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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kate Messner: How to build a fictional world | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax
His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

immortal

adj. having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance

synonym: eternal, everlasting, undying

(1) **immortal** soul, (2) **immortal** love

Legends often describe mythical creatures as **immortal** beings.

resurrect

v. to bring back to life or bring into existence again
synonym: revive, bring back, bring to life

(1) **resurrect** the dead, (2) **resurrect** an argument

They tried to **resurrect** the ancient tradition.

awaken

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
synonym: rouse, arouse, revive

(1) **awaken** at daybreak, (2) **awaken** a child

The friend's death **awakens** them.

juggle

v. to manage or cope with several tasks, responsibilities, or situations simultaneously; to keep several things in the air at once, as in a juggling act

synonym : jiggle, balance, handle

(1) **juggle** a job and motherhood, (2) **juggle** with facts

It can be difficult to **juggle** work, family, and social life, but finding balance is important.

rudimentary

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

synonym : essential, fundamental, elementary

(1) a **rudimentary** plant, (2) **rudimentary** understanding

He has only a **rudimentary** knowledge of this topic.

snitch

v. to inform on or betray someone, usually to authorities or figures of authority, especially for personal gain or advantage

synonym : inform, tattle, rat

(1) **snitch** and give valuable information, (2) **snitch** to the authorities

He **snitched** on his coworkers when he realized they were breaking the law.

societal

adj. relating to society or social relationships

synonym : social, communal, cultural

(1) **societal** norms, (2) **societal** expectations

The **societal** pressure to conform is strong in this community.

intricate

adj. having many different parts and small details that all work together

synonym : complicated, convoluted, complex

(1) **intricate** details, (2) **intricate** lacework

The politician managed to deal with that **intricate** issue.

believable

adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible

synonym : plausible, credible, convincing

(1) **believable** story, (2) **believable** excuse

The novel's plot was so well-written that it seemed **believable** and realistic.

comprehensible

adj. able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable

synonym : understandable, intelligible, clear

(1) **comprehensible** language, (2) **comprehensible** to everyone

The textbook explanation made the difficult concept **comprehensible** to the students.

wand

n. a slender rod or stick, especially one used for magic or divination; a rod or staff carried by certain officials as a symbol of authority

synonym : rod, stick, staff

(1) magic **wand**, (2) security **wand**

The magician waved his **wand**, and a rabbit appeared from the hat.

bookend

n. an object, often decorative or functional, placed at either end of a row of books on a shelf to help keep them upright and organized; something that serves as the beginning and end of a series or a period of time.

synonym : book stop, end piece, support

(1) wooden **bookend**, (2) **bookend** design

The movie starts and ends with a panoramic shot of the city, serving as a great **bookend** to the story.

sprout

v. to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly

synonym : germinate, grow, bud

(1) **sprout** seeds, (2) **sprout** wings

The flowers in the garden began to **sprout** after the first rain of the season.

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.

squiggle

n. a curly or wavy line or mark, especially one that is irregular or difficult to follow; (verb) to draw or write something in a wavy or irregular manner, often with a series of small curves or loops

synonym : squiggle, doodle, scribble

(1) **squiggle** line, (2) wavy **squiggle**

My signature always has a little **squiggle** at the end.

decode

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

synonym : decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences

The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

napkin

n. a small piece of cloth or paper used for wiping one's mouth and hands while eating; a decorative cloth placed on a table for formal occasions

synonym : serviette, handkerchief, cloth

(1) paper **napkin**, (2) linen **napkin**

I always keep a stack of **napkins** on my desk while I eat to prevent any messes.

figurative

adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal

synonym : metaphorical, symbolic, allegorical

(1) in a **figurative** sense, (2) **figurative** painting

When he said he was starving to death, it was a **figurative** way of saying he was very hungry.

futurist

n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

synonym : foreseer, prophet, fortune-teller

(1) **futurist** architecture, (2) **futurist** ideas

The radical **futurist** predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.

brainstorming

n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

(1) **brainstorming** session, (2) do a **brainstorming** about a new product

Many companies employ **brainstorming** as a good way of generating innovative ideas.

Session 2: Spelling

1. bel_____le excuse *adj.* able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
2. ju___e a job and motherhood *v.* to manage or cope with several tasks, responsibilities, or situations simultaneously; to keep several things in the air at once, as in a juggling act
3. in_____te details *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
4. in a fig_____ve sense *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
5. so_____al norms *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
6. wavy sq_____le *n.* a curly or wavy line or mark, especially one that is irregular or difficult to follow; (verb) to draw or write something in a wavy or irregular manner, often with a series of small curves or loops
7. com_____ble to everyone *adj.* able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable
8. com_____ble language *adj.* able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable
9. linen na___n *n.* a small piece of cloth or paper used for wiping one's mouth and hands while eating; a decorative cloth placed on a table for formal occasions
10. im_____al soul *adj.* having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance

ANSWERS: 1. believable, 2. juggle, 3. intricate, 4. figurative, 5. societal, 6. squiggle, 7. comprehensible, 8. comprehensible, 9. napkin, 10. immortal

