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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

James Flynn: Why our IQ levels are higher than our grandparents' | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

verge

n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
synonym: brink, edge, margin

(1) **verge** of bankruptcy, (2) on the **verge** of tears

He stood on the **verge** of a major discovery.

retard

v. to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back
synonym: delay, hinder, impede

(1) **retard** progress, (2) **retard** the growth

Excessive alcohol consumption may confuse time, blur vision, dim alertness, and **retard** response.

illuminating

adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light

synonym: enlightening, informative, clarifying

(1) **illuminating** light, (2) an **illuminating** answer

The lecture was **illuminating** and gave me a new perspective on the topic.

Martian

adj. of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants

(1) **Martian** geography, (2) **Martian** surface

There is very little water in the **Martian** atmosphere.

archaeology

n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**

She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

bullseye

n. the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve

synonym: target, mark, aim

(1) **bullseye** target, (2) miss the **bullseye**

The archer hit the **bullseye** with perfect precision from 50 yards away.

baffle

v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

synonym: perplex, astound, hinder

(1) **baffle** his plan, (2) **baffle** outside noises

The paradox **baffled** most philosophers.

eyesight

n. the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness

synonym: vision, sight, eyes

(1) impaired **eyesight**, (2) acute **eyesight**

His excellent **eyesight** allowed him to spot the bird in the dense foliage.

escalate

v. to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious

synonym: increase, intensify, expand

(1) **escalate** into a major international incident, (2) to **escalate**

The situation quickly **escalated** and turned violent.

musket

n. a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle

synonym: rifle, firearm, gun

(1) antique **musket**, (2) civil war **musket**

The **musket** ball was made of lead and could cause serious injuries or even death to those hit by it.

artillery

n. large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces

synonym: guns, cannons, ordnance

(1) **artillery** fire, (2) coastal **artillery**

The army brought in heavier **artillery** to break through the enemy defenses.

deduce

v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning

synonym: conclude, infer, suppose

(1) **deduce** facts from the evidence, (2) **deduce** the meaning of a word

The researcher **deduced** the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.

peck

v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

synonym: beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

trustworthy

adj. reliable and dependable

synonym : reliable, dependable, honest

(1) **trustworthy** ally, (2) **trustworthy** source

People tend to believe **trustworthy** friends with their secrets.

remiss

adj. negligent or careless in performing a duty or task; failing to take proper care or give sufficient attention

synonym : negligent, careless, negligent

(1) **remiss** behavior, (2) **remiss** in his duties

Her **remiss** attitude towards her studies is why she falls behind in class.

agile

adj. able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled

synonym : nimble, quick, flexible

(1) an **agile** mind, (2) **agile** in his movements

The **agile** development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.

bribe

v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements

synonym : graft, corrupt

(1) **bribe** a politician, (2) **bribe** him with food

He tries to **bribe** the ship's captain to export illegal products.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym : obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

immovable

adj. firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible

synonym : inflexible, fixed, rigid

(1) **immovable** property, (2) **immovable** facts

The corporation's CEO was an **immovable** force, determined to keep the company profitable at all costs.

Sodom

n. a city that, according to the Bible, was destroyed by God because of the wickedness of its inhabitants; also refer as sodomy, anal intercourse between men

(1) **Sodom** and Gomorrah, (2) the city of **Sodom**

The term "**Sodom**" has become synonymous with acts of homosexuality and is used as a derogatory term for gay people.

tainted

adj. spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste

synonym : spoiled, contaminated, infected

(1) **tainted** soil, (2) **tainted** reputation

The meat had to be thrown out because it was **tainted** with bacteria.

raven

n. a large, glossy black bird that is a species of a crow; a person with jet-black hair, sometimes used as an adjective to describe such hair

synonym : crow, blackbird, corvid

(1) **raven** feather, (2) **raven** in flight

The **raven's** distinctive croaking call echoed through the forest.

wildcat

n. a small, carnivorous mammal with a long, slim body, short legs, and a long, bushy tail that is native to North and Central America and Eurasia; a risky or unproven venture

synonym : untamed cat, lynx, reckless

(1) **wildcat** speculation, (2) African **wildcat**

The forest **wildcat** was known for its agility and strength.

