the house without making a sound.
- n.* a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime
12. They _____ the old building to make way for a new one.
- v.* to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
13. This year, the _____ tree in my backyard produced a bountiful harvest of delicious fruits.
- n.* a small citrus fruit with an edible rind and a sour or sweet-tart flavor, native to Southeast Asia
14. The _____ sauce on the ice cream was the perfect finishing touch.
- n.* a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly

ANSWERS: 8. lexicographer, 9. jeans, 10. plural, 11. burglar, 12. bulldozed, 13. kumquat, 14. caramel

15. The _____ "red" describes the color of the apple.

n. a word that describes a noun or pronoun

16. The construction worker was rushed to the hospital after suffering from _____ on the job site.

n. death or serious injury caused by electric shock; the act of killing or injuring someone with electricity

17. His _____ obsession sometimes makes him forget to eat his meals.

n. a person who loves to read and spends much time doing so; a term often used in a positive sense to indicate someone knowledgeable and well-read

18. The personal _____ announced that dinner was ready, and the guests went to the dining room.

n. a male servant in charge of serving food and drinks and taking care of household duties

ANSWERS: 15. adjective, 16. electrocution, 17. bookworm, 18. butler