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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Matthew Williams: Special Olympics let me be myself -- a champion | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

shun

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

synonym: avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

retard

v. to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back

synonym: delay, hinder, impede

(1) **retard** progress, (2) **retard** the growth

Excessive alcohol consumption may confuse time, blur vision, dim alertness, and **retard** response.

retarded

adj. (considered derogatory) delayed or impeded in intellectual or emotional development; slow to learn

synonym: delayed, impeded, slow

(1) **retarded** growth, (2) **retarded** child

The project was delayed due to some technical problems, and it was considered **retarded**.

derogatory

adj. expressing a low opinion; insulting

synonym: insulting, negative, pejorative

(1) have **derogatory** eyes, (2) **derogatory** language

He made **derogatory** comments about her appearance and intelligence.

spectator

n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

synonym: onlooker, observer, viewer

(1) mass **spectator** sport, (2) **spectator** seat

She enjoyed watching the game as a **spectator**.

epilepsy

n. a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors

synonym: seizures, convulsions, fits

(1) **epilepsy** seizure, (2) **epilepsy** medication

The flashing lights at the concert triggered her **epilepsy** and caused a seizure.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

persevere

v. to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement

synonym: persist, endure, continue

(1) **persevere** through hardships, (2) **persevere** in my goals
Even when faced with challenges, it's important to **persevere**
and never give up.

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.

whistle

v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound

synonym: sound, honk, tweet

(1) **whistle** a tune, (2) **whistle** for help

The employee decided to **whistle-blow** on the company's illegal activities.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym: peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

pundit

n. an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

synonym: expert, commentator, punditry

(1) conservative **pundit**, (2) sports **pundit**

The political **pundit** provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.

moose

n. a large deer native to the northern forests of North America and Eurasia

synonym: elk, deer, antelope

(1) **moose** hunting, (2) **moose** population

The antlers of a bull **moose** can grow up to 6 feet in width and weigh over 60 pounds.

squat

- v. to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

synonym: crouch, hunch, sit

- (1) **squat** behind a tree, (2) **squat** exercise

I need to **squat** down to pick up the pen from the floor.

colosseum

- n. (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

- (1) build a **colosseum** for gladiators, (2) **Colosseum** area
Rome's **Colosseum** gets busy in peak season.

bully

- n. a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful

synonym: tormentor, intimidator, aggressor

- (1) **bully** bystander, (2) **bully** the weak

The schoolyard **bully** terrorized the other children and made their lives miserable.

Session 2: Spelling

1. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
2. s__n a person *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
3. wh_____e a tune *v.* to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound
4. sports pu___t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
5. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
6. mo__e hunting *n.* a large deer native to the northern forests of North America and Eurasia
7. sp_____or seat *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
8. build a co_____um for gladiators *n.* (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

ANSWERS: 1. intellect, 2. shun, 3. whistle, 4. pundit, 5. excite, 6. moose, 7. spectator, 8. colosseum

9. re___d the growth *v.* to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back
10. sq__t behind a tree *v.* to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground
11. der_____ry language *adj.* expressing a low opinion; insulting
12. bu__y the weak *n.* a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful
13. Co_____um area *n.* (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80
14. conservative pu___t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
15. mo__e population *n.* a large deer native to the northern forests of North America and Eurasia

ANSWERS: 9. retard, 10. squat, 11. derogatory, 12. bully, 13. colosseum, 14. pundit, 15. moose

26. re___d progress *v.* to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back
27. ep____sy seizure *n.* a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors
28. mass sp_____or sport *n.* someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it
29. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
30. ep____sy medication *n.* a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors
31. pe_____re in my goals *v.* to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement
32. bu__y bystander *n.* a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful
33. sq__t exercise *v.* to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

ANSWERS: 26. retard, 27. epilepsy, 28. spectator, 29. excite, 30. epilepsy, 31. persevere, 32. bully, 33. squat

34. human in_____ct

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

ANSWERS: 34. intellect

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Excessive alcohol consumption may confuse time, blur vision, dim alertness, and _____ response.
 - v. to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back

2. Rome's _____ gets busy in peak season.
 - n. (also "coliseum") a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

3. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
 - adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

4. The schoolyard _____ terrorized the other children and made their lives miserable.
 - n. a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker; (verb) to intimidate, harass, or mistreat someone weaker or less powerful

5. The employee decided to _____ on the company's illegal activities.
 - v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound

6. She enjoyed watching the game as a _____.
 - n. someone present at an event, such as a sports game, play, or concert, to watch or observe it

ANSWERS: 1. retard, 2. Colosseum, 3. opportune, 4. bully, 5. whistle-blow, 6. spectator

7. Even when faced with challenges, it's important to _____ and never give up.
- v.* to persist in the course of action, despite opposition or difficulty; to continue with determination despite setbacks, obstacles, or discouragement
8. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.
- n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
9. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
10. The flashing lights at the concert triggered her _____ and caused a seizure.
- n.* a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors
11. The antlers of a bull _____ can grow up to 6 feet in width and weigh over 60 pounds.
- n.* a large deer native to the northern forests of North America and Eurasia
12. The project was delayed due to some technical problems, and it was considered _____.
- adj.* (considered derogatory) delayed or impeded in intellectual or emotional development; slow to learn
13. He made _____ comments about her appearance and intelligence.
- adj.* expressing a low opinion; insulting
14. The political _____ provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.
- n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

ANSWERS: 7. persevere, 8. tweet, 9. excited, 10. epilepsy, 11. moose, 12. retarded, 13. derogatory, 14. pundit

15. He _____ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

v. to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

16. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

17. I need to _____ down to pick up the pen from the floor.

v. to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks; to occupy a space, usually a place that is not designed for human habitation or use; (noun) a physical exercise that involves holding a position similar to sitting with the knees bent and the thighs parallel to the ground

ANSWERS: 15. shunned, 16. intellect, 17. squat