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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Deborah Gordon: What ants teach us about the brain, cancer and the Internet | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

sterile

adj. free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

synonym: clean, germ-free, hygienic

(1) **sterile** environment, (2) a **sterile** man

Surgeons must use **sterile** instruments to prevent infection during an operation.

conceivable

adj. imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind

synonym: believable, imaginable, probable

(1) **conceivable** way, (2) **conceivable** emergency

It is challenging to defend every **conceivable** target.

trade-off

n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise

synonym: compromise, balance, exchange

(1) **trade-off** problem, (2) environmental **trade-off**

There was a **trade-off** between speed and accuracy in the task.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym: nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

grandchild

n. a child of someone's son or daughter

synonym: offspring, descendant, progeny

(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

resemblance

n. similarity in appearance or exterior or superficial details

synonym: closeness, likeness, similarity

(1) striking **resemblance**, (2) faint **resemblance**

The **resemblance** between Anna and her mother was astonishing.

conserve

v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

synonym: preserve, save, maintain

(1) means to **conserve** energy, (2) **conserve** coal resources

Children must be taught to **conserve** our natural environment.

trickle

v. to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities

synonym: dribble, flow, seep

(1) **trickle** down my cheek, (2) **trickle** from his eyes

Water was beginning to **trickle** into the basement after the heavy rain.

matriarch

n. a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group

synonym: leader, head, founder

(1) ruled by a **matriarch**, (2) **matriarch** figure

The **matriarch** of the family was known for her wisdom and guidance.

humid

adj. having a high amount of moisture or water vapor in the air; damp; muggy

synonym: damp, muggy, moist

(1) **humid** climate, (2) uncomfortably **humid**

The air was so **humid** that my clothes felt damp.

abdomen

n. the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments

synonym: belly, gut, tummy

(1) **abdomen** pain, (2) insect **abdomen**

The weightlifter used his strong **abdomen** muscles to lift the heavy barbell.

fortress

n. a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

synonym: castle, citadel, stronghold

(1) **fortress** wall, (2) military **fortress**

The ancient **fortress** was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.

microgravity

n. a condition of feeble gravity, often experienced by objects or organisms in orbit around a planet or other celestial body, such as the International Space Station

synonym : zero gravity, weightlessness, freefall

(1) **microgravity** research, (2) **microgravity** environment

Astronauts experience the effects of **microgravity** when they are in space.

toxin

n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

synonym : poison, venom, contaminant

(1) **toxin** exposure, (2) **toxin** production

Mold exposure can release dangerous **toxins** into the air.

metastasize

v. (of a cancerous tumor or disease) to spread or grow to other parts of the body from its original location

synonym : spread, multiply, disseminate

(1) **metastasize** to the liver, (2) **metastasize** from breast cancer

Cancer cells can **metastasize** and spread to other body parts if left untreated.

metastatic

adj. used to describe cancer cells that have spread from the primary site of origin to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system

synonym : spreading, invasive, secondary

(1) **metastatic** disease, (2) **metastatic** spreading

Metastatic cancer has spread from its original site to other body parts.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ne___n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
2. tr____e from his eyes *v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
3. st____e environment *adj.* free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing
4. striking res____ce *n.* similarity in appearance or exterior or superficial details
5. ruled by a ma____ch *n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group
6. gra____ld development *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
7. military fo____ss *n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
8. met____ic disease *adj.* used to describe cancer cells that have spread from the primary site of origin to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system
9. means to co____ve energy *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

ANSWERS: 1. neuron, 2. trickle, 3. sterile, 4. resemblance, 5. matriarch, 6. grandchild, 7. fortress, 8. metastatic, 9. conserve

10. insect ab____n *n.* the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments
11. met_____ze to the liver *v.* (of a cancerous tumor or disease) to spread or grow to other parts of the body from its original location
12. a st_____e man *adj.* free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing
13. to__n exposure *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
14. con_____le way *adj.* imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind
15. faint res_____ce *n.* similarity in appearance or exterior or superficial details
16. uncomfortably hu__d *adj.* having a high amount of moisture or water vapor in the air; damp; muggy
17. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
18. excite the ne____ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
19. met_____ic spreading *adj.* used to describe cancer cells that have spread from the primary site of origin to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system

ANSWERS: 10. abdomen, 11. metastasize, 12. sterile, 13. toxin, 14. conceivable, 15. resemblance, 16. humid, 17. grandchild, 18. neuron, 19. metastatic

20. ma_____ch figure *n.* a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group
21. to__n production *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
22. ab_____n pain *n.* the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments
23. hu__d climate *adj.* having a high amount of moisture or water vapor in the air; damp; muggy
24. co_____ve coal resources *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
25. tr_____e down my cheek *v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
26. tr_____ff problem *n.* a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
27. mic_____ity environment *n.* a condition of feeble gravity, often experienced by objects or organisms in orbit around a planet or other celestial body, such as the International Space Station
28. fo_____ss wall *n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

ANSWERS: 20. matriarch, 21. toxin, 22. abdomen, 23. humid, 24. conserve, 25. trickle, 26. trade-off, 27. microgravity, 28. fortress

29. mic_____ity research *n.* a condition of feeble gravity, often experienced by objects or organisms in orbit around a planet or other celestial body, such as the International Space Station
30. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
31. met_____ze from breast cancer *v.* (of a cancerous tumor or disease) to spread or grow to other parts of the body from its original location
32. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
33. environmental tr_____ff *n.* a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
34. con_____le emergency *adj.* imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind

ANSWERS: 29. microgravity, 30. neuroscience, 31. metastasize, 32. neuroscience, 33. trade-off, 34. conceivable

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
2. It is challenging to defend every _____ target.
adj. imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind
3. The _____ of the family was known for her wisdom and guidance.
n. a woman who is the head of a family or social group; a woman who is the founder or dominant member of a group
4. Astronauts experience the effects of _____ when they are in space.
n. a condition of feeble gravity, often experienced by objects or organisms in orbit around a planet or other celestial body, such as the International Space Station
5. The ancient _____ was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.
n. a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
6. Water was beginning to _____ into the basement after the heavy rain.
v. to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
7. The weightlifter used his strong _____ muscles to lift the heavy barbell.
n. the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments

ANSWERS: 1. neuroscience, 2. conceivable, 3. matriarch, 4. microgravity, 5. fortress, 6. trickle, 7. abdomen

8. Surgeons must use _____ instruments to prevent infection during an operation.
adj. free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing
9. Mold exposure can release dangerous _____ into the air.
n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
10. The _____ between Anna and her mother was astonishing.
n. similarity in appearance or exterior or superficial details
11. There was a _____ between speed and accuracy in the task.
n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
12. _____ cancer has spread from its original site to other body parts.
adj. used to describe cancer cells that have spread from the primary site of origin to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system
13. The air was so _____ that my clothes felt damp.
adj. having a high amount of moisture or water vapor in the air; damp; muggy
14. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
15. Children must be taught to _____ our natural environment.
v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

ANSWERS: 8. sterile, 9. toxins, 10. resemblance, 11. trade-off, 12. Metastatic, 13. humid, 14. neuron, 15. conserve

16. Cancer cells can _____ and spread to other body parts if left untreated.
- v.* (of a cancerous tumor or disease) to spread or grow to other parts of the body from its original location
17. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
- n.* a child of someone's son or daughter

ANSWERS: 16. metastasize, 17. grandchild