11. ju___e with facts *v.* to manage or cope with several tasks, responsibilities, or situations simultaneously; to keep several things in the air at once, as in a juggling act
12. sp___t seeds *v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly
13. sn___h and give valuable information *v.* to inform on or betray someone, usually to authorities or figures of authority, especially for personal gain or advantage
14. hum_____de climate change *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
15. bra_____ing session *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
16. a rud_____ry plant *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
17. de___e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
18. bel_____le story *adj.* able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
19. rud_____ry understanding *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
20. magic w__d *n.* a slender rod or stick, especially one used for magic or divination; a rod or staff carried by certain officials as a symbol of authority

ANSWERS: 11. juggle, 12. sprout, 13. snitch, 14. human-made, 15. brainstorming, 16. rudimentary, 17. decode, 18. believable, 19. rudimentary, 20. wand

21. aw___n a child *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
22. sn___h to the authorities *v.* to inform on or betray someone, usually to authorities or figures of authority, especially for personal gain or advantage
23. paper na___n *n.* a small piece of cloth or paper used for wiping one's mouth and hands while eating; a decorative cloth placed on a table for formal occasions
24. bo____d design *n.* an object, often decorative or functional, placed at either end of a row of books on a shelf to help keep them upright and organized; something that serves as the beginning and end of a series or a period of time.
25. so____al expectations *adj.* relating to society or social relationships
26. fig____ve painting *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
27. sq____le line *n.* a curly or wavy line or mark, especially one that is irregular or difficult to follow; (verb) to draw or write something in a wavy or irregular manner, often with a series of small curves or loops
28. security w__d *n.* a slender rod or stick, especially one used for magic or divination; a rod or staff carried by certain officials as a symbol of authority

ANSWERS: 21. awaken, 22. snitch, 23. napkin, 24. bookend, 25. societal, 26. figurative, 27. squiggle, 28. wand

29. im_____al love *adj.* having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance
30. the worst hum_____de disaster *adj.* created or produced by humans; artificial
31. do a bra_____ing about a new product *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
32. aw_____n at daybreak *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
33. wooden bo_____d *n.* an object, often decorative or functional, placed at either end of a row of books on a shelf to help keep them upright and organized; something that serves as the beginning and end of a series or a period of time.
34. ability to de_____e the differences *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
35. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
36. fu_____st architecture *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
37. re_____ct an argument *v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again

ANSWERS: 29. immortal, 30. human-made, 31. brainstorming, 32. awaken, 33. bookend, 34. decode, 35. inhabitant, 36. futurist, 37. resurrect

38. fu____st ideas *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
39. sp____t wings *v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly
40. in____te lacework *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
41. inh____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
42. re____ct the dead *v.* to bring back to life or bring into existence again

ANSWERS: 38. futurist, 39. sprout, 40. intricate, 41. inhabitant, 42. resurrect

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My signature always has a little _____ at the end.
n. a curly or wavy line or mark, especially one that is irregular or difficult to follow; (verb) to draw or write something in a wavy or irregular manner, often with a series of small curves or loops
2. It can be difficult to _____ work, family, and social life, but finding balance is important.
v. to manage or cope with several tasks, responsibilities, or situations simultaneously; to keep several things in the air at once, as in a juggling act
3. When he said he was starving to death, it was a _____ way of saying he was very hungry.
adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
4. The _____ pressure to conform is strong in this community.
adj. relating to society or social relationships
5. The textbook explanation made the difficult concept _____ to the students.
adj. able to be understood or grasped by the mind; clear and understandable
6. They tried to _____ the ancient tradition.
v. to bring back to life or bring into existence again
7. The software could _____ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.
v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

ANSWERS: 1. squiggle, 2. juggle, 3. figurative, 4. societal, 5. comprehensible, 6. resurrect, 7. decode

8. Legends often describe mythical creatures as _____ beings.
adj. having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance
9. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
10. The politician managed to deal with that _____ issue.
adj. having many different parts and small details that all work together
11. The friend's death _____ them.
v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
12. The novel's plot was so well-written that it seemed _____ and realistic.
adj. able to be accepted or easily believed; convincing or plausible
13. He has only a _____ knowledge of this topic.
adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
14. He _____ on his coworkers when he realized they were breaking the law.
v. to inform on or betray someone, usually to authorities or figures of authority, especially for personal gain or advantage
15. I always keep a stack of _____ on my desk while I eat to prevent any messes.
n. a small piece of cloth or paper used for wiping one's mouth and hands while eating; a decorative cloth placed on a table for formal occasions
16. The magician waved his _____ and a rabbit appeared from the hat.
n. a slender rod or stick, especially one used for magic or divination; a rod or staff carried by certain officials as a symbol of authority

ANSWERS: 8. immortal, 9. inhabitant, 10. intricate, 11. awakens, 12. believable, 13. rudimentary, 14. snitched, 15. napkins, 16. wand,

17. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial

18. Many companies employ _____ as a good way of generating innovative ideas.

n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

19. The flowers in the garden began to _____ after the first rain of the season.

v. to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly

20. The radical _____ predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.

n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

21. The movie starts and ends with a panoramic shot of the city, serving as a great _____ to the story.

n. an object, often decorative or functional, placed at either end of a row of books on a shelf to help keep them upright and organized; something that serves as the beginning and end of a series or a period of time.

ANSWERS: 17. human-made, 18. brainstorming, 19. sprout, 20. futurist, 21. bookend