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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Larry Lagerstrom: Einstein's miracle year | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/larry_lagerstrom_einsteins_miracle_year

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

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.

scoff

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

synonym: mock, gibe, jeer

(1) **scoff** at a rumor, (2) **scoff** at the idea

We tend to **scoff** at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

destine

v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

synonym: ordain, doom, predestine

(1) **destine** us to meet again, (2) be **destined** to become a great artist

Some people believe that we are all **destined** for greatness.

polytechnic

n. a school or institution that offers instruction in a wide range of technical or professional subjects, often including both theoretical and practical components

synonym: technical college, trade school, vocational school
(1) **polytechnic** institute, (2) **polytechnic** education
My brother studies at a **polytechnic** university, which offers courses in various technical fields.

deference

n. respectful or polite submission or yielding to the judgment, opinion, or wishes of another person or group; a show of respect or honor

synonym: respect, obedience, submission

(1) **deference** to authority, (2) pay **deference**

The student showed **deference** to their teacher by always being respectful in class.

derail

v. to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally

synonym: crash, wreck, thwart

(1) **derail** the recovery, (2) **derail** an argument

The train **derailed** because a cow was standing on the tracks.

photoelectric

adj. relating to the effects of light on electrically charged particles, particularly in the production of electricity or other forms of energy through the use of photovoltaic cells or photoelectric devices

synonym: photoemissive, photovoltaic, photoconductive

(1) **photoelectric** effect, (2) **photoelectric** emission

The **photoelectric** cells on the roof convert sunlight into energy for the building.

deride

v. to ridicule or mock someone or something, often contemptuously or scornfully; to criticize or attack severely

synonym: mock, ridicule, scorn

(1) **deride** the loser, (2) **deride** his opinion

She knew he would **deride** her for her unconventional beliefs, but she shared them anyway.

ingenious

adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill

synonym: creative, innovative, inventive

(1) **ingenious** device, (2) **ingenious** idea

I always look forward to reading his stories since they're so **ingenious**.

skeptic

n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

synonym: doubter, disbeliever, questioner

(1) an ingrained **skeptic**, (2) climate **skeptic**

He was a **skeptic** who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.

discrepancy

n. a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

synonym: inconsistency, difference, disparity

(1) significant **discrepancy**, (2) a **discrepancy** in the report

There is a **discrepancy** between the study's findings and the collected data.

mull

v. to think over carefully; to consider or ponder; to mix or stir thoroughly

synonym: ponder, contemplate, meditate

(1) **mull** ways to retaliate, (2) **mull** a decision

I need to **mull** over the job offer before making a decision.

pave

v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

synonym: surface, coat, cover

(1) **pave** a new path, (2) **pave** a smoother road

They **paved** the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.

ethereal

adj. delicate, light, and airy; extremely refined or subtle; heavenly or spiritual

synonym : airy, delicate, celestial

(1) **ethereal** beauty, (2) **ethereal** light

The **ethereal** music created a dreamlike atmosphere in the concert hall.

consequent

adj. resulting or following as a result of something else;
(noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else

synonym : resulting, following, logical

(1) **consequent** increase, (2) the fallacy of affirming the **consequent**

The increase in demand for the product led to a **consequent** rise in its price.

starlight

n. the light emitted or reflected by stars, often observed in the night sky; the radiant energy emitted by stars

synonym : twinkle, starshine, stardust

(1) **starlight** sky, (2) romantic **starlight**

The romantic couple had a picnic under the **starlight**.

startling

adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying

synonym : alarming, astonishing, shocking

(1) **startling** earthquake shocks, (2) **startling** discovery

He describes the story with **startling** reality.

Session 2: Spelling

1. de___l the recovery
v. to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally
2. the fallacy of affirming the con_____nt
adj. resulting or following as a result of something else; (noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else
3. in_____us device
adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill
4. p__e a new path
v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
5. talented ph_____st
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
6. in_____us idea
adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill
7. de_____e us to meet again
v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
8. climate sk_____c
n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

ANSWERS: 1. derail, 2. consequent, 3. ingenious, 4. pave, 5. physicist, 6. ingenious, 7. destine, 8. skeptic

