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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Robert Gordon: The death of innovation, the end of growth | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

buggy

n. a small, lightweight car, usually with no roof, especially drawn by a single horse; (adjective) infested with bugs

synonym : carriage, cart, wagon

(1) baby **buggy**, (2) **buggy** update

This Middle Eastern resort offers dune **buggy** tours through the desert.

rut

n. a long track or groove worn into the ground, typically by the repeated passage of wheels or other heavy objects; a fixed, boring or monotonous routine or course of action

synonym : groove, track, estrus

(1) falling into a **rut**, (2) boring routine **rut**

The company seems stuck in a **rut** and needs to try something new.

quagmire

n. a soft, muddy area that is difficult to walk or move through; a difficult or complicated situation; a dilemma or predicament

synonym : morass, swamp, bog

(1) sink into a **quagmire**, (2) **quagmire** debate

The company found itself in a legal **quagmire**, unable to resolve the issue without causing harm to its reputation.

supersonic

adj. relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)

synonym : hypersonic, ultrasonic, transonic

(1) **supersonic** aircraft, (2) **supersonic** wind tunnel

The spacecraft reentered the Earth's atmosphere at **supersonic** speeds.

ponder

v. to think deeply or carefully about something

synonym : think about, consider, reflect on

(1) **ponder** divine matters, (2) **ponder** life's meaning

She sat quietly, **pondering** the difficult decision.

headwind

n. a wind blowing directly against the forward movement of an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, thereby slowing its progress and increasing fuel consumption

synonym : opposition

(1) facing **headwind**, (2) flying in a **headwind**

The cyclists had to contend with strong **headwinds** during the race.

capita

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

synonym : head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**
GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

quadruple

v. to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many

(1) **quadruple** the amount, (2) **quadruple** the price of gold

His stock earnings **quadrupled**.

truism

n. a statement or proposition that is true and does not require proof or elaboration; an overused or cliché expression that has become void of meaning

synonym : platitude, cliché, aphorism

(1) **truism** of life, (2) economic **truism**

It's a **truism** that practice makes perfect.

dwarf

n. a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star

synonym : midget, lilliputian, pygmy

(1) a potted **dwarf** tree, (2) a wise old **dwarf**

The **dwarf** planet Pluto is much smaller than earth and orbits the sun.

sluggish

adj. lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress

synonym : lethargic, slow, inactive

(1) **sluggish** economy, (2) **sluggish** response

After a long day at work, I feel **sluggish** and lack energy.

entitle

v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something

synonym : allow, permit, enable

(1) **entitle** him to a pension, (2) **entitle** the company to use the logo

The employee was **entitled** to a week of vacation time.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym : wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

scrub

v. to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

synonym : clean, wash, sanitize

(1) **scrub** off graffiti, (2) **scrub** dirt from potatoes
She decided to **scrub** the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.

unheated

adj. not heated or warmed
synonym: cool, chilled, unwarmed

(1) **unheated** air, (2) **unheated** pool
The **unheated** room was freezing, so we had to turn on the heater.

ubiquitous

adj. being or existing everywhere at once
synonym: universal, omnipresent, everywhere

(1) **ubiquitous** computing, (2) **ubiquitous** across ecosystems
Sugar is **ubiquitous** in food.

pail

n. a cylindrical container or bucket usually made of metal or plastic with a handle, used for carrying liquids or other substances
synonym: bucket, container, bucketful

(1) paint **pail**, (2) empty **pail**
I filled up the **pail** with water from the well to water the plants in the garden.

scourge

n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
synonym: plague, disaster, curse

(1) **scourge** of AIDS, (2) bring a **scourge** under control
The plague was a **scourge** that killed millions of people.

airborne

adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
synonym: flying, aerial, floating

(1) **airborne** troop, (2) **airborne** particles
The amount of **airborne** pollen this year is higher than usual.

cholera

n. a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes

synonym : infectious disease, epidemic, plague

(1) **cholera** toxin, (2) **cholera** epidemic

The outbreak of **cholera** was a major health crisis in the 19th century.

electrification

n. the process of installing electrical equipment or infrastructure, especially in a place that previously only had non-electrical equipment or infrastructure; the act of supplying electrical energy to an object or system, causing it to become electrically charged;

