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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Donald Hoffman: Do we see reality as it is? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

unsolved

adj. not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma

synonym: unresolved, mysterious, perplexing

(1) **unsolved** mystery, (2) **unsolved** crime

The case remains **unsolved** after years of investigation.

irritating

adj. causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation

synonym: annoying, bothersome, vexing

(1) **irritating** noise, (2) **irritating** behavior

The garbage can in the kitchen has been producing an **irritating** smell for days.

unaccountable

adj. not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior

synonym : unexplainable, inexplicable, mysterious

(1) **unaccountable** behavior, (2) **unaccountable** decision

The **unaccountable** disappearance of funds led to an investigation.

genie

n. in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires

synonym : djinn, spirit, demon

(1) **genie** bottle, (2) **genie** lamp

No one believed in the **genie's** existence until he appeared in front of them.

correlate

v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

synonym : associate, liken, connect

(1) **correlate** closely with the quality, (2) **correlate** to the size

We may frequently **correlate** age with the frequency of disease.

misinterpret

v. to understand or explain something in the wrong way

synonym : misunderstand, falsify, misconstrue

(1) **misinterpret** the purpose, (2) **misinterpret** the data

He **misinterpreted** her statement and got the wrong idea.

annihilate

v. to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist

synonym : destroy, obliterate, eradicate

(1) **annihilate** the enemy, (2) **annihilate** all doubts

The virus had the potential to **annihilate** entire populations if left unchecked.

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym: nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

synapse

n. the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it

(1) **synapse** circuit, (2) end at a **synapse**

Animals transmit nerve impulses through **synapses**.

photoreceptor

n. a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision

synonym: rod, cone, light-sensitive cell

(1) **photoreceptor** cells, (2) damaged **photoreceptor**

Cone **photoreceptors** are responsible for color vision.

glowing

adj. highly enthusiastic; greatly praised

synonym: burning, bright, flaming

(1) **glowing** reviews, (2) **glowing** cheeks

The western sky was **glowing** pink.

reconstruct

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

synonym: rebuild, revamp, reorganize

(1) **reconstruct** an image, (2) **reconstruct** the original text

They've decided to **reconstruct** a ruined castle.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

beetle

n. an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings

(1) **beetle** brows, (2) a **beetle** larva

In ancient civilizations, the scarab **beetle** was worshiped as a sacred creature.

dimple

n. a small natural indentation or crease, particularly on the surface of the skin, such as on the face or the back of the hand

synonym: crease, indent, pucker

(1) baby **dimple**, (2) left **dimple**

Her smile was accentuated by the adorable **dimple** on her right cheek.

glossy

adj. having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish

synonym: shiny, polished, gleaming

(1) **glossy** lipstick, (2) **glossy** photograph

The magazine cover had a **glossy** finish, making the images shine.

flightless

adj. unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight

synonym: non-flying, grounded, wingless

(1) **flightless** species, (2) **flightless** insect

The Kiwi, an endemic species of New Zealand, is a curious example of a **flightless** bird.

alight

adj. lighted up by or as by fire or flame; (verb) to come down

synonym: burning, lighted up, (verb) land

(1) catch **alight**, (2) **alight** from a train

The witness stated that he set a house **alight**.

outback

n. the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland

synonym: Australian bush, hinterland, wilderness

(1) **outback** landscape, (2) **outback** adventure

The vast plains of the Australian **outback** stretch for miles in every direction.

tickle

v. to lightly touch a sensitive part of somebody's body in a way that makes them laugh

synonym: titillate, make laugh

(1) **tickle** his ribs, (2) **tickle** her vanity

These models explain why you can't **tickle** yourself.

