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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Grady: How to save the world (or at least yourself) from bad meetings | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

cubicle

n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting

synonym: compartment, booth, workspace

(1) **cubicle** partition, (2) camping **cubicle**

I worked in an office **cubicle** surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

stink

v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

synonym: reek, smell, odor

(1) **stink** up the place, (2) **stink** badly

The garbage in the alley began to **stink** after a few hot days.

unproductive

adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results

synonym: fruitless, ineffective, idle

(1) in an **unproductive** manner, (2) **unproductive** industries

The negotiations between labor and management were **unproductive**.

coworker

n. a person who works with another in the same company or organization

synonym: colleague, peer, associate

(1) **coworker** relationship, (2) argue with a **coworker**

My ex- **coworker** and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

mindless

adj. lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed

synonym: senseless, thoughtless, irresponsible

(1) **mindless** task, (2) **mindless** entertainment

Mindless scrolling on social media can be a time waster.

involuntary

adj. acting or done without or against one's will

synonym: coerced, forced, automatic

(1) **involuntary** manslaughter, (2) **involuntary** muscles

The drug's side effects can include **involuntary** loss of urine.

reflex

n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli

synonym: reaction, response, instinct

(1) **reflex** test, (2) knee **reflex**

My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the **reflex** hammer.

pervasive

adj. spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

synonym: extensive, ubiquitous, prevalent

(1) **pervasive** language, (2) the **pervasive** odor of garlic

Suspicion and worry were **pervasive** in our minds.

inflict

v. to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something

synonym: impose, levy, administer

(1) **inflict** a heavier tax, (2) **inflict** a hard blow

The storm **inflicted** significant damage on the town.

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.

wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

synonym: collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

bloop

v. to make a mistake; to produce a sound that is deep, resonant, and indistinct; (noun, of baseball) a hit that is weakly hit into the air over the infield and lands for a base hit, often in shallow outfield

synonym: fail, burble, splutter

(1) **bloop** a cheery melody, (2) **bloop** during her presentation

He **blooped** the final note of the piano concerto, causing some audience members to wince.

beep

v. to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning

synonym: bleep, honk, buzz

(1) **beep** out a warning, (2) **beep** the horn

The timer **beeped**, reminding me that the cake was ready to come out of the oven.

eerily

adv. in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements

synonym : spookily, strangely, creepily

(1) **eerily** accurate, (2) **eerily** atmospheric

The abandoned house was **eerily** silent as if someone was watching from within.

depress

v. to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

synonym : sadden, discourage, deflate

(1) **depress** their spirits, (2) **depress** crop prices

The economic recession **depressed** the housing market.

powerless

adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

synonym : helpless, impotent, feeble

(1) **powerless** position, (2) **powerless** in the organization

During the hurricane, we felt **powerless** against the winds and rain.

fingertip

n. the end or tip of a finger

(1) apply **fingertip** pressure, (2) burn my **fingertip**

The archaeologist ran his **fingertips** along the pattern of the tombstones.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

Session 2: Spelling

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1. knee re___x | <i>n.</i> an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli |
| 2. argue with a co_____er | <i>n.</i> a person who works with another in the same company or organization |
| 3. st__k up the place | <i>v.</i> to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical |
| 4. b__p out a warning | <i>v.</i> to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning |
| 5. buck and d_e | <i>n.</i> a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit |
| 6. bl__p a cheery melody | <i>v.</i> to make a mistake; to produce a sound that is deep, resonant, and indistinct; (noun, of baseball) a hit that is weakly hit into the air over the infield and lands for a base hit, often in shallow outfield |
| 7. po_____ss position | <i>adj.</i> lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change |
| 8. mi_____ss task | <i>adj.</i> lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed |
| 9. ee___y atmospheric | <i>adv.</i> in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements |

ANSWERS: 1. reflex, 2. coworker, 3. stink, 4. beep, 5. doe, 6. bloop, 7. powerless, 8. mindless, 9. eerily