(1) railway **electrification**, (2) **electrification** current

The village was excited about the **electrification** of their community, which would bring light to their homes.

postwar

adj. relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies

synonym : subsequent, aftermath

(1) **postwar** years, (2) **postwar** society

The **postwar** period was marked by economic growth and rebuilding efforts.

mainframe

n. a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications

(1) **mainframe** computer, (2) **mainframe** operating system

IBM has consistently been a significant supplier of **mainframes** for a long time.

teller

n. a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience

synonym : cashier, bank clerk, clerk

(1) fortune- **teller**, (2) **teller** machine

The bank **teller** carefully counted the money before handing it to the customer.

dotcom

n. a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry

synonym: website, online business, e-commerce

(1) successful **dotcom**, (2) **dotcom** millionaire

The **dotcom** boom of the late 1990s changed the landscape of the tech industry forever.

Wikipedia

n. an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

synonym: online encyclopedia, webpedia

(1) **Wikipedia** entry, (2) **Wikipedia** article

Not all teachers accept citing **Wikipedia** as a valid source for academic papers.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

outhouse

n. a small structure located outside of a main building that contains a toilet or latrine

synonym: latrine, privy, lavatory

(1) wooden **outhouse**, (2) disused **outhouse**

The **outhouse** behind the cabin was a rustic alternative to indoor plumbing.

fanciful

adj. characterized by or involving imaginative and unrealistic ideas or concepts; existing or perceived only in the

imagination

synonym: imaginative, whimsical, fantastic

(1) **fanciful** idea, (2) **fanciful** tale

Her **fanciful** imagination allowed her to dream up incredible stories.

graham

n. a type of flour made from whole wheat that has had the bran and germ removed and is often used to make crackers or cookies; a cracker made with this type of flour

synonym: cracker, biscuit, wafer

(1) **graham** bread, (2) **graham** flour

I enjoyed my camping trip with friends, toasting marshmallows over a glowing **graham** cracker.

wright

n. a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal

synonym: builder, constructor, craftsman

(1) a car- **wright**, (2) aircraft **wright**

She was a skilled **wright**, able to craft intricate pieces of furniture.

broth

n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

synonym: bouillon, consomme, soup

(1) chicken **broth**, (2) remains of **broth**

I always add a bit of **broth** to my soup to give it more flavor.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sup_____ic wind tunnel
adj. relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)
2. en_____e the company to use the logo
v. to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
3. un_____ed air
adj. not heated or warmed
4. chicken br__h
n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
5. successful do___m
n. a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry
6. boring routine r_t
n. a long track or groove worn into the ground, typically by the repeated passage of wheels or other heavy objects; a fixed, boring or monotonous routine or course of action
7. ai_____ne particles
adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
8. po___r life's meaning
v. to think deeply or carefully about something

ANSWERS: 1. supersonic, 2. entitle, 3. unheated, 4. broth, 5. dotcom, 6. rut, 7. airborne, 8. ponder

9. disused ou____se *n.* a small structure located outside of a main building that contains a toilet or latrine
10. en____e him to a pension *v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
11. empty p__l *n.* a cylindrical container or bucket usually made of metal or plastic with a handle, used for carrying liquids or other substances
12. qu____le the amount *v.* to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
13. sc__b off graffiti *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
14. a car-wr____t *n.* a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
15. un____ed pool *adj.* not heated or warmed
16. sup____ic aircraft *adj.* relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)
17. flying in a he____nd *n.* a wind blowing directly against the forward movement of an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, thereby slowing its progress and increasing fuel consumption
18. bu__y update *n.* a small, lightweight car, usually with no roof, especially drawn by a single horse; (adjective) infested with bugs

ANSWERS: 9. outhouse, 10. entitle, 11. pail, 12. quadruple, 13. scrub, 14. wright, 15. unheated, 16. supersonic, 17. headwind, 18. buggy

19. po____r years *adj.* relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies
20. bring a sc____e under control *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
21. facing he____nd *n.* a wind blowing directly against the forward movement of an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, thereby slowing its progress and increasing fuel consumption
22. gr____m flour *n.* a type of flour made from whole wheat that has had the bran and germ removed and is often used to make crackers or cookies; a cracker made with this type of flour
23. te____r machine *n.* a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience
24. ubi____us computing *adj.* being or existing everywhere at once
25. ma____me operating system *n.* a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications
26. qu____le the price of gold *v.* to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many