swarm

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

synonym: horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

extinct

adj. no longer in existence

synonym: dead, obsolete, abolished

(1) **extinct** by human activity, (2) long- **extinct** volcano

Many species have become **extinct** due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

mammal

n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

(1) a primitive **mammal**, (2) a sort of **mammal**

Marine **mammal** populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

- 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.
- veridical** *adj.* relating to or characterized by truth or reality; corresponding accurately to facts or reality; truthful, genuine, or authentic
synonym : truthful, accurate, genuine
(1) **veridical** perception, (2) **veridical** evidence
The witness's **veridical** account of the crime helped to solve the case.
- counterintuitive** *adj.* contrary to what common sense would suggest
synonym : unreasonable, paradoxical, nonsensical
(1) **counterintuitive** results, (2) **counterintuitive** behavior
The **counterintuitive** nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.
- intuition** *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
synonym : instinct, gut feeling, sixth sense
(1) creative **intuition**, (2) **intuition** research
Some studies suggest that people's **intuitions** can be influenced by their experiences and biases.
- diode** *n.* an electronic component that conducts current primarily in one direction and typically has two electrodes or terminals
synonym : rectifier, valve, semiconductor
(1) light-emitting **diode**, (2) semiconductor **diode**
The **diode** in the circuit prevented the current from flowing in the wrong direction.

physic

n. a medicine or drug used to treat or alleviate illnesses; the practice of medicine or healing

synonym: medicine, remedy, treatment

(1) herbal **physic**, (2) **physic** garden

The doctor suggested a dose of **physic** to help with his digestive issues.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

microscopic

adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

synonym: infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

magnify

v. to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder

synonym: enlarge, elaborate, intensify

(1) **magnify** the danger, (2) **magnify** the image for display

Terrorists often attempt to **magnify** the economic impact of their acts of destruction.

spacetime

n. a four-dimensional continuum consisting of three dimensions of space and one dimension of time, used to describe the physical universe according to Einstein's theory of general relativity

(1) **spacetime** continuum, (2) quantum **spacetime**

The curvature of **spacetime** is affected by the presence of mass and energy.

profoundly

adv. to a great or complete degree; deeply

synonym: deeply, greatly, completely

(1) **profoundly** insightful, (2) sleep **profoundly**

The novel affected her **profoundly**, causing her to question her beliefs and values.

deist

n. a person who believes in the existence of a supreme being or creator but rejects traditional religious doctrines and revelations, relying on reason and observation instead

synonym: freethinker

(1) **deist** philosopher, (2) religious **deist**

The **deist** thinker saw no conflict between his faith in a divine entity and his acceptance of evolutionary theory.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ve_____al perception *adj.* relating to or characterized by truth or reality; corresponding accurately to facts or reality; truthful, genuine, or authentic
2. ve_____al evidence *adj.* relating to or characterized by truth or reality; corresponding accurately to facts or reality; truthful, genuine, or authentic
3. mis_____ret the data *v.* to understand or explain something in the wrong way
4. ann_____te the enemy *v.* to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
5. fli_____ss insect *adj.* unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight
6. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
7. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
8. ma_____y the danger *v.* to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder
9. catch al____t *adj.* lighted up by or as by fire or flame; (verb) to come down
10. gl_____g cheeks *adj.* highly enthusiastic; greatly praised

ANSWERS: 1. veridical, 2. veridical, 3. misinterpret, 4. annihilate, 5. flightless, 6. ancestor, 7. ancestor, 8. magnify, 9. alight, 10. glowing

11. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce
n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
12. cou_____ive behavior
adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest
13. damaged pho_____tor
n. a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision
14. una_____ble behavior
adj. not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior
15. pro_____ly insightful
adv. to a great or complete degree; deeply
16. d_e rabbit
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
17. un_____ed mystery
adj. not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma
18. buck and d_e
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
19. a be___e larva
n. an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
20. baby di___e
n. a small natural indentation or crease, particularly on the surface of the skin, such as on the face or the back of the hand

ANSWERS: 11. neuroscience, 12. counterintuitive, 13. photoreceptor, 14. unaccountable, 15. profoundly, 16. doe, 17. unsolved, 18. doe, 19. beetle, 20. dimple

21. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
22. co_____te closely with the quality *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
23. long-ex_____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence
24. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
25. a sort of ma____l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
26. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
27. ann_____te all doubts *v.* to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
28. rec_____ct an image *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
29. un_____ed crime *adj.* not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma
30. ti____e his ribs *v.* to lightly touch a sensitive part of somebody's body in a way that makes them laugh
31. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
32. ou_____k adventure *n.* the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland

ANSWERS: 21. microscopic, 22. correlate, 23. extinct, 24. fascinate, 25. mammal, 26. physicist, 27. annihilate, 28. reconstruct, 29. unsolved, 30. tickle, 31. physicist, 32. outback

33. semiconductor di__e *n.* an electronic component that conducts current primarily in one direction and typically has two electrodes or terminals
34. ne___n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
35. cou_____ive results *adj.* contrary to what common sense would suggest
36. irr_____ng noise *adj.* causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation
37. ge__e bottle *n.* in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires
38. una_____ble decision *adj.* not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior
39. excite the ne___ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
40. locust sw__m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

ANSWERS: 33. diode, 34. neuron, 35. counterintuitive, 36. irritating, 37. genie, 38. unaccountable, 39. neuron, 40. swarm

41. co_____te to the size *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
42. al____t from a train *adj.* lighted up by or as by fire or flame; (verb) to come down
43. light-emitting di__e *n.* an electronic component that conducts current primarily in one direction and typically has two electrodes or terminals
44. ma_____y the image for display *v.* to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder
45. mic_____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
46. end at a sy_____e *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
47. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
48. ph____c garden *n.* a medicine or drug used to treat or alleviate illnesses; the practice of medicine or healing
49. gl____y lipstick *adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish
50. fli_____ss species *adj.* unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight

ANSWERS: 41. correlate, 42. alight, 43. diode, 44. magnify, 45. microscopic, 46. synapse, 47. neuroscience, 48. physic, 49. glossy, 50. flightless

51. irr_____ng behavior *adj.* causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation
52. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
53. ou_____k landscape *n.* the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland
54. be____e brows *n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
55. in_____on research *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
56. ti____e her vanity *v.* to lightly touch a sensitive part of somebody's body in a way that makes them laugh
57. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
58. sy_____e circuit *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
59. a sw__m of mosquitoes *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
60. religious de__t *n.* a person who believes in the existence of a supreme being or creator but rejects traditional religious doctrines and revelations, relying on reason and observation instead

ANSWERS: 51. irritating, 52. reconstruct, 53. outback, 54. beetle, 55. intuition, 56. tickle, 57. fascinate, 58. synapse, 59. swarm, 60. deist

61. gl____g reviews *adj.* highly enthusiastic; greatly praised
62. pho____tor cells *n.* a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision
63. herbal ph____c *n.* a medicine or drug used to treat or alleviate illnesses; the practice of medicine or healing
64. sp____me continuum *n.* a four-dimensional continuum consisting of three dimensions of space and one dimension of time, used to describe the physical universe according to Einstein's theory of general relativity
65. gl____y photograph *adj.* having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish
66. sleep pro____ly *adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
67. de__t philosopher *n.* a person who believes in the existence of a supreme being or creator but rejects traditional religious doctrines and revelations, relying on reason and observation instead
68. a primitive ma____l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

ANSWERS: 61. glowing, 62. photoreceptor, 63. physic, 64. spacetime, 65. glossy, 66. profoundly, 67. deist, 68. mammal

69. quantum sp_____me *n.* a four-dimensional continuum consisting of three dimensions of space and one dimension of time, used to describe the physical universe according to Einstein's theory of general relativity
70. ex_____t by human activity *adj.* no longer in existence
71. mis_____ret the purpose *v.* to understand or explain something in the wrong way
72. ge__e lamp *n.* in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires
73. creative in_____on *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
74. left di___e *n.* a small natural indentation or crease, particularly on the surface of the skin, such as on the face or the back of the hand

ANSWERS: 69. spacetime, 70. extinct, 71. misinterpret, 72. genie, 73. intuition, 74. dimple