semicircle

n. half of a circle; a curve or line that represents half of a complete circle

synonym : hemicycle, arc, crescent

(1) **semicircle** shape, (2) **semicircle** perimeter

The playground had a colorful **semicircle** of benches for children to rest and play.

dishearten

v. to cause someone to lose hope, confidence, or enthusiasm; to discourage or demoralize

synonym : discourage, dismay, demoralize

(1) **dishearten** employees, (2) **dishearten** the hopeful job applicant

The team's loss in the semifinals did not **dishearten** their determination to return stronger next season.

sophistication

n. the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined

synonym : refinement, culture, elegance

(1) cultural **sophistication**, (2) linguistic **sophistication**

The new technology added a level of **sophistication** to the manufacturing process.

battleship

n. a large, heavily armed warship that is designed to engage in naval warfare

synonym : warship, navy ship, military vessel

(1) **battleship** gray, (2) an up-to-date **battleship**

The first-class **battleship** was equipped with a powerful cannon.

munition

n. weapons and ammunition used by soldiers or military forces; the tools, materials, or equipment used in the preparation or use of weapons and ammunition

synonym : armament, weaponry, ordnance

(1) **munitions** factory, (2) military **munitions**

The soldiers had stored their **munitions** in a secure bunker.

lamppost

n. a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps

synonym: streetlight, light post, pole light

(1) **lamppost** light, (2) hit a **lamppost**

The **lamppost** on the corner of the street has been out for a week, making it difficult to see at night.

pessimistic

adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

synonym: cynical, defeatist, despairing

(1) take a **pessimistic** view of life, (2) **pessimistic** for our survival

She was unduly **pessimistic** about her future.

aristocracy

n. a group of persons with high social status

synonym: elite, nobility, upper class

(1) member of the **aristocracy**, (2) the blue-blooded **aristocracy**

Despite his popularity among the **aristocracy**, he was unpopular with the general public.

mindset

n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

synonym: attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

reptile

n. a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles

synonym: lizard, serpent, snake

(1) **reptile** exhibition, (2) fossil **reptile**

Alligators are a type of **reptile** that live in swamps and rivers.

colonel

n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

synonym: officer, military, ranking officer

(1) **colonel** rank, (2) brevet **colonel**

The Army **colonel** led the troops into battle.

Session 2: Spelling

1. fossil re_____e *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
2. la_____st light *n.* a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps
3. Ma_____n surface *adj.* of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants
4. impaired ey_____ht *n.* the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness
5. pes_____ic for our survival *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
6. ba_____e his plan *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
7. ta_____d reputation *adj.* spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste
8. im_____le facts *adj.* firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible
9. es_____te into a major international incident *v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
10. re_____s in his duties *adj.* negligent or careless in performing a duty or task; failing to take proper care or give sufficient attention

ANSWERS: 1. reptile, 2. lamppost, 3. Martian, 4. eyesight, 5. pessimistic, 6. baffle, 7. tainted, 8. immovable, 9. escalate, 10. remiss

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|--|---|
| 11. an ill_____ing answer | <i>adj.</i> making something clear or easy to understand; providing light |
| 12. person of gra_____nt age | <i>n.</i> a parent of one's father or mother |
| 13. ra__n feather | <i>n.</i> a large, glossy black bird that is a species of a crow; a person with jet-black hair, sometimes used as an adjective to describe such hair |
| 14. p__k at feed | <i>v.</i> to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble |
| 15. prehistoric arc_____gy | <i>n.</i> the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures |
| 16. military mu_____ons | <i>n.</i> weapons and ammunition used by soldiers or military forces; the tools, materials, or equipment used in the preparation or use of weapons and ammunition |
| 17. wi_____t speculation | <i>n.</i> a small, carnivorous mammal with a long, slim body, short legs, and a long, bushy tail that is native to North and Central America and Eurasia; a risky or unproven venture |
| 18. civil war mu____t | <i>n.</i> a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle |
| 19. dis_____en the hopeful job applicant | <i>v.</i> to cause someone to lose hope, confidence, or enthusiasm; to discourage or demoralize |

ANSWERS: 11. illuminating, 12. grandparent, 13. raven, 14. peck, 15. archaeology, 16. munition, 17. wildcat, 18. musket, 19. dishearten