ANSWERS: 19. postwar, 20. scourge, 21. headwind, 22. graham, 23. teller, 24. ubiquitous, 25. mainframe, 26. quadruple

27. fortune-te___r *n.* a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience
28. po___r divine matters *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
29. ma_____me computer *n.* a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications
30. aircraft wr___t *n.* a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal
31. per ca___a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
32. sc__b dirt from potatoes *v.* to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent
33. economic tr___m *n.* a statement or proposition that is true and does not require proof or elaboration; an overused or cliché expression that has become void of meaning
34. po_____r society *adj.* relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies

ANSWERS: 27. teller, 28. ponder, 29. mainframe, 30. wright, 31. capita, 32. scrub, 33. truism, 34. postwar

35. qu____re debate *n.* a soft, muddy area that is difficult to walk or move through; a difficult or complicated situation; a dilemma or predicament
36. sl____sh economy *adj.* lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress
37. wooden ou____se *n.* a small structure located outside of a main building that contains a toilet or latrine
38. ch____a toxin *n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
39. Wi____ia article *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
40. tr____m of life *n.* a statement or proposition that is true and does not require proof or elaboration; an overused or cliché expression that has become void of meaning
41. falling into a r_t *n.* a long track or groove worn into the ground, typically by the repeated passage of wheels or other heavy objects; a fixed, boring or monotonous routine or course of action

ANSWERS: 35. quagmire, 36. sluggish, 37. outhouse, 38. cholera, 39. Wikipedia, 40. truism, 41. rut

42. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
43. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
44. ai_____ne troop *adj.* moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
45. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
46. Wi_____ia entry *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
47. the agricultural yield per ca____a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
48. a potted dw__f tree *n.* a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
49. ele_____ion current *n.* the process of installing electrical equipment or infrastructure, especially in a place that previously only had non-electrical equipment or infrastructure; the act of supplying electrical energy to an object or system, causing it to become electrically charged;

ANSWERS: 42. smartphone, 43. smartphone, 44. airborne, 45. electrify, 46. Wikipedia, 47. capita, 48. dwarf, 49. electrification

50. sink into a qu____re *n.* a soft, muddy area that is difficult to walk or move through; a difficult or complicated situation; a dilemma or predicament
51. paint p__l *n.* a cylindrical container or bucket usually made of metal or plastic with a handle, used for carrying liquids or other substances
52. fa____ul tale *adj.* characterized by or involving imaginative and unrealistic ideas or concepts; existing or perceived only in the imagination
53. do____m millionaire *n.* a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry
54. fa____ul idea *adj.* characterized by or involving imaginative and unrealistic ideas or concepts; existing or perceived only in the imagination
55. ubi____us across ecosystems *adj.* being or existing everywhere at once
56. a wise old dw__f *n.* a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
57. gr____m bread *n.* a type of flour made from whole wheat that has had the bran and germ removed and is often used to make crackers or cookies; a cracker made with this type of flour

ANSWERS: 50. quagmire, 51. pail, 52. fanciful, 53. dotcom, 54. fanciful, 55. ubiquitous, 56. dwarf, 57. graham

58. railway ele_____ion *n.* the process of installing electrical equipment or infrastructure, especially in a place that previously only had non-electrical equipment or infrastructure; the act of supplying electrical energy to an object or system, causing it to become electrically charged;
59. remains of br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
60. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
61. sl_____sh response *adj.* lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress
62. ch_____a epidemic *n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
63. baby bu__y *n.* a small, lightweight car, usually with no roof, especially drawn by a single horse; (adjective) infested with bugs
64. sc_____e of AIDS *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

ANSWERS: 58. electrification, 59. broth, 60. electrify, 61. sluggish, 62. cholera, 63. buggy, 64. scourge

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. This Middle Eastern resort offers dune _____ tours through the desert.
n. a small, lightweight car, usually with no roof, especially drawn by a single horse; (adjective) infested with bugs

2. Not all teachers accept citing _____ as a valid source for academic papers.
n. an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

