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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ivan Seah Yu Jun: What is Alzheimer's disease? |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

dementia

n. a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury

synonym: cognitive decline, memory loss, Alzheimer's disease

(1) **dementia** patients, (2) probably have **dementia**

The study found that regular exercise can help to prevent the onset of **dementia** in older age.

elude

v. to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning

synonym: evade, avoid, dodge

(1) **elude** the law, (2) **elude** responsibility for the failure

The suspect **eluded** capture for weeks before being caught by the police.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

psychiatry

n. the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness

synonym : mental health, psychology, psychoanalysis

(1) **psychiatry** therapy, (2) biological **psychiatry**

The field of **psychiatry** is constantly evolving, with new treatments and approaches being developed all the time.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym : agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym : extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

autopsy

n. a medical examination performed on a dead body to determine the cause of death or identify any underlying medical conditions or injuries; a postmortem examination or necropsy (in animals)

synonym : postmortem examination, necropsy, examination

(1) forensic **autopsy**, (2) perform an **autopsy**

The **autopsy** report revealed that the cause of death was a heart attack.

neurofibrillary

adj. relating to or characterized by neurofibrils, which are thread-like structures found in the cytoplasm of nerve cells, often refers to neurofibrillary tangles that are a pathological hallmark of certain neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease

(1) **neurofibrillary** pathology, (2) **neurofibrillary** degeneration

The **neurofibrillary** tangles found in the brain are a characteristic feature of Alzheimer's disease.

tangle

n. a confused mass of something twisted together
synonym: knot, snarl, entanglement

(1) in a **tangle**, (2) **tangle** wires

The cords behind my computer were a **tangled** mess.

amyloid

n. a type of protein that can accumulate abnormally in various tissues and organs in the body and is linked to various diseases, including Alzheimer's disease

synonym: protein deposit, plaque buildup

(1) **amyloid** beta, (2) **amyloid** accumulation

Alzheimer's disease is characterized by the buildup of **amyloid** plaques in the brain.

clump

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

synonym: cluster, bunch, bundle

(1) **clump** of bacteria, (2) a **clump** of trees

I heard the **clump** of his boots in the hallway.

tau

n. the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet, transliterated as "t"; (of physics, tau particle) a fundamental particle known as the tau lepton that is an elementary particle with a negative electric charge and a spin of 1/2

(1) **tau** particle, (2) the symbol of **tau**

The **tau** protein has been found to play a role in the development of Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.

disintegrate

v. break or cause to break into small fragments

synonym: shatter, crumble, break down

(1) **disintegrate** in an explosion, (2) **disintegrate** over time

The vase **disintegrated** into pieces when it fell to the ground.

obstruct

v. to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone

synonym: block, impede, hinder

(1) **obstruct** an airway, (2) **obstruct** a bill

The road was blocked by a fallen tree, **obstructing** the path for all vehicles.

hippocampus

n. a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory

(1) involvement of the **hippocampus**, (2) neurons in the **hippocampus**

The **hippocampus** is crucial for learning and memory storage.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

erratic

adj. characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality

synonym: unpredictable, irregular, unstable

(1) **erratic** behavior, (2) **erratic** movements

The stock market has been behaving in an **erratic** manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.

paranoia

n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of

anxiety or irritability

synonym : suspicion, mistrust, delusions

(1) encourage **paranoia**, (2) suffering from **paranoia**

His **paranoia** about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.

hallucinate

v. to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use

(1) start to **hallucinate**, (2) **hallucinate** with drug

Sleep-deprived people gradually lose their concentration and may **hallucinate**.

overpower

v. to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength

synonym : overwhelm, conquer, surpass

(1) **overpower** the suspect, (2) **overpower** the opponent

The shooter was eventually **overpowered** and arrested by police.

acetylcholine

n. a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals

synonym : neurotransmitter, cholinergic

(1) **acetylcholine** receptor, (2) **acetylcholine** molecule

Low levels of **acetylcholine** have been linked to symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

unearth

v. to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown

synonym : discover, uncover, expose

(1) **unearth** burial mound, (2) **unearth** a mystery

The detective **unearthed** a critical clue that led to the suspect's arrest.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. di____b his sleep | <i>v.</i> to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc. |
| 2. un____h burial mound | <i>v.</i> to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown |
| 3. psy_____ry therapy | <i>n.</i> the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness |
| 4. in a ta____e | <i>n.</i> a confused mass of something twisted together |
| 5. in____e other tissues | <i>v.</i> to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation |
| 6. ov_____er the suspect | <i>v.</i> to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength |
| 7. er_____c behavior | <i>adj.</i> characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality |
| 8. ob_____ct a bill | <i>v.</i> to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone |
| 9. dis_____ate in an explosion | <i>v.</i> break or cause to break into small fragments |
| 10. ace_____ine receptor | <i>n.</i> a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals |

ANSWERS: 1. disturb, 2. unearth, 3. psychiatry, 4. tangle, 5. invade, 6. overpower, 7. erratic, 8. obstruct, 9. disintegrate, 10. acetylcholine

11. make dr____c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
12. ace_____ine molecule *n.* a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals
13. involvement of the hip_____us *n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
14. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
15. er____c movements *adj.* characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality
16. am____d accumulation *n.* a type of protein that can accumulate abnormally in various tissues and organs in the body and is linked to various diseases, including Alzheimer's disease
17. encourage pa____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability

ANSWERS: 11. drastic, 12. acetylcholine, 13. hippocampus, 14. germ, 15. erratic, 16. amyloid, 17. paranoia

