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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lucas Rizzotto: Why I built my own time machine |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

breakup

n. the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections

synonym: breakdown, divorce, separation

(1) a **breakup** hug, (2) air **breakup**

He got over the big **breakup** with his wife.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym: preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

bagel

n. a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

synonym: roll, doughnut, bialy

(1) freshly baked **bagel**, (2) **bagel** with cream cheese

I prefer a toasty **bagel** with bacon and eggs for weekend brunch.

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.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym: bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

auditory

adj. of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

synonym: hearing, audible, aural

(1) a good **auditory** memory, (2) **auditory** system

The **auditory** nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

symphony

n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

synonym: orchestra, harmony, concert

(1) a **symphony** orchestra, (2) a beautiful **symphony**

The frequent performances of the **symphony** prove its popularity.

intimacy

n. close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person

synonym: closeness, familiarity, nearness

(1) on terms of **intimacy**, (2) build **intimacy**

They were looking for **intimacy** in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.

synthesizer

n. an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds,

from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds

synonym: sampler, sequencer, module

(1) **synthesizer** bass, (2) music **synthesizer**

The electronic **synthesizer** created a range of unique sounds for the music.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

heartbreak

n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment

synonym: grief, sorrow, bitterness

(1) ease her **heartbreak**, (2) go through **heartbreak**

They had experienced the **heartbreak** of losing two children due to premature births.

turmoil

n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions

synonym: chaos, confusion, disorder

(1) political **turmoil**, (2) the **turmoil** of the war

The company experienced financial **turmoil** after the CEO was arrested.

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.

genesis

n. the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind

synonym: beginning, creation, provenance

(1) the **genesis** of civilization, (2) in the Book of **Genesis**

The politician's remarks became the **genesis** of the clash

between the two countries.

funnel

n. a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine

synonym : filter, chimney

(1) separatory **funnel**, (2) a **funnel-shaped** device

We have to use a **funnel** to pour petrol into the tank.

troll

n. a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

synonym : provocateur, antagonist, troublemaker

(1) feed a **troll**, (2) copyright **troll**

He was banned from the online forum for being a **troll** and causing trouble.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

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.

instill

v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
synonym: implant, ingrain, inculcate

(1) **instill** confidence, (2) **instill** medication into my eye
The teacher attempted to **instill** the importance of hard work in her students.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
synonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients
Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

craving

n. a strong desire of wanting something
synonym: desire, appetite, longing

(1) **craving** for revenge, (2) curb our **cravings**
I have a **craving** for nicotine.

instinctively

adv. as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
synonym: inherently, intuitively, naturally

(1) **instinctively** grabbed the knife, (2) **instinctively** bad with children
Some researchers claim that even humans can **instinctively** sense earthquakes.

astronaut

n. a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
synonym: spaceman, cosmonaut

(1) **astronaut** mission, (2) **astronaut** in training
The shuttle **astronaut** trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

brim

n. the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
synonym: beak, edge, bound

(1) the **brim** of a hat, (2) the pelvic **brim**

The glass was filled to the **brim** with beer.

stumble

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
synonym : bumble, struggle, misstep

(1) **stumble** financially, (2) **stumble** through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

hunch

v. to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof

synonym : crouch, guess, speculate

(1) **hunch** against the rain, (2) **hunch** up the shoulders

I **hunch** over my computer all day, and my back aches after a while.

lapse

n. a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended

synonym : break, failure, blunder

(1) **lapse** back into recession, (2) **lapse** in payment

I missed the deadline due to a **lapse** in my memory.

immerse

v. to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

synonym : dip, inundate, submerge

(1) **immerse** the cloth in the dye, (2) completely **immerse** the ingredient

He **immersed** himself in his research.

futurist

n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

synonym :

foreseer, prophet, fortune-teller

(1) **futurist** architecture, (2) **futurist** ideas

The radical **futurist** predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.

nonfiction

n. a genre of literature that deals with the factual representation of real or historical events, people, or places; prose writing that presents or discusses true life events or experiences

synonym: fact, reality, truth

(1) **nonfiction** movie, (2) **nonfiction** account

This **nonfiction** book about the history of jazz is a must-read for music fans.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. the tu_____l of the war | <i>n.</i> a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions |
| 2. ex_____e rebellion | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 3. political tu_____l | <i>n.</i> a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions |
| 4. separatory fu_____l | <i>n.</i> a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine |
| 5. as_____ut mission | <i>n.</i> a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere |
| 6. in_____te the quality of his life | <i>v.</i> to introduce new methods, ideas, or products |
| 7. the pelvic b____m | <i>n.</i> the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat |
| 8. ins_____ely grabbed the knife | <i>adv.</i> as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training |
| 9. get dis_____ed by an urgent matter | <i>adj.</i> having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried |

ANSWERS: 1. turmoil, 2. excite, 3. turmoil, 4. funnel, 5. astronaut, 6. innovate, 7. brim, 8. instinctively, 9. distracted

10. build in_____cy *n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
11. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
12. in the Book of Ge_____s *n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind
13. go through hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
14. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
15. 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
16. fu_____st ideas *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
17. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
18. the ge_____s of civilization *n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind

ANSWERS: 10. intimacy, 11. opportune, 12. genesis, 13. heartbreak, 14. empathy, 15. bully, 16. futurist, 17. empathy, 18. genesis

19. the b__m of a hat
n. the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
20. air br____p
n. the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
21. ex___e the crowd
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
22. op_____ne occasion
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
23. curb our cr____gs
n. a strong desire of wanting something
24. a fu___l-shaped device
n. a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
25. fu_____st architecture
n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
26. a beautiful sy____ny
n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
27. au____ry system
adj. of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
28. copyright tr__l
n. a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