3. His stock earnings _____.
v. to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many

4. I always add a bit of _____ to my soup to give it more flavor.
n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

5. I enjoyed my camping trip with friends, toasting marshmallows over a glowing _____ cracker.
n. a type of flour made from whole wheat that has had the bran and germ removed and is often used to make crackers or cookies; a cracker made with this type of flour

6. The amount of _____ pollen this year is higher than usual.
adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air

7. GDP per _____ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.
n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

ANSWERS: 1. buggy, 2. Wikipedia, 3. quadrupled, 4. broth, 5. graham, 6. airborne, 7. capita

8. I filled up the _____ with water from the well to water the plants in the garden.
n. a cylindrical container or bucket usually made of metal or plastic with a handle, used for carrying liquids or other substances
9. The cyclists had to contend with strong _____ during the race.
n. a wind blowing directly against the forward movement of an aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, thereby slowing its progress and increasing fuel consumption
10. IBM has consistently been a significant supplier of _____ for a long time.
n. a large and powerful computer with a lot of memory used primarily by large organizations for critical applications
11. The spacecraft reentered the Earth's atmosphere at _____ speeds.
adj. relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)
12. The village was excited about the _____ of their community, which would bring light to their homes.
n. the process of installing electrical equipment or infrastructure, especially in a place that previously only had non-electrical equipment or infrastructure; the act of supplying electrical energy to an object or system, causing it to become electrically charged;
13. The _____ period was marked by economic growth and rebuilding efforts.
adj. relating to the period following a war, particularly World War II; characterized by the rebuilding and recovery of countries and societies
14. She was a skilled _____ able to craft intricate pieces of furniture.
n. a person who makes or repairs something, especially a craftsman or artisan who works with wood or metal

ANSWERS: 8. pail, 9. headwinds, 10. mainframes, 11. supersonic, 12. electrification, 13. postwar, 14. wright,

15. The _____ behind the cabin was a rustic alternative to indoor plumbing.
n. a small structure located outside of a main building that contains a toilet or latrine
16. The _____ boom of the late 1990s changed the landscape of the tech industry forever.
n. a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry
17. It's a _____ that practice makes perfect.
n. a statement or proposition that is true and does not require proof or elaboration; an overused or cliché expression that has become void of meaning
18. The company found itself in a legal _____ unable to resolve the issue without causing harm to its reputation.
n. a soft, muddy area that is difficult to walk or move through; a difficult or complicated situation; a dilemma or predicament
19. After a long day at work, I feel _____ and lack energy.
adj. lacking energy, vitality, or motivation; slow or inactive in response, movement, or progress
20. The company seems stuck in a _____ and needs to try something new.
n. a long track or groove worn into the ground, typically by the repeated passage of wheels or other heavy objects; a fixed, boring or monotonous routine or course of action
21. She decided to _____ the kitchen floor to remove all the dirt and grime.
v. to clean something thoroughly, typically with a brush and soap or detergent

ANSWERS: 15. outhouse, 16. dotcom, 17. truism, 18. quagmire, 19. sluggish, 20. rut, 21. scrub

22. The _____ room was freezing, so we had to turn on the heater.
adj. not heated or warmed
23. Sugar is _____ in food.
adj. being or existing everywhere at once
24. The outbreak of _____ was a major health crisis in the 19th century.
n. a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
25. Her _____ imagination allowed her to dream up incredible stories.
adj. characterized by or involving imaginative and unrealistic ideas or concepts; existing or perceived only in the imagination
26. The _____ planet Pluto is much smaller than earth and orbits the sun.
n. a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
27. The bank _____ carefully counted the money before handing it to the customer.
n. a person who works in a bank or financial institution and is responsible for processing customers' deposits, withdrawals, and other transactions, also referred to as a bank teller; a person who tells stories or relates information to an audience
28. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

ANSWERS: 22. unheated, 23. ubiquitous, 24. cholera, 25. fanciful, 26. dwarf, 27. teller, 28. electrify

29. She sat quietly, _____ the difficult decision.
- v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
30. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
- n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
31. The employee was _____ to a week of vacation time.
- v.* to give someone the right to have or do something; to give a title to someone or something
32. The plague was a _____ that killed millions of people.
- n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

ANSWERS: 29. pondering, 30. smartphones, 31. entitled, 32. scourge