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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ralitsa Petrova: Could your brain repair itself? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

embryonic

adj. of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development

synonym : embryonal

(1) **embryonic** stem cells, (2) **embryonic** development

The project is still in its **embryonic** stage.

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.

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.

abrupt

adj. sudden and unexpected

synonym : sudden, unexpected, quick

(1) **abrupt** departure, (2) speak in an **abrupt** manner

The sudden, **abrupt** change in weather caught everyone by surprise.

neurological

adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

synonym : nervous, neural, brain-related

(1) fever with **neurological** signs, (2) **neurological** symptoms

The patient was diagnosed with a **neurological** disorder affecting their motor skills.

Alzheimer

n. a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

synonym : dementia, memory loss, cognitive decline

(1) **Alzheimer's** brain, (2) **Alzheimer's** risk factors

My grandmother has **Alzheimer's** disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.

irreversible

adj. impossible to change or return to a previous condition

synonym : irrevocable, unrecoverable, permanent

(1) avoid **irreversible** damage, (2) an **irreversible** change

The development of agricultural technology has had an **irreversible** impact on humanity.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

neurogenesis

n. the formation of new neurons in the brain (= a nerve cell that is specialized to carry information within or between the brain and other parts of the body)

synonym : neuron formation, brain growth, neuroplasticity

(1) **neurogenesis** process, (2) **neurogenesis** research

Studies have shown that physical exercise can increase **neurogenesis** in the hippocampus.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

progenitor

n. a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor

synonym : ancestor, forefather, parent

(1) the **progenitor** of a family, (2) **progenitor** cell

Scientists could trace the species' origin back to a single **progenitor**.

dent

v. to make a depression or indentation in the surface of something; (noun) a depression scratched or carved into a surface

synonym : indent, depress, mark

(1) **dent** removal, (2) **dent** his pride

He acci **dentally** dented his car when he bumped into a tree.

gyrus

n. a convolution of the surface of the brain

synonym : convolution, brain fold, cerebral sulcus

(1) **gyrus** function, (2) cerebral **gyrus**

The inferior temporal **gyrus** is involved in object recognition.

subventricular

adj. situated beneath or adjacent to a ventricle of the brain

synonym: underventricular, ventricular-adjacent

(1) research on the **subventricular** zone,

(2) **subventricular** region

The **subventricular** zone is a region of the brain where neurogenesis occurs.

olfactory

adj. relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents

synonym: olfactive, scent-based, aromatic

(1) **olfactory** cortex, (2) **olfactory** memory

The **olfactory** senses play a key role in our taste and flavor perception.

striatum

n. a striped mass of white and grey matter located in the brain which controls movement and balance of the body

(1) rat's **striatum**, (2) corpus **striatum**

The **striatum** is the most significant component of the basal ganglia.

scar

n. a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed

synonym: blemish, imperfection, blotch

(1) burn **scar**, (2) carry a **scar**

Even after the wound has healed, a **scar** remains.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym: mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

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.

astrocytoma

n. a type of brain tumor that develops from abnormal glial cells called astrocytes

synonym : brain tumor, glioma, glial tumor

(1) **astrocytoma** tumor, (2) high-grade **astrocytoma**

The symptoms of an **astrocytoma** can include headaches, seizures, and problems with balance or coordination.

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.

motherboard

n. the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function

synonym : mainboard

(1) **motherboard** upgrade, (2) faulty **motherboard**

The performance of a computer largely depends on the quality of the **motherboard**.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. me_____al chemistry | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 2. d__t removal | <i>v.</i> to make a depression or indentation in the surface of something; (noun) a depression scratched or carved into a surface |
| 3. 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 |
| 4. corpus st_____um | <i>n.</i> a striped mass of white and grey matter located in the brain which controls movement and balance of the body |
| 5. research on the sub_____lar zone | <i>adj.</i> situated beneath or adjacent to a ventricle of the brain |
| 6. rat's st_____um | <i>n.</i> a striped mass of white and grey matter located in the brain which controls movement and balance of the body |
| 7. em_____ic stem cells | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development |
| 8. imp_____ion on stage | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation |
| 9. de_____te a few hours | <i>v.</i> to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use |

ANSWERS: 1. medicinal, 2. dent, 3. determinant, 4. striatum, 5. subventricular, 6. striatum, 7. embryonic, 8. improvisation, 9. dedicate

10. ab___t departure *adj.* sudden and unexpected
11. avoid irr_____ble damage *adj.* impossible to change or return to a previous condition
12. speak in an ab___t manner *adj.* sudden and unexpected
13. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
14. Al_____er's risk factors *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
15. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
16. neu_____cal symptoms *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
17. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
18. ast_____ma tumor *n.* a type of brain tumor that develops from abnormal glial cells called astrocytes
19. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
20. 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

