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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Joy Lin: If superpowers were real: Body mass | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

superhero

n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

(1) **superhero** movies, (2) **superhero** comics

Superman is a classic **superhero** known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.

intimidate

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

synonym : frighten, threaten, terrify

(1) **intimidate** an opponent, (2) effectively **intimidate** a thief

The boss tried to **intimidate** his subordinate with threats.

fluffy

adj. soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur

synonym : soft, feathery, puffy

(1) **fluffy** clouds, (2) **fluffy** blanket

The kitten had **fluffy** fur that was soft to the touch.

sponge

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

(1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500

million years.

batter

v. to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

synonym: beat, pound, strike

(1) **batter** the eggs, (2) the **batter's** box

He got so angry that he **battered** the door down.

evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

synonym: vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

rearrange

v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

synonym: readjust, reorganize, reconstruct

(1) **rearrange** the furniture, (2) **rearrange** his schedule

Please **rearrange** these files as we start a new project tomorrow.

towering

adj. very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature

synonym: lofty, tall, excessive

(1) **towering** trees, (2) **towering** mountain

The **towering** skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.

exert

v. to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play

synonym: exert, apply, use

(1) **exert** control, (2) **exert** influence

He **exerted** himself to lift the heavyweight.

tendon

n. a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone

synonym: tissue, sinew, ligament

(1) **tendon** grafting, (2) **tendon** collagen

Tendon injuries are common among athletes.

proton

n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

(1) **proton** decay, (2) **proton** conductivity

The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and **protons**.

helium

n. a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

synonym: He, light gas, noble gas

(1) **helium** atom, (2) **helium** gas

The **helium-filled** balloons floated into the sky.

lithium

n. a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder

synonym: lithy, Li, salt

(1) **lithium** carbonate, (2) **lithium** mining

Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used in laptops, smartphones, and electric vehicles.

recombine

v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)

(1) **recombine** at the surface, (2) ability to **recombine**

Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially **recombined**.

fission

n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

synonym: splitting, division, separation

(1) heavy-ion **fission**, (2) atomic **fission**

Nuclear **fission** is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.

bystander

n. a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene

synonym: spectator, observer, witness

(1) innocent **bystander**, (2) shocked **bystander**

The **bystander** effect is a phenomenon where people are less likely to intervene in an emergency if others are present.

superpower

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

synonym: great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

immortality

n. the state or quality of being able to live or last forever

synonym: endless life, timelessness, agelessness

(1) the **immortality** of the soul, (2) achieve **immortality**

Many people believe in the concept of **immortality** and an afterlife.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| 1. ev_____te the water | v. | to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually |
| 2. effectively int_____te a thief | v. | to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do |
| 3. to_____ng mountain | adj. | very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature |
| 4. li_____m mining | n. | a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder |
| 5. ev_____te almost overnight | v. | to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually |
| 6. re_____ge the furniture | v. | to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned |
| 7. ba____r the eggs | v. | to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting |
| 8. re_____ne at the surface | v. | to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material) |
| 9. he____m gas | n. | a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table |

ANSWERS: 1. evaporate, 2. intimidate, 3. towering, 4. lithium, 5. evaporate, 6. rearrange, 7. batter, 8. recombine, 9. helium

10. the ba___r's box *v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
11. pr___n conductivity *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
12. fl___y blanket *adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
13. fl___y clouds *adj.* soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur
14. shocked by_____er *n.* a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene
15. li_____m carbonate *n.* a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder
16. te___n grafting *n.* a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone
17. te___n collagen *n.* a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone
18. su_____ro comics *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
19. he___m atom *n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

ANSWERS: 10. batter, 11. proton, 12. fluffy, 13. fluffy, 14. bystander, 15. lithium, 16. tendon, 17. tendon, 18. superhero, 19. helium

20. achieve imm_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
21. sup_____er country *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
22. metallic sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
23. the imm_____ty of the soul *n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
24. ex__t influence *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
25. sea sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
26. int_____te an opponent *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
27. innocent by_____er *n.* a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene
28. pr___n decay *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

ANSWERS: 20. immortality, 21. superpower, 22. sponge, 23. immortality, 24. exert, 25. sponge, 26. intimidate, 27. bystander, 28. proton

29. atomic fi____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
30. ability to re_____ne *v.* to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
31. sup_____er leader *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
32. ex__t control *v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
33. su_____ro movies *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
34. heavy-ion fi____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
35. re_____ge his schedule *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
36. to_____ng trees *adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature

ANSWERS: 29. fission, 30. recombine, 31. superpower, 32. exert, 33. superhero, 34. fission, 35. rearrange, 36. towering

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Many people believe in the concept of _____ and an afterlife.
n. the state or quality of being able to live or last forever

2. The _____ balloons floated into the sky.
n. a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

3. The _____ effect is a phenomenon where people are less likely to intervene in an emergency if others are present.
n. a person who witnesses an event or situation but does not actively participate or intervene

4. Nuclear _____ is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.
n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

5. He got so angry that he _____ the door down.
v. to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

6. Please _____ these files as we start a new project tomorrow.
v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

7. _____ injuries are common among athletes.
n. a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone

ANSWERS: 1. immortality, 2. helium-filled, 3. bystander, 4. fission, 5. battered, 6. rearrange, 7. Tendon

8. Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially _____.
- v.* to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
9. The tiny marine _____ has existed for more than 500 million years.
- n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
10. He _____ himself to lift the heavyweight.
- v.* to put forth effort; to put into action; to bring into play
11. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a _____ in comic books and movies.
- n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
12. The _____ skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.
- adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
13. Superman is a classic _____ known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.
- n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
14. The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and _____.
- n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

ANSWERS: 8. recombined, 9. sponge, 10. exerted, 11. superpower, 12. towering, 13. superhero, 14. protons

15. The kitten had _____ fur that was soft to the touch.

adj. soft and light, often with a texture that resembles feathers or fur

16. The sun will _____ the mist.

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

17. _____ batteries are commonly used in laptops, smartphones, and electric vehicles.

n. a soft, silvery-white metal that is highly reactive and used in batteries, alloy production, and medications for bipolar disorder

18. The boss tried to _____ his subordinate with threats.

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

ANSWERS: 15. fluffy, 16. evaporate, 17. Lithium-ion, 18. intimidate