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| 9. theoretical ph_____st | <i>n.</i> a scientist who specializes in the field of physics |
| 10. m__l a decision | <i>v.</i> to think over carefully; to consider or ponder; to mix or stir thoroughly |
| 11. pol_____ic institute | <i>n.</i> a school or institution that offers instruction in a wide range of technical or professional subjects, often including both theoretical and practical components |
| 12. et_____al light | <i>adj.</i> delicate, light, and airy; extremely refined or subtle; heavenly or spiritual |
| 13. st_____ng earthquake shocks | <i>adj.</i> extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying |
| 14. de___l an argument | <i>v.</i> to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally |
| 15. de___e his opinion | <i>v.</i> to ridicule or mock someone or something, often contemptuously or scornfully; to criticize or attack severely |
| 16. et_____al beauty | <i>adj.</i> delicate, light, and airy; extremely refined or subtle; heavenly or spiritual |
| 17. sc__f at the idea | <i>v.</i> to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly |
| 18. sc__f at a rumor | <i>v.</i> to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly |
| 19. m__l ways to retaliate | <i>v.</i> to think over carefully; to consider or ponder; to mix or stir thoroughly |

ANSWERS: 9. physicist, 10. mull, 11. polytechnic, 12. ethereal, 13. startling, 14. derail, 15. deride, 16. ethereal, 17. scoff, 18. scoff, 19. mull

20. pho_____ric effect *adj.* relating to the effects of light on electrically charged particles, particularly in the production of electricity or other forms of energy through the use of photovoltaic cells or photoelectric devices
21. de_____ce to authority *n.* respectful or polite submission or yielding to the judgment, opinion, or wishes of another person or group; a show of respect or honor
22. con_____nt increase *adj.* resulting or following as a result of something else; (noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else
23. pol_____ic education *n.* a school or institution that offers instruction in a wide range of technical or professional subjects, often including both theoretical and practical components
24. a dis_____cy in the report *n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence
25. de___e the loser *v.* to ridicule or mock someone or something, often contemptuously or scornfully; to criticize or attack severely
26. significant dis_____cy *n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

ANSWERS: 20. photoelectric, 21. deference, 22. consequent, 23. polytechnic, 24. discrepancy, 25. deride, 26. discrepancy

27. st_____ng discovery *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
28. p__e a smoother road *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
29. romantic st_____ht *n.* the light emitted or reflected by stars, often observed in the night sky; the radiant energy emitted by stars
30. pay de_____ce *n.* respectful or polite submission or yielding to the judgment, opinion, or wishes of another person or group; a show of respect or honor
31. st_____ht sky *n.* the light emitted or reflected by stars, often observed in the night sky; the radiant energy emitted by stars
32. pho_____ric emission *adj.* relating to the effects of light on electrically charged particles, particularly in the production of electricity or other forms of energy through the use of photovoltaic cells or photoelectric devices
33. an ingrained sk_____c *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
34. be de_____ed to become a great artist *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

ANSWERS: 27. startling, 28. pave, 29. starlight, 30. deference, 31. starlight, 32. photoelectric, 33. skeptic, 34. destine

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The increase in demand for the product led to a _____ rise in its price.
adj. resulting or following as a result of something else; (noun) something that is logical or naturally follows from something else
2. I always look forward to reading his stories since they're so _____.
adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill
3. I need to _____ over the job offer before making a decision.
v. to think over carefully; to consider or ponder; to mix or stir thoroughly
4. They _____ the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.
v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
5. He describes the story with _____ reality.
adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
6. There is a _____ between the study's findings and the collected data.
n. a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence
7. We tend to _____ at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.
v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
8. Some people believe that we are all _____ for greatness.
v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

ANSWERS: 1. consequent, 2. ingenious, 3. mull, 4. paved, 5. startling, 6. discrepancy, 7. scoff, 8. destined

9. My brother studies at a _____ university, which offers courses in various technical fields.
- n.* a school or institution that offers instruction in a wide range of technical or professional subjects, often including both theoretical and practical components
10. He was a _____ who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.
- n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
11. She knew he would _____ her for her unconventional beliefs, but she shared them anyway.
- v.* to ridicule or mock someone or something, often contemptuously or scornfully; to criticize or attack severely
12. The _____ music created a dreamlike atmosphere in the concert hall.
- adj.* delicate, light, and airy; extremely refined or subtle; heavenly or spiritual
13. The romantic couple had a picnic under the _____.
- n.* the light emitted or reflected by stars, often observed in the night sky; the radiant energy emitted by stars
14. The train _____ because a cow was standing on the tracks.
- v.* to cause a train or tram to run off the tracks accidentally; to run off or leave the rails accidentally
15. The student showed _____ to their teacher by always being respectful in class.
- n.* respectful or polite submission or yielding to the judgment, opinion, or wishes of another person or group; a show of respect or honor

ANSWERS: 9. polytechnic, 10. skeptic, 11. deride, 12. ethereal, 13. starlight, 14. derailed, 15. deference

16. The _____ cells on the roof convert sunlight into energy for the building.

adj. relating to the effects of light on electrically charged particles, particularly in the production of electricity or other forms of energy through the use of photovoltaic cells or photoelectric devices

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

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

ANSWERS: 16. photoelectric, 17. physicist