18. forensic au____y *n.* a medical examination performed on a dead body to determine the cause of death or identify any underlying medical conditions or injuries; a postmortem examination or necropsy (in animals)
19. start to hal_____te *v.* to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use
20. t_u particle *n.* the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet, transliterated as "t"; (of physics, tau particle) a fundamental particle known as the tau lepton that is an elementary particle with a negative electric charge and a spin of 1/2
21. perform an au____y *n.* a medical examination performed on a dead body to determine the cause of death or identify any underlying medical conditions or injuries; a postmortem examination or necropsy (in animals)
22. ta___e wires *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
23. dr_____c measures *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
24. un_____h a mystery *v.* to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown
25. neu_____ary degeneration *adj.* relating to or characterized by neurofibrils, which are thread-like structures found in the cytoplasm of nerve cells, often refers to neurofibrillary tangles that are a pathological hallmark of certain neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease

ANSWERS: 18. autopsy, 19. hallucinate, 20. tau, 21. autopsy, 22. tangle, 23. drastic, 24. unearh, 25. neurofibrillary

26. neurons in the hip_____us *n.* a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory
27. de_____ia patients *n.* a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury
28. am_____d beta *n.* a type of protein that can accumulate abnormally in various tissues and organs in the body and is linked to various diseases, including Alzheimer's disease
29. suffering from pa_____ia *n.* a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
30. ob_____ct an airway *v.* to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone
31. dis_____ate over time *v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
32. 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
33. el__e the law *v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
34. probably have de_____ia *n.* a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury

ANSWERS: 26. hippocampus, 27. dementia, 28. amyloid, 29. paranoia, 30. obstruct, 31. disintegrate, 32. Alzheimer, 33. elude, 34. dementia

35. di____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
36. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
37. a cl__p of trees *n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
38. the symbol of t_u *n.* the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet, transliterated as "t"; (of physics, tau particle) a fundamental particle known as the tau lepton that is an elementary particle with a negative electric charge and a spin of 1/2
39. ov_____er the opponent *v.* to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
40. cl__p of bacteria *n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
41. neu_____ary pathology *adj.* relating to or characterized by neurofibrils, which are thread-like structures found in the cytoplasm of nerve cells, often refers to neurofibrillary tangles that are a pathological hallmark of certain neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease
42. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
43. 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

ANSWERS: 35. disturb, 36. invade, 37. clump, 38. tau, 39. overpower, 40. clump, 41. neurofibrillary, 42. germ, 43. Alzheimer

44. hal_____te with drug *v.* to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use
45. el__e responsibility for the failure *v.* to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
46. biological psy_____ry *n.* the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness

ANSWERS: 44. hallucinate, 45. elude, 46. psychiatry

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The cords behind my computer were a _____ mess.
n. a confused mass of something twisted together
2. The _____ tangles found in the brain are a characteristic feature of Alzheimer's disease.
adj. relating to or characterized by neurofibrils, which are thread-like structures found in the cytoplasm of nerve cells, often refers to neurofibrillary tangles that are a pathological hallmark of certain neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease
3. His _____ about being followed made him constantly look over his shoulder.
n. a mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically compounded by feelings of anxiety or irritability
4. Alzheimer's disease is characterized by the buildup of _____ plaques in the brain.
n. a type of protein that can accumulate abnormally in various tissues and organs in the body and is linked to various diseases, including Alzheimer's disease
5. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
6. The ____ protein has been found to play a role in the development of Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.
n. the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet, transliterated as "t"; (of physics, tau particle) a fundamental particle known as the tau lepton that is an elementary particle with a negative electric charge and a spin of 1/2

ANSWERS: 1. tangled, 2. neurofibrillary, 3. paranoia, 4. amyloid, 5. disturb, 6. tau

7. I heard the _____ of his boots in the hallway.
n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
8. Low levels of _____ have been linked to symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.
n. a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals
9. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
10. The shooter was eventually _____ and arrested by police.
v. to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
11. The suspect _____ capture for weeks before being caught by the police.
v. to escape or avoid capture or detection, often by being clever or cunning
12. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
13. The _____ report revealed that the cause of death was a heart attack.
n. a medical examination performed on a dead body to determine the cause of death or identify any underlying medical conditions or injuries; a postmortem examination or necropsy (in animals)

ANSWERS: 7. clump, 8. acetylcholine, 9. germ, 10. overpowered, 11. eluded, 12. invade, 13. autopsy

14. The detective _____ a critical clue that led to the suspect's arrest.
- v. to discover or bring to light something that is in the ground or was previously hidden or unknown
15. The road was blocked by a fallen tree, _____ the path for all vehicles.
- v. to block or interfere with the passage, movement, or action of something or someone
16. The field of _____ is constantly evolving, with new treatments and approaches being developed all the time.
- n. the branch of medicine concerned with the study, treatment, and prevention of mental illness
17. The vase _____ into pieces when it fell to the ground.
- v. break or cause to break into small fragments
18. Sleep-deprived people gradually lose their concentration and may _____.
- v. to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use
19. 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
20. The study found that regular exercise can help to prevent the onset of _____ in older age.
- n. a severe decline in cognitive function, especially memory, as a result of disease or injury

ANSWERS: 14. unearthed, 15. obstructing, 16. psychiatry, 17. disintegrated, 18. hallucinate, 19. Alzheimer's, 20. dementia

21. The _____ is crucial for learning and memory storage.

n. a major component of the brain of humans and other vertebrates that is part of the limbic system and is vital for memory

22. The global community is undergoing _____ changes at present.

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

23. The stock market has been behaving in an _____ manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.

adj. characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality

ANSWERS: 21. hippocampus, 22. drastic, 23. erratic