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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jeff Steers: Who won the space race? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

human-made

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial

synonym: artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst

human-made disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

superlative

adj. of the highest degree, quality, or intensity; surpassing all others, used to describe comparisons that are extreme or the highest in a particular category

synonym: excellent, exceptional, supreme

(1) **superlative** quality, (2) **superlative** achievement

The restaurant's exotic dishes received **superlative** reviews from food critics.

intercontinental

adj. relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport

synonym: transoceanic, transcontinental, global

(1) **intercontinental** phone call, (2) **intercontinental** ballistic missile

The airline offers **intercontinental** flights to destinations around the world.

ballistic

adj. relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control

synonym: furious, explosive, enraged

(1) **ballistic** missile, (2) **ballistic** vest

The boss went **ballistic** when he found out we missed the deadline.

warhead

n. the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation

synonym: payload, explosive

(1) **warhead** missile, (2) nuclear **warhead**

The missile launch was successful, and the **warhead** hit its intended target.

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.

vanguard

n. the leading or forefront position in a movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative

synonym: forefront, avant-garde, cutting edge

(1) intellectual **vanguard**, (2) artistic **vanguard**

The company is at the **vanguard** of technological innovation in its industry.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym: excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales
The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

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.

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**.

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.

outdo

v. to do better than someone; to surpass

synonym: excel, surpass, outshine

(1) **outdo** him in trickery, (2) **outdo** the competition

He tried to **outdo** his rival by breaking the world record.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. ex___e the crowd | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 2. ba_____ic missile | <i>adj.</i> relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control |
| 3. intellectual va_____rd | <i>n.</i> the leading or forefront position in a movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative |
| 4. int_____tal ballistic missile | <i>adj.</i> relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport |
| 5. sup_____er leader | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 6. hum_____de climate change | <i>adj.</i> created or produced by humans; artificial |
| 7. the worst hum_____de disaster | <i>adj.</i> created or produced by humans; artificial |
| 8. as_____ut mission | <i>n.</i> a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere |
| 9. as_____ut in training | <i>n.</i> a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere |

ANSWERS: 1. excite, 2. ballistic, 3. vanguard, 4. intercontinental, 5. superpower, 6. human-made, 7. human-made, 8. astronaut, 9. astronaut

10. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
11. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
12. su_____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
13. 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
14. ou__o the competition *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
15. wa_____d missile *n.* the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
16. sup_____ve achievement *adj.* of the highest degree, quality, or intensity; surpassing all others, used to describe comparisons that are extreme or the highest in a particular category
17. int_____tal phone call *adj.* relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport
18. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
19. artistic va_____rd *n.* the leading or forefront position in a movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative

ANSWERS: 10. improvisation, 11. embarrass, 12. surpass, 13. superpower, 14. outdo, 15. warhead, 16. superlative, 17. intercontinental, 18. excite, 19. vanguard

20. sup_____ve quality *adj.* of the highest degree, quality, or intensity; surpassing all others, used to describe comparisons that are extreme or the highest in a particular category
21. su_____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
22. ba_____ic vest *adj.* relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
23. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
24. ou__o him in trickery *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
25. nuclear wa_____d *n.* the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
26. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

ANSWERS: 20. superlative, 21. surpass, 22. ballistic, 23. improvisation, 24. outdo, 25. warhead, 26. embarrass

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.
adj. created or produced by humans; artificial
2. The boss went _____ when he found out we missed the deadline.
adj. relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
3. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
4. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
5. The missile launch was successful, and the _____ hit its intended target.
n. the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
6. 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
7. The airline offers _____ flights to destinations around the world.
adj. relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport
8. 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

ANSWERS: 1. human-made, 2. ballistic, 3. excited, 4. surpassed, 5. warhead, 6. astronaut, 7. intercontinental, 8. improvisation

9. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
10. He tried to _____ his rival by breaking the world record.
v. to do better than someone; to surpass
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 company is at the _____ of technological innovation in its industry.
n. the leading or forefront position in a movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative
13. The restaurant's exotic dishes received _____ reviews from food critics.
adj. of the highest degree, quality, or intensity; surpassing all others, used to describe comparisons that are extreme or the highest in a particular category

ANSWERS: 9. embarrass, 10. outdo, 11. superpower, 12. vanguard, 13. superlative