ANSWERS: 19. brim, 20. breakup, 21. excite, 22. opportune, 23. craving, 24. funnel, 25. futurist, 26. symphony, 27. auditory, 28. troll

29. st____e financially *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
30. non_____on movie *n.* a genre of literature that deals with the factual representation of real or historical events, people, or places; prose writing that presents or discusses true life events or experiences
31. 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
32. freshly baked ba__l *n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices
33. la__e back into recession *n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
34. in_____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
35. st____e through life *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
36. ease her hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
37. a mi____r collision *n.* some point in the air; above ground level

ANSWERS: 29. stumble, 30. nonfiction, 31. bully, 32. bagel, 33. lapse, 34. innovate, 35. stumble, 36. heartbreak, 37. midair

38. cr____g for revenge *n.* a strong desire of wanting something
39. a good au____ry memory *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
40. feed a tr__l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
41. a br____p hug *n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
42. as____ut in training *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
43. in____l medication into my eye *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
44. ins____ely bad with children *adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
45. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
46. hu__h against the rain *v.* to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof

ANSWERS: 38. craving, 39. auditory, 40. troll, 41. breakup, 42. astronaut, 43. instill, 44. instinctively, 45. app, 46. hunch

47. non_____on account *n.* a genre of literature that deals with the factual representation of real or historical events, people, or places; prose writing that presents or discusses true life events or experiences
48. music syn_____er *n.* an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds
49. a sy_____ny orchestra *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
50. thrown out into mi____r *n.* some point in the air; above ground level
51. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
52. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
53. hu__h up the shoulders *v.* to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof
54. in_____l confidence *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually

ANSWERS: 47. nonfiction, 48. synthesizer, 49. symphony, 50. midair, 51. app, 52. confuse, 53. hunch, 54. instill

55. syn_____er bass *n.* an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds
56. im_____e the cloth in the dye *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
57. on terms of in_____cy *n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
58. la__e in payment *n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
59. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
60. ba__l with cream cheese *n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices
61. dis_____ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

ANSWERS: 55. synthesizer, 56. immerse, 57. intimacy, 58. lapse, 59. confuse, 60. bagel, 61. distracted

62. completely im_____e the ingredient

v. to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

ANSWERS: 62. immerse

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The frequent performances of the _____ prove its popularity.
 - n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

2. This _____ book about the history of jazz is a must-read for music fans.
 - n.* a genre of literature that deals with the factual representation of real or historical events, people, or places; prose writing that presents or discusses true life events or experiences

3. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
 - v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

4. The politician's remarks became the _____ of the clash between the two countries.
 - n.* the origin or beginning of something; the first book of the biblical scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity, describing the creation of the Earth and humankind

5. 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

6. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
 - adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

ANSWERS: 1. symphony, 2. nonfiction, 3. innovate, 4. genesis, 5. bully, 6. distracted

7. We have to use a _____ to pour petrol into the tank.
- n.* a tube or pipe that is wide at the top, sloping sides, narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquids or powders into a small opening; a smokestack on a ship or steam engine
8. They were looking for _____ in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.
- n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
9. They had experienced the _____ of losing two children due to premature births.
- n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
10. He _____ himself in his research.
- v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
11. Some researchers claim that even humans can _____ sense earthquakes.
- adv.* as a matter of nature or intuition rather than thought or training
12. The shuttle _____ trained for months before embarking on the space mission.
- n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
13. I have a _____ for nicotine.
- n.* a strong desire of wanting something
14. He was banned from the online forum for being a _____ and causing trouble.
- n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

ANSWERS: 7. funnel, 8. intimacy, 9. heartbreak, 10. immersed, 11. instinctively, 12. astronaut, 13. craving, 14. troll

15. I missed the deadline due to a _____ in my memory.

- n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended

16. The _____ nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

- adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

17. The news of her promotion _____ her.

- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

18. I _____ over my computer all day, and my back aches after a while.

- v.* to lean forward or arch one's back in a way that suggests a feeling of suspicion or uncertainty; to have a feeling or presentiment that something is true or likely to happen, without evidence or explicit proof

19. Her remarks _____ the debate.

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

20. I prefer a toasty _____ with bacon and eggs for weekend brunch.

- n.* a type of bread product that is typically round, dense, and chewy with a hole in the center, often topped with seeds or spices

21. The company experienced financial _____ after the CEO was arrested.

- n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often marked by intense activity or strong emotions

22. The teacher attempted to _____ the importance of hard work in her students.

- v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually

ANSWERS: 15. lapse, 16. auditory, 17. excited, 18. hunch, 19. confused, 20. bagel, 21. turmoil, 22. instill

23. He got over the big _____ with his wife.
- n.* the end of a relationship between persons or nations; the separation of something into several pieces or sections
24. The radical _____ predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.
- n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
25. The electronic _____ created a range of unique sounds for the music.
- n.* an electronic musical instrument that generates audio signals and is used to create a wide range of sounds, from imitations of traditional instruments to entirely new sounds
26. The glass was filled to the _____ with beer.
- n.* the top edge of a cup, bowl, or other containers; a circular projecting edge at the bottom of a hat
27. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
- n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
28. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.
- n.* some point in the air; above ground level
29. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
- n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
30. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 23. breakup, 24. futurist, 25. synthesizer, 26. brim, 27. app's, 28. midair, 29. Empathy, 30. opportune

31. She _____ over the tree root.

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

ANSWERS: 31. stumbled