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
2. The magazine cover had a _____ finish, making the images shine.
adj. having a smooth, shiny surface or finish; characterized by an attractive, polished appearance; often used to describe photographs or printed materials with a high-quality finish
3. He _____ her statement and got the wrong idea.
v. to understand or explain something in the wrong way
4. Animals transmit nerve impulses through _____.
n. the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
5. 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
6. The witness stated that he set a house _____.
adj. lighted up by or as by fire or flame; (verb) to come down
7. The case remains _____ after years of investigation.
adj. not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma
8. The _____ nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.
adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

ANSWERS: 1. microscopic, 2. glossy, 3. misinterpreted, 4. synapses, 5. doe, 6. alight, 7. unsolved, 8. counterintuitive

9. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
10. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
11. Marine _____ populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.
n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
12. The witness's _____ account of the crime helped to solve the case.
adj. relating to or characterized by truth or reality; corresponding accurately to facts or reality; truthful, genuine, or authentic
13. We may frequently _____ age with the frequency of disease.
v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
14. The _____ disappearance of funds led to an investigation.
adj. not able to be explained or justified, often in a way that suggests something suspicious or dishonest is going on; not responsible or answerable for one's actions or behavior
15. The vast plains of the Australian _____ stretch for miles in every direction.
n. the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland
16. No one believed in the _____ existence until he appeared in front of them.
n. in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires

ANSWERS: 9. fascinated, 10. neuroscience, 11. mammal, 12. veridical, 13. correlate, 14. unaccountable, 15. outback, 16. genie's

17. The garbage can in the kitchen has been producing an _____ smell for days.
adj. causing annoyance, frustration, or exasperation; provoking impatience or irritation
18. Some studies suggest that people's _____ can be influenced by their experiences and biases.
n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
19. The virus had the potential to _____ entire populations if left unchecked.
v. to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
20. The _____ thinker saw no conflict between his faith in a divine entity and his acceptance of evolutionary theory.
n. a person who believes in the existence of a supreme being or creator but rejects traditional religious doctrines and revelations, relying on reason and observation instead
21. These models explain why you can't _____ yourself.
v. to lightly touch a sensitive part of somebody's body in a way that makes them laugh
22. Her smile was accentuated by the adorable _____ on her right cheek.
n. a small natural indentation or crease, particularly on the surface of the skin, such as on the face or the back of the hand
23. In ancient civilizations, the scarab _____ was worshiped as a sacred creature.
n. an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings

ANSWERS: 17. irritating, 18. intuitions, 19. annihilate, 20. deist, 21. tickle, 22. dimple, 23. beetle

24. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

adj. no longer in existence

25. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

26. The western sky was _____ pink.

adj. highly enthusiastic; greatly praised

27. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

28. Terrorists often attempt to _____ the economic impact of their acts of destruction.

v. to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder

29. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

30. The _____ in the circuit prevented the current from flowing in the wrong direction.

n. an electronic component that conducts current primarily in one direction and typically has two electrodes or terminals

31. A _____ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

ANSWERS: 24. extinct, 25. physicist, 26. glowing, 27. neuron, 28. magnify, 29. ancestor, 30. diode, 31. swarm

32. The curvature of _____ is affected by the presence of mass and energy.
- n.* a four-dimensional continuum consisting of three dimensions of space and one dimension of time, used to describe the physical universe according to Einstein's theory of general relativity
33. The doctor suggested a dose of _____ to help with his digestive issues.
- n.* a medicine or drug used to treat or alleviate illnesses; the practice of medicine or healing
34. The novel affected her _____ causing her to question her beliefs and values.
- adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
35. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.
- v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
36. The Kiwi, an endemic species of New Zealand, is a curious example of a _____ bird.
- adj.* unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight
37. Cone _____ are responsible for color vision.
- n.* a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision

ANSWERS: 32. spacetime, 33. physic, 34. profoundly, 35. reconstruct, 36. flightless, 37. photoreceptors