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|----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 10. ex___e the crowd | <i>v.</i> | to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 11. re___x test | <i>n.</i> | an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli |
| 12. d_e rabbit | <i>n.</i> | a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit |
| 13. st__k badly | <i>v.</i> | to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical |
| 14. in_____t a hard blow | <i>v.</i> | to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something |
| 15. apply fi_____ip pressure | <i>n.</i> | the end or tip of a finger |
| 16. the house was a wr__k | <i>n.</i> | a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident |
| 17. unp_____ive industries | <i>adj.</i> | not producing or able to produce very much or desired results |
| 18. co_____er relationship | <i>n.</i> | a person who works with another in the same company or organization |
| 19. in_____t a heavier tax | <i>v.</i> | to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something |
| 20. the pe_____ve odor of garlic | <i>adj.</i> | spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place |
| 21. b__p the horn | <i>v.</i> | to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning |
| 22. de_____s crop prices | <i>v.</i> | to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active |

ANSWERS: 10. excite, 11. reflex, 12. doe, 13. stink, 14. inflict, 15. fingertip, 16. wreck, 17. unproductive, 18. coworker, 19. inflict, 20. pervasive, 21. beep, 22. depress

23. camping cu____e *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
24. inv____ry muscles *adj.* acting or done without or against one's will
25. a worthless wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
26. de____s their spirits *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
27. mi____ss entertainment *adj.* lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed
28. burn my fi____ip *n.* the end or tip of a finger
29. pe____ve language *adj.* spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place
30. in an unp____ive manner *adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
31. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
32. po____ss in the organization *adj.* lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change
33. inv____ry manslaughter *adj.* acting or done without or against one's will
34. ee____y accurate *adv.* in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements

ANSWERS: 23. cubicle, 24. involuntary, 25. wreck, 26. depress, 27. mindless, 28. fingertip, 29. pervasive, 30. unproductive, 31. confer, 32. powerless, 33. involuntary, 34. eerily

35. cu____e partition *n.* a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting
36. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
37. bl__p during her presentation *v.* to make a mistake; to produce a sound that is deep, resonant, and indistinct; (noun, of baseball) a hit that is weakly hit into the air over the infield and lands for a base hit, often in shallow outfield
38. ex____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 35. cubicle, 36. confer, 37. bloop, 38. excite

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The drug's side effects can include _____ loss of urine.
adj. acting or done without or against one's will
2. My ex-_____ and I had different working styles but managed to get along.
n. a person who works with another in the same company or organization
3. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
4. The storm _____ significant damage on the town.
v. to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something
5. The negotiations between labor and management were _____.
adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
6. My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the _____ hammer.
n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
7. The garbage in the alley began to _____ after a few hot days.
v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
8. I worked in an office _____ surrounded by walls and fluorescent lights.
n. a small, partitioned area or booth intended for working or studying, often in an office or educational setting

ANSWERS: 1. involuntary, 2. coworker, 3. doe, 4. inflicted, 5. unproductive, 6. reflex, 7. stink, 8. cubicle

9. The abandoned house was _____ silent as if someone was watching from within.

adv. in a strange, weird, or unsettling manner; suggesting the presence of supernatural or mysterious elements

10. The timer _____ reminding me that the cake was ready to come out of the oven.

v. to make a short, high-pitched sound, typically as a signal or warning

11. The archaeologist ran his _____ along the pattern of the tombstones.

n. the end or tip of a finger

12. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

13. The economic recession _____ the housing market.

v. to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

14. He _____ the final note of the piano concerto, causing some audience members to wince.

v. to make a mistake; to produce a sound that is deep, resonant, and indistinct; (noun, of baseball) a hit that is weakly hit into the air over the infield and lands for a base hit, often in shallow outfield

15. Suspicion and worry were _____ in our minds.

adj. spreading or existing throughout every part of a thing or place

16. 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

ANSWERS: 9. eerily, 10. beeped, 11. fingertips, 12. wreck, 13. depressed, 14. blooped, 15. pervasive, 16. confer

17. _____ scrolling on social media can be a time waster.

adj. lacking in awareness, thought, or attention; done without thinking or consideration; pointless or empty-headed

18. During the hurricane, we felt _____ against the winds and rain.

adj. lacking power, strength, or authority; unable to act or affect change

19. The news of her promotion _____ her.

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 17. Mindless, 18. powerless, 19. excited