ANSWERS: 10. abrupt, 11. irreversible, 12. abrupt, 13. microscopic, 14. Alzheimer, 15. rev, 16. neurological, 17. medicinal, 18. astrocytoma, 19. rev, 20. neuron

21. faulty mot_____rd *n.* the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function
22. neu_____sis research *n.* the formation of new neurons in the brain (= a nerve cell that is specialized to carry information within or between the brain and other parts of the body)
23. 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
24. mic_____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
25. ol_____ry memory *adj.* relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
26. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
27. fever with neu_____cal signs *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
28. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
29. d__t his pride *v.* to make a depression or indentation in the surface of something; (noun) a depression scratched or carved into a surface

ANSWERS: 21. motherboard, 22. neurogenesis, 23. neuron, 24. microscopic, 25. olfactory, 26. dedicate, 27. neurological, 28. mimic, 29. dent

30. the pro_____or of a family *n.* a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor
31. pro_____or cell *n.* a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor
32. an irr_____ble change *adj.* impossible to change or return to a previous condition
33. high-grade ast_____ma *n.* a type of brain tumor that develops from abnormal glial cells called astrocytes
34. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
35. em_____ic development *adj.* of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development
36. carry a s__r *n.* a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed
37. gy__s function *n.* a convolution of the surface of the brain
38. mot_____rd upgrade *n.* the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function
39. ol_____ry cortex *adj.* relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
40. cerebral gy__s *n.* a convolution of the surface of the brain

ANSWERS: 30. progenitor, 31. progenitor, 32. irreversible, 33. astrocytoma, 34. mimic, 35. embryonic, 36. scar, 37. gyrus, 38. motherboard, 39. olfactory, 40. gyrus

41. Al_____er's brain *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
42. sub_____lar region *adj.* situated beneath or adjacent to a ventricle of the brain
43. neu_____sis process *n.* the formation of new neurons in the brain (= a nerve cell that is specialized to carry information within or between the brain and other parts of the body)
44. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
45. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
46. burn s__r *n.* a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed

ANSWERS: 41. Alzheimer, 42. subventricular, 43. neurogenesis, 44. determinant, 45. improvisation, 46. scar

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
2. My grandmother has _____ disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.
n. a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
3. The _____ senses play a key role in our taste and flavor perception.
adj. relating to the sense of smell; connected with the perception of odors or scents
4. The _____ zone is a region of the brain where neurogenesis occurs.
adj. situated beneath or adjacent to a ventricle of the brain
5. The sudden, _____ change in weather caught everyone by surprise.
adj. sudden and unexpected
6. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
7. The patient was diagnosed with a _____ disorder affecting their motor skills.
adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
8. He _____ his life to helping others.
v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

ANSWERS: 1. medicinal, 2. Alzheimer's, 3. olfactory, 4. subventricular, 5. abrupt, 6. microscopic, 7. neurological, 8. dedicated

9. 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
10. Even after the wound has healed, a _____ remains.
n. a mark that remains on the skin after a wound has healed
11. The symptoms of an _____ can include headaches, seizures, and problems with balance or coordination.
n. a type of brain tumor that develops from abnormal glial cells called astrocytes
12. The development of agricultural technology has had an _____ impact on humanity.
adj. impossible to change or return to a previous condition
13. The project is still in its _____ stage.
adj. of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development
14. 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
15. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
16. The _____ is the most significant component of the basal ganglia.
n. a striped mass of white and grey matter located in the brain which controls movement and balance of the body

ANSWERS: 9. neuron, 10. scar, 11. astrocytoma, 12. irreversible, 13. embryonic, 14. determinant, 15. improvisation, 16. striatum

17. Scientists could trace the species' origin back to a single _____.
- n.* a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor
18. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
- n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
19. He acci_____dented his car when he bumped into a tree.
- v.* to make a depression or indentation in the surface of something; (noun) a depression scratched or carved into a surface
20. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
- v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
21. The inferior temporal _____ is involved in object recognition.
- n.* a convolution of the surface of the brain
22. The performance of a computer largely depends on the quality of the _____.
- n.* the main circuit board in a computer or other electronic device that contains the central processing unit (CPU), memory, and other essential components that allow the device to function
23. Studies have shown that physical exercise can increase _____ in the hippocampus.
- n.* the formation of new neurons in the brain (= a nerve cell that is specialized to carry information within or between the brain and other parts of the body)

ANSWERS: 17. progenitor, 18. rev, 19. dentally, 20. mimic, 21. gyrus, 22. motherboard, 23. neurogenesis

ANSWERS: