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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Andrew Leland: Blindness isn't a tragic binary -- it's a rich spectrum | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality
Her remarks **confused** the debate.

hippopotamus

n. (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature

synonym: river horse, water horse, hippo

(1) **hippopotamus** habitat, (2) giant **hippopotamus**

The zoo has a new **hippopotamus** exhibit that popularly attracts families.

retinitis

n. an inflammation of the retina (= the thin, light-sensitive tissue that lines the inside surface of the eye) which can cause decreased vision or possibly lead to blindness

synonym: retinal inflammation, retinopathy

(1) **retinitis** treatment, (2) infectious **retinitis**

Retinitis pigmentosa is a group of genetic disorders that affect the retina's ability to respond to light.

pigment

n. a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced

synonym : dye, colorant, tint

(1) skin **pigment**, (2) **pigment** accumulation

The use of synthetic **pigments** in food production has become controversial due to health concerns.

degenerate

v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition

synonym : deteriorate, decline, decay

(1) **degenerate** into a disagreement, (2) **degenerate** into recession

The once-thriving city has **degenerated** into a crime-ridden slum.

retina

n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball

(1) **retinal** cells, (2) **retina** scanner

Damage to the **retina** may play a role in the development of glaucoma.

deteriorate

v. to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate

synonym : decline, degenerate, regress

(1) **deteriorate** at a slow pace, (2) **deteriorate** condition

The patient's health **deteriorated** rapidly after being diagnosed with the disease.

porthole

n. a small round window in a ship or aircraft, often with a hinged cover

synonym : portal, hatch, window

(1) **porthole** window, (2) round **porthole**

The cabin's **porthole** provided a beautiful ocean view.

annoy

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

synonym : aggravate, irritate, unsettle

(1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else
Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

claustrophobia

n. a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces

(1) overcome **claustrophobia**,
(2) **claustrophobia-inducing**

She suffered from **claustrophobia** and couldn't take elevators.

paradoxical

adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
synonym: contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical** it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap
There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

circulate

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

synonym: flow, disperse, rotate

(1) **circulate** a rumor, (2) **circulate** an agenda before the meeting

The fan **circulates** the air in the room quickly.

ambiguity

n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

synonym: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing
The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to

complete the task.

illuminate

- v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

synonym: brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding
That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

smear

- v. to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one

synonym: smudge, spread, daub

(1) **smear** butter on bread, (2) **smear** of blood

The politician tried to **smear** his opponent's reputation with false accusations.

saran

- n. a trade name for a type of plastic that is often used in food packaging; a thin, clear, plastic film that is made from vinylidene chloride

synonym: plastic wrap, cling film, food wrap

(1) **saran** film, (2) stretchable **saran**

Make sure to use microwave-safe **saran** wrap to avoid melting.

fishbowl

- n. a round glass or plastic container used for keeping fish or other aquatic animals as pets

synonym: fish tank, aquarium

(1) **fishbowl** effect, (2) empty **fishbowl**

The goldfish in the **fishbowl** looked happy and healthy.

lurk

- v. to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal

synonym: hide, creep, stalk

(1) **lurked** behind the words, (2) **lurk** in the darkness

In the city, the risk of traffic accidents **lurks** at every corner.

misconception

n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
synonym: fallacy, incomprehension, misunderstanding

(1) dispel the **misconception**, (2) commonly held

misconception

There are numerous **misconceptions** about food and health.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

superpower

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

synonym: great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

rewire

v. to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns

synonym: rewire, renovate, upgrade

(1) **rewire** a house, (2) **rewire** a program

I need to **rewire** the faulty electrical system in my house to prevent a fire.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. co_____e the listener | <i>v.</i> to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand |
| 2. negative ste_____pes | <i>n.</i> a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |
| 3. French pa_____x | <i>n.</i> a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange; |
| 4. ill_____te a dark hall | <i>v.</i> to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity |
| 5. sup_____er country | <i>n.</i> a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities |
| 6. round po_____le | <i>n.</i> a small round window in a ship or aircraft, often with a hinged cover |
| 7. empty fi_____wl | <i>n.</i> a round glass or plastic container used for keeping fish or other aquatic animals as pets |
| 8. deg_____te into a disagreement | <i>v.</i> (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition |

ANSWERS: 1. confuse, 2. stereotype, 3. paradox, 4. illuminate, 5. superpower, 6. porthole, 7. fishbowl, 8. degenerate

9. deg_____te into recession *v.* (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition
10. ci_____te an agenda before the meeting *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
11. l__k in the darkness *v.* to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal
12. hip_____mus habitat *n.* (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature
13. the pa_____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
14. giant hip_____mus *n.* (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature
15. pi_____t accumulation *n.* a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced

ANSWERS: 9. degenerate, 10. circulate, 11. lurk, 12. hippopotamus, 13. paradox, 14. hippopotamus, 15. pigment

16. det_____te at a slow pace *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
17. dispel the mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
18. sup_____er leader *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
19. re___e a house *v.* to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns
20. re_____is treatment *n.* an inflammation of the retina (= the thin, light-sensitive tissue that lines the inside surface of the eye) which can cause decreased vision or possibly lead to blindness
21. po_____le window *n.* a small round window in a ship or aircraft, often with a hinged cover
22. overcome cla_____bia *n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces
23. sm__r of blood *v.* to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one
24. avoid am_____ty in writing *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

ANSWERS: 16. deteriorate, 17. misconception, 18. superpower, 19. rewire, 20. retinitis, 21. porthole, 22. claustrophobia, 23. smear, 24. ambiguity

25. avoid ste_____pe *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
26. ill_____te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
27. a par_____al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
28. free from am_____ty *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
29. commonly held mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
30. ci_____te a rumor *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
31. an__y everyone else *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
32. I__ked behind the words *v.* to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal
33. re___a scanner *n.* the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
34. infectious re_____is *n.* an inflammation of the retina (= the thin, light-sensitive tissue that lines the inside surface of the eye) which can cause decreased vision or possibly lead to blindness

ANSWERS: 25. stereotype, 26. illuminate, 27. paradoxical, 28. ambiguity, 29. misconception, 30. circulate, 31. annoy, 32. lurk, 33. retina, 34. retinitis

35. cla_____bia-inducing *n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces
36. sm__r butter on bread *v.* to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one
37. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
38. stretchable sa__n *n.* a trade name for a type of plastic that is often used in food packaging; a thin, clear, plastic film that is made from vinylidene chloride
39. re___e a program *v.* to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns
40. sa__n film *n.* a trade name for a type of plastic that is often used in food packaging; a thin, clear, plastic film that is made from vinylidene chloride
41. apparently par_____al *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
42. det_____te condition *v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
43. skin pi_____t *n.* a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced

ANSWERS: 35. claustrophobia, 36. smear, 37. confuse, 38. saran, 39. rewire, 40. saran, 41. paradoxical, 42. deteriorate, 43. pigment

44. fi____wl effect *n.* a round glass or plastic container used for keeping fish or other aquatic animals as pets
45. re___al cells *n.* the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
46. an__y at the time *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

ANSWERS: 44. fishbowl, 45. retina, 46. annoy

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

2. There are many theories to explain this _____.
n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

3. I need to _____ the faulty electrical system in my house to prevent a fire.
v. to replace or repair the wiring of something, especially an electrical system; to make significant changes in one's thoughts or behavior patterns

4. The once-thriving city has _____ into a crime-ridden slum.
v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition

5. There are numerous _____ about food and health.
n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis

6. It is _____ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

7. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a _____ in comic books and movies.
n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

ANSWERS: 1. ambiguity, 2. paradox, 3. rewire, 4. degenerated, 5. misconceptions, 6. paradoxical, 7. superpower

8. The goldfish in the _____ looked happy and healthy.
- n.* a round glass or plastic container used for keeping fish or other aquatic animals as pets
9. The use of synthetic _____ in food production has become controversial due to health concerns.
- n.* a substance that gives color to a material, such as paint, ink, or biological tissue; often derived from natural sources or synthetically produced
10. That biologist _____ the mechanism of heredity.
- v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
11. The patient's health _____ rapidly after being diagnosed with the disease.
- v.* to become worse in quality; to decline or degenerate
12. The cabin's _____ provided a beautiful ocean view.
- n.* a small round window in a ship or aircraft, often with a hinged cover
13. The politician tried to _____ his opponent's reputation with false accusations.
- v.* to spread or apply a substance thinly and unevenly over a surface; to slander or accuse someone falsely; (noun) a mark or blot made by smudging, typically a dirty or greasy one
14. Damage to the _____ may play a role in the development of glaucoma.
- n.* the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
15. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.
- v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

ANSWERS: 8. fishbowl, 9. pigments, 10. illuminated, 11. deteriorated, 12. porthole, 13. smear, 14. retina, 15. annoy

16. The zoo has a new _____ exhibit that popularly attracts families.
- n.* (also "hippo") a large, mostly herbivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa, with a bulky, rounded body, short legs, and large head and mouth, which inhabits rivers and lakes and is known for its aggressive behavior and territorial nature
17. The fan _____ the air in the room quickly.
- v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
18. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
- n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
19. In the city, the risk of traffic accidents _____ at every corner.
- v.* to wait somewhere secretly, especially because you are about to attack someone or do something bad or illegal
20. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
21. _____ pigmentosa is a group of genetic disorders that affect the retina's ability to respond to light.
- n.* an inflammation of the retina (= the thin, light-sensitive tissue that lines the inside surface of the eye) which can cause decreased vision or possibly lead to blindness
22. She suffered from _____ and couldn't take elevators.
- n.* a persistent and intense fear of enclosed or small spaces

ANSWERS: 16. hippopotamus, 17. circulates, 18. stereotypes, 19. lurks, 20. confused, 21. Retinitis, 22. claustrophobia

23. Make sure to use microwave-safe _____ wrap to avoid melting.

- n.* a trade name for a type of plastic that is often used in food packaging; a thin, clear, plastic film that is made from vinylidene chloride

ANSWERS: 23. saran