20. ra__n in flight *n.* a large, glossy black bird that is a species of a crow; a person with jet-black hair, sometimes used as an adjective to describe such hair
21. cultural sop_____ion *n.* the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined
22. re___d progress *v.* to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back
23. member of the ari_____cy *n.* a group of persons with high social status
24. ta_____d soil *adj.* spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste
25. tru_____hy source *adj.* reliable and dependable
26. flexible mi_____t *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
27. antique mu_____t *n.* a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle
28. de___e the meaning of a word *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
29. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
30. p__k on the cheek *v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

ANSWERS: 20. raven, 21. sophistication, 22. retard, 23. aristocracy, 24. tainted, 25. trustworthy, 26. mindset, 27. musket, 28. deduce, 29. grandparent, 30. peck

31. take a pes_____ic view of life *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
32. re_____e exhibition *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
33. an ag__e mind *adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
34. an up-to-date bat_____ip *n.* a large, heavily armed warship that is designed to engage in naval warfare
35. miss the bu_____ye *n.* the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve
36. dis_____en employees *v.* to cause someone to lose hope, confidence, or enthusiasm; to discourage or demoralize
37. ar_____ry fire *n.* large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces
38. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
39. tru_____hy ally *adj.* reliable and dependable
40. hit a la_____st *n.* a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps
41. the city of So__m *n.* a city that, according to the Bible, was destroyed by God because of the wickedness of its inhabitants; also refer as sodomy, anal intercourse between men

ANSWERS: 31. pessimistic, 32. reptile, 33. agile, 34. battleship, 35. bullseye, 36. dishearten, 37. artillery, 38. ancestor, 39. trustworthy, 40. lamppost, 41. Sodom

42. acute ey____ht *n.* the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness
43. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
44. the blue-blooded ari____cy *n.* a group of persons with high social status
45. bu____ye target *n.* the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve
46. Ma____n geography *adj.* of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants
47. br__e a politician *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
48. bat____ip gray *n.* a large, heavily armed warship that is designed to engage in naval warfare
49. im____le property *adj.* firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible
50. ill____ing light *adj.* making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
51. So__m and Gomorrah *n.* a city that, according to the Bible, was destroyed by God because of the wickedness of its inhabitants; also refer as sodomy, anal intercourse between men
52. ba____e outside noises *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

ANSWERS: 42. eyesight, 43. ancestor, 44. aristocracy, 45. bullseye, 46. Martian, 47. bribe, 48. battleship, 49. immovable, 50. illuminating, 51. Sodom, 52. baffle

53. de___e facts from the evidence *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
54. in_____t estate *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
55. linguistic sop_____ion *n.* the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined
56. brevet co_____l *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
57. the mi_____t in an education system *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
58. coastal ar_____ry *n.* large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces
59. to es_____te *v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
60. re___s behavior *adj.* negligent or careless in performing a duty or task; failing to take proper care or give sufficient attention
61. mu_____ons factory *n.* weapons and ammunition used by soldiers or military forces; the tools, materials, or equipment used in the preparation or use of weapons and ammunition

ANSWERS: 53. deduce, 54. inherit, 55. sophistication, 56. colonel, 57. mindset, 58. artillery, 59. escalate, 60. remiss, 61. munition

62. ag__e in his movements *adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
63. sem_____le shape *n.* half of a circle; a curve or line that represents half of a complete circle
64. in_____t ancestral property *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
65. on the ve__e of tears *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
66. African wi_____t *n.* a small, carnivorous mammal with a long, slim body, short legs, and a long, bushy tail that is native to North and Central America and Eurasia; a risky or unproven venture
67. br__e him with food *v.* to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
68. re___d the growth *v.* to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back
69. sem_____le perimeter *n.* half of a circle; a curve or line that represents half of a complete circle
70. the institute of arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
71. co_____l rank *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

ANSWERS: 62. agile, 63. semicircle, 64. inherit, 65. verge, 66. wildcat, 67. bribe, 68. retard, 69. semicircle, 70. archaeology, 71. colonel

72. ve__e of bankruptcy

n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

ANSWERS: 72. verge

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The corporation's CEO was an _____ force, determined to keep the company profitable at all costs.
adj. firmly fixed in place; unable to be moved or changed easily; unyielding or inflexible
2. He stood on the _____ of a major discovery.
n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
3. The situation quickly _____ and turned violent.
v. to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
4. The lecture was _____ and gave me a new perspective on the topic.
adj. making something clear or easy to understand; providing light
5. The _____ on the corner of the street has been out for a week, making it difficult to see at night.
n. a tall standing pole that supports one or more electric lamps
6. The _____ development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.
adj. able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
7. The researcher _____ the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.
v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning

ANSWERS: 1. immovable, 2. verge, 3. escalated, 4. illuminating, 5. lamppost, 6. agile, 7. deduced

8. Excessive alcohol consumption may confuse time, blur vision, dim alertness, and _____ response.
- v. to hinder, delay, or slow down the progress or development of something; to cause someone or something to be delayed or held back
9. The wood _____ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.
- v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
10. Her _____ attitude towards her studies is why she falls behind in class.
- adj. negligent or careless in performing a duty or task; failing to take proper care or give sufficient attention
11. There is very little water in the _____ atmosphere.
- adj. of or relating to Mars or its imaginary inhabitants
12. The meat had to be thrown out because it was _____ with bacteria.
- adj. spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste
13. He tries to _____ the ship's captain to export illegal products.
- v. to try to make someone do something to gain one's favors or influence by giving a gift of money or other inducements
14. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
- n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
15. People tend to believe _____ friends with their secrets.
- adj. reliable and dependable

ANSWERS: 8. retard, 9. pecker, 10. remiss, 11. Martian, 12. tainted, 13. bribe, 14. ancestor, 15. trustworthy

16. The first-class _____ was equipped with a powerful cannon.
n. a large, heavily armed warship that is designed to engage in naval warfare
17. She was unduly _____ about her future.
adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
18. The playground had a colorful _____ of benches for children to rest and play.
n. half of a circle; a curve or line that represents half of a complete circle
19. The paradox _____ most philosophers.
v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
20. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial _____ in each individual.
n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
21. The term " _____ has become synonymous with acts of homosexuality and is used as a derogatory term for gay people.
n. a city that, according to the Bible, was destroyed by God because of the wickedness of its inhabitants; also refer as sodomy, anal intercourse between men
22. She teaches _____ at the local university.
n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
23. The team's loss in the semifinals did not _____ their determination to return stronger next season.
v. to cause someone to lose hope, confidence, or enthusiasm; to discourage or demoralize

ANSWERS: 16. battleship, 17. pessimistic, 18. semicircle, 19. baffled, 20. mindset, 21. Sodom", 22. archaeology, 23. dishearten

24. The soldiers had stored their _____ in a secure bunker.
- n.* weapons and ammunition used by soldiers or military forces; the tools, materials, or equipment used in the preparation or use of weapons and ammunition
25. The forest _____ was known for its agility and strength.
- n.* a small, carnivorous mammal with a long, slim body, short legs, and a long, bushy tail that is native to North and Central America and Eurasia; a risky or unproven venture
26. The new technology added a level of _____ to the manufacturing process.
- n.* the quality or state of having a great deal of worldly experience; the quality or state of being intellectually or culturally refined
27. The _____ ball was made of lead and could cause serious injuries or even death to those hit by it.
- n.* a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle
28. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
- v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
29. Despite his popularity among the _____ he was unpopular with the general public.
- n.* a group of persons with high social status
30. The archer hit the _____ with perfect precision from 50 yards away.
- n.* the center of a target often used figuratively to mean the exact area or goal one is trying to achieve

ANSWERS: 24. munitions, 25. wildcat, 26. sophistication, 27. musket, 28. inherited, 29. aristocracy, 30. bullseye

31. The _____ distinctive croaking call echoed through the forest.
- n.* a large, glossy black bird that is a species of a crow; a person with jet-black hair, sometimes used as an adjective to describe such hair
32. The Army _____ led the troops into battle.
- n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
33. Alligators are a type of _____ that live in swamps and rivers.
- n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
34. His excellent _____ allowed him to spot the bird in the dense foliage.
- n.* the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness
35. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
- n.* a parent of one's father or mother
36. The army brought in heavier _____ to break through the enemy defenses.
- n.* large-caliber guns used in warfare, typically operated by a crew and mounted on wheels or in a fixed position; any military weapons, equipment, or vehicles that are operated by a special branch or unit of the armed forces

ANSWERS: 31. raven's, 32. colonel, 33. reptile, 34. eyesight, 35. grandparents, 36. artillery