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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sebastian Wernicke: How to use data to make a hit TV show | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

mediocre

adj. of only average quality; not very good

synonym: average, ordinary, unimpressive

(1) **mediocre** performance, (2) a **mediocre** talent

He was considered a **mediocre** artist compared to others in his field.

whereafter

adv. after or following that particular time or event; subsequently; afterward

synonym: thereupon, afterward, subsequently

(1) **whereafter** the CEO made the announcement,

(2) **whereafter** a reaction occurred

They reached the summit by noon, and **whereafter** they began the long trek back down the mountain.

brainpower

n. intellectual or cognitive ability; mental capacity or intelligence

synonym: intelligence, smarts, intellect

(1) improve **brainpower**, (2) maximize **brainpower**

To succeed in the field of science, you need to have some serious **brainpower** and dedication

undercut

v. to sell goods or services at a lower price than a competitor; to cut away the underpart of something

synonym: undermine, weaken, sabotage

(1) **undercut** a vein of ore, (2) **undercut** his effort

The company **undercut** its competitors by offering lower prices.

bulge

v. to protrude or extend outward

synonym: protrude, swell, expand

(1) **bulge** at the enterprise, (2) **bulge** with books

The muscles in his arm **bulged** as he lifted the heavyweights.

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.

crunch

n. a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

synonym: crushing, snapping, crisis

(1) financial **crunch**, (2) a gas **crunch**

The **crunch** of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.

sitcom

n. a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format

synonym: comedy, TV show

(1) **sitcom** series, (2) popular **sitcom**

I love to watch **sitcoms** when I need a good laugh.

senator

n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate

synonym: legislator, politician, representative

(1) junior **senator**, (2) **senator** term

The hawkish **senator** gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.

amplify

v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
synonym: intensify, boost, argument

(1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect

You might need to **amplify** this point.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

pinnacle

n. the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

synonym: summit, peak, apex

(1) architectural **pinnacle**, (2) reached the **pinnacle**

Climbing to the **pinnacle** of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.

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.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

unimaginable

adj. beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision

synonym: unthinkable, inconceivable, incredulous

(1) **unimaginable** horror, (2) **unimaginable** depths

The complexity of scientific theories was **unimaginable** for most people.

hindsight

n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect

synonym: retrospect, afterthought

(1) **hindsight** bias, (2) 20/20 **hindsight**

With **hindsight**, we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. a me_____re talent | <i>adj.</i> of only average quality; not very good |
| 2. maximize bra_____er | <i>n.</i> intellectual or cognitive ability; mental capacity or intelligence |
| 3. am_____y a signal | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 4. me_____al chemistry | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 5. financial cr____h | <i>n.</i> a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation |
| 6. a det_____nt of crop yields | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 7. junior se_____r | <i>n.</i> a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate |
| 8. am_____y the effect | <i>v.</i> to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness |
| 9. me_____re performance | <i>adj.</i> of only average quality; not very good |
| 10. 20/20 hi_____ht | <i>n.</i> understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect |
| 11. un_____ut a vein of ore | <i>v.</i> to sell goods or services at a lower price than a competitor; to cut away the underpart of something |

ANSWERS: 1. mediocre, 2. brainpower, 3. amplify, 4. medicinal, 5. crunch, 6. determinant, 7. senator, 8. amplify, 9. mediocre, 10. hindsight, 11. undercut

12. hi_____ht bias *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
13. uni_____ble horror *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
14. popular si___m *n.* a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
15. si___m series *n.* a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
16. bu__e at the enterprise *v.* to protrude or extend outward
17. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
18. whe_____er a reaction occurred *adv.* after or following that particular time or event; subsequently; afterward
19. improve bra_____er *n.* intellectual or cognitive ability; mental capacity or intelligence
20. 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
21. bu__e with books *v.* to protrude or extend outward
22. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 12. hindsight, 13. unimaginable, 14. sitcom, 15. sitcom, 16. bulge, 17. excite, 18. whereafter, 19. brainpower, 20. retract, 21. bulge, 22. medicinal

23. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
24. se____r term *n.* a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
25. architectural pi____le *n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
26. un____ut his effort *v.* to sell goods or services at a lower price than a competitor; to cut away the underpart of something
27. environmental det____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
28. 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
29. uni____ble depths *adj.* beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
30. reached the pi____le *n.* the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success
31. a gas cr____h *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

ANSWERS: 23. excite, 24. senator, 25. pinnacle, 26. undercut, 27. determinant, 28. retract, 29. unimaginable, 30. pinnacle, 31. crunch

32. whe_____er the CEO made the announcement

adv. after or following that particular time or event; subsequently; afterward

ANSWERS: 32. whereafter

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. With _____ we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.
n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
2. The complexity of scientific theories was _____ for most people.
adj. beyond what can be imagined or conceived; impossible to comprehend or envision
3. The company _____ its competitors by offering lower prices.
v. to sell goods or services at a lower price than a competitor; to cut away the underpart of something
4. He was considered a _____ artist compared to others in his field.
adj. of only average quality; not very good
5. To succeed in the field of science, you need to have some serious _____ and dedication
n. intellectual or cognitive ability; mental capacity or intelligence
6. You might need to _____ this point.
v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
7. The _____ of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.
n. a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
8. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 1. hindsight, 2. unimaginable, 3. undercut, 4. mediocre, 5. brainpower, 6. amplify, 7. crunch, 8. excited

9. The muscles in his arm _____ as he lifted the heavyweights.
v. to protrude or extend outward
10. I love to watch _____ when I need a good laugh.
n. a television or radio program that features a continuing cast of characters in humorous or dramatic situations, typically presented in a half-hour format
11. 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
12. The hawkish _____ gave a speech on the new bill in the Senate.
n. a member of a legislative body, especially a member of the U.S. Senate
13. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
14. They reached the summit by noon, and _____ they began the long trek back down the mountain.
adv. after or following that particular time or event; subsequently; afterward
15. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
16. Climbing to the _____ of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.
n. the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

ANSWERS: 9. bulged, 10. sitcoms, 11. retract, 12. senator, 13. medicinal, 14. whereafter, 15. determinant, 16. pinnacle

ANSWERS: