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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Chad Orzel: Schrödinger's cat: A thought experiment in quantum mechanics | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/chad_orzel_schrodinger_s _cat_a_thought_experiment_in_quantum_mechanics



All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

physicist

- n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
- (1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

quantum

- the smallest amount or unit of something, especially (electromagnetic) energy
- (1) probabilistic **quantum** theory, (2) laws of **quantum** mechanics

Big techs are now eager to develop quantum computers.

mechanics

 n. the branch of physics that deals with the study of motion, forces, and energy; (mechanic) someone whose occupation is repairing and maintaining automobiles

synonym: kinematics, dynamics

(1) **mechanics** equation, (2) **mechanics** of the game He studied **mechanics** in college and now works as an engineer.

experiment

 the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

synonym: experimentation, investigation

(1) experiment design, (2) series of experiments

His **experiments** showed highly positive results.

involve

v. to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

synonym: implicate, include, engage

(1) **involve** a lot of paperwork, (2) **involve** a high degree of risk

The investigation **involves** several government agencies and is expected to take several months.

sealed

adj. closed or secured with

synonym: closed, impenetrable

(1) sealed orders, (2) sealed jar

We packed and shipped the product in **sealed** containers.

device

 a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic

synonym: gadget, instrument, tool

(1) electronic device, (2) tracking device

I always carry a backup **device** in case my phone runs out of battery.

physics

- n. the science of matter and energy and their interactions
- (1) nuclear **physics**, (2) laws of **physics**

He studied the **physics** of radiation.

instant

adj. happening immediately, with no delay

synonym: immediate, urgent, moment

(1) get **instant** access, (2) an **instant** reply

His pleasant face turned cold in an **instant**.

definite

 adj. clearly defined or determined; having no doubt or uncertainty; precise or exact

synonym: clear, certain, precise

(1) **definite** answer, (2) **definite** plan

My boss provided me with **definite** instructions on how to complete the project.

blur

 a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

synonym: smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) blur image, (2) motion blur

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

probable

adj. likely to happen or likely to be true synonym: likely, possible, potential

(1) **probable** outcome, (2) **probable** cause of a fire It seems **probable** that he has forgotten our scheduled meeting.

absurd

adj. ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogicalsynonym: ridiculous, foolish, idiotic

(1) **absurd** storyline, (2) an **absurd** amount of money We immediately rejected his **absurd** suggestion.

philosophy

- the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind
 synonym: doctrine, attitude, creed
- (1) **philosophy** of education, (2) western **philosophy** Ethics is a branch of **philosophy**.

disturb

- v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc. synonym: agitate, bother, intrude
- (1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

abandon

v. to leave a place, thing, or person with no intention of returning; (noun) a feeling of extreme emotional intensity synonym:

relinquish, leave behind, disregard

(1) **abandon** a friend, (2) **abandon** the practice The castle was **abandoned** several years later.

biology

- n. the scientific study of life and the natural processes of living things
- (1) evolutionary **biology**, (2) cell and molecular **biology** In junior high school, we had to dissect a frog in **biology** class.

essential

adj. indispensable; fundamental synonym: critical, crucial, basic

(1) **essential** amino acid, (2) **essential** commodities of life Trial and error is an **essential** part of education.

phenomenon

 something that exists and can be perceptible, especially one that is not fully understood

synonym: marvel, wonder, splendor

(1) natural **phenomenon**, (2) historical **phenomenon** A rainbow is a natural **phenomenon**.

superposition

a principle in physics that describes the combination or overlaying of two or more waves or states of matter; (of geology) the process by which layers of rock or sediment are deposited on top of one another over time synonym: overlay, overlap

(1) quantum superposition,(2) superposition theoremThe superposition of waves can result in either constructive

consequence

 the outcome of a particular action or event, especially relative to an individual

synonym: result, impact, outcome

or destructive interference.

(1) unintended **consequences**, (2) the **consequence** of an argument

These economic activities had disastrous environmental

consequences.

dual

adj. having two parts, aspects, or elements synonym: twofold, binary, double

(1) dual purpose, (2) dual nationality

This laptop has a **dual-core** processor, making it fast and efficient.

particle

- a small piece of something; a word or piece of a term with grammatical function but little or no significance
 synonym: atom, grain, bit
- (1) charged **particle**, (2) **particle** energy

We can calculate the position of the **particles** statistically.

wavelength

- the distance between two points in the same phase in consecutive cycles of a wave
- (1) wavelength of light, (2) long- wavelength laser White color is made up of many different wavelengths of light.

extend

- v. to broaden in scope, range, or area synonym: prolong, lengthen, advance
- (1) **extend** the warranty, (2) **extend** a line Her visit will **extend** from Monday to Friday.

occupy

- v. to consume all of someone's space, attention, or time synonym: inhabit, settle, populate
- (1) **occupy** his time, (2) **occupy** a position The young prince will soon **occupy** the throne.

define

 to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something

synonym: characterize, depict, express

(1) **define** a word, (2) **define** my position

To advance this discussion, we must **define** "success" rigorously.

relative

adj. considered and evaluated through comparison with something else

synonym: comparative, proximate, congeneric

(1) a remote relative, (2) relative factors

Most countries prohibit sexual activity between certain close relatives.

atom

 the smallest unit of ordinary matter that forms a chemical element, composed of a nucleus and one or more electrons bound to the nucleus

synonym: particle, element, fraction

(1) oxygen atom, (2) neutral hydrogen atoms

The outermost electron shell of an **atom** determines its chemical characteristics.

solar

adj. of, from, or relating to the sun

(1) the solar system, (2) a solar eclipse

Solar panels have greatly improved not only in performance but also in durability.

detect

v. to find or recognize something, especially something difficult to see, hear, etc.

synonym: catch, observe, notice

(1) **detect** a bad event, (2) **detect** smuggling across borders. The security camera has **detected** four intruders.

electron

n. a tiny particle with the negative electrical chargesynonym: negatron

(1) flow of **electrons**, (2) beam of **electrons**

The outermost **electron** shell determines the chemical properties of an atom.

dramatic

adj. very sudden, very excellent, or full of action and excitement

synonym: striking, theatrical, breathtaking

(1) make dramatic changes, (2) a dramatic rescue at sea

The statement had a **dramatic** impact on house prices.

slit

n. a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors

synonym: slash, incision, cut

(1) slit pocket, (2) slit the fabric

He made a small **slit** in the paper to fit it in the envelope.

barrier

 a fence or other obstruction that makes it hard to move or get in; any condition that makes it difficult to make progress or to achieve an objective

synonym: border, barricade, fence

(1) cost barrier, (2) information barrier

The police placed a **barrier** across the street to halt traffic.

specific

- adj. clearly defined or particular to a certain thing or situation; distinct, explicit, and precisesynonym: particular, definite, distinct
- (1) **specific** instructions, (2) industry- **specific** regulations
 The scientist conducted a study that provided **specific** details about the species' behavior.

individual

- n. a single person or thing, as distinct from a group synonym: person, being, self
- (1) a private **individual**, (2) **individual** freedom
 As an **individual**, he had the right to make his own decisions and live his life as he saw fit.

detection

 the act of discovering or identifying the presence of something

synonym: discovery, identification, recognition

(1) **detection** by the security software, (2) importance of early **detection**

This smartphone has a collision detection function.

trace

- v. to find or discover someone or something that was lost synonym: seek, follow, depict
- (1) **trace** a telephone call, (2) **trace** back to medieval times Let's **trace** the origins of some familiar foreign words.

characteristic

 a typical feature or quality that can identify, tell apart, or describe something or somebody

synonym: feature, quality, attribute

(1) stripes **characteristic** of the zebra, (2) my friend's **characteristic** laugh

Bananas have their characteristic taste and odor.

stripe

 a long, narrow band of a different color or texture than the surface on which it appears

synonym: line, band, streak

(1) a white **stripe**, (2) **stripe** texture

The plates have a blue **stripe** around the edge.

separate

- v. to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different synonym: disunite, isolate, ramify
- (1) **separate** video into chapter, (2) **separate** cream from milk

We need to **separate** the aspect of his personality from the part of his competence when making an investment decision.

simultaneously

adv. at the same time

synonym: concurrently, coincidently, together

(1) **simultaneously** affected, (2) take several inputs **simultaneously**

Two students answered the teacher's question **simultaneously**.

modern

adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times synonym: contemporary, stylish, current

(1) **modern** poetry, (2) pre- **modern** agricultural society Their headquarters are in a **modern** skyscraper.

nucleus

n. the central and most important part of something;
 (biology) a part of the cell containing DNA and RNA and responsible for growth and reproduction; (physics) the very dense central region of an atom

synonym: core, heart, middle

(1) form a **nucleus**, (2) the **nucleus** of a team DNA is stored in the **nucleus** of a cell.

orbit

n. the path of an object around a celestial body, especially a planet, star, or moon, under the influence of gravity; (of medicine) the bony cavity in the skull that houses the eyeball and its associated structures, like muscles, nerves, and blood vessels

synonym: path, course, trajectory

(1) the orbit of the moon, (2) a planetary orbitThe rocket engine is used to put the satellite into orbit.

chemical

adj. relating to or connected with chemistry;

synonym: chemic, synthetic

(1) toxic **chemicals**, (2) a **chemical** compound

The firm has grown into a large **chemical** manufacturing.

bond

 a close emotional connection between two or more people; a certificate of debt that a government or corporation issues to raise money

synonym: bind, adhesion, attachment

(1) **bond** as a family, (2) global **bond** market They had formed a friendship **bond**.

molecule

 a group of two or more atoms held together by attractive forces known as chemical bonds

synonym: particle, element, atom

(1) small **molecules**, (2) **molecule** behavior The shape of the DNA **molecule** is a double helix.

vast

adj. enormous in size, number, amount, or quantitysynonym: expansive, extended, boundless

(1) vast majority, (2) vast desert

A **vast** audience viewed the broadcast.

solid

adj. hard or firm; characterized by good substantial quality synonym: stable, reliable, hard

(1) **solid** ally, (2) **solid** employment measures

The **solid-state** of water is called ice.

bound

v. to move forward by leaps and bounds; to form the boundary of something

synonym: jump, bounce, leap

(1) **bounded** with delight, (2) **bound** up a staircase Canada **bounds** on the United States.

gigantic

adj. extremely large

synonym: huge, enormous, immense

(1) **gigantic** proportions, (2) **gigantic** monsters

He was so hungry from the long journey that he had a **gigantic** appetite.

determinant

 a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

conductor

n. someone who leads the performance of musicians or a piece of music; (in physics) an object, substance, or material that readily allows the flow of electricity, heat, etc.

synonym: director, manager

(1) **conductor** directing a symphony, (2) oxide **conductor** Diamonds are employed as thermal **conductors** as well.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym: isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

semiconductor

 a material or substance that can conduct electricity under certain conditions but not others, often used in electronic devices

synonym: chip, wafer

(1) **semiconductor** industry, (2) **semiconductor** device The company develops and sells **semiconductor** memory for use in computers and servers.

precise

adj. sharply exact or accurate or delimitedsynonym: accurate, exact, distinct

(1) **precise** analyses, (2) estimate **precise** costs The content is **precise** and informative for me.

silicon

- a chemical element with the symbol Si that is a hard, brittle crystalline solid with a blue-grey metallic luster and used for the transistors and integrated circuit chips in computers
- silicon wafer, (2) crystalline silicon
 Silicon is the second most abundant element on earth after oxygen.

combine

- v. to join or merge to form a single thing or group synonym: coalesce, cohere, blend
- (1) **combine** chemically with another substance,
- (2) **combine** augmented reality

Hydrogen and oxygen combine to form water.

transistor

 a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics

synonym: semiconductor, microchip, circuit

(1) transistor radio, (2) transistor circuit

The invention of the **transistor** revolutionized the field of electronics.

chip

- n. a small fragment of something broken off from the whole; a long and thin piece of potato fried in oil or fat synonym: flake, fragment, chunk
- (1) a **chip** of wood, (2) I don't care a **chip** We can use this campaign as a bargaining **chip** in the negotiations.

imaginary

adj. existing only in someone's mindsynonym: fictional, ideal, fantastical

(1) **imaginary** number, (2) **imaginary** pregnancy Little children tend to have **imaginary** friends.

Session 2: Spelling

1. de____te answer

2. de___e my position

3. pre-mo___n agricultural society

4. v__t desert

5. b__d as a family

6. long-wav____th laser

7. a ch____al compound

8. gi___ic monsters

9. my friend's cha tic laugh

10. di____b the peace

11. im____ry pregnancy

12. estimate pr___e costs

adj. clearly defined or determined; having no doubt or uncertainty; precise or exact

v. to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something

adj. of or belonging to the present time or recent times

adj. enormous in size, number, amount, or quantity

 a close emotional connection between two or more people; a certificate of debt that a government or corporation issues to raise money

 the distance between two points in the same phase in consecutive cycles of a wave

adj. relating to or connected with chemistry;

adj. extremely large

 a typical feature or quality that can identify, tell apart, or describe something or somebody

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

adj. existing only in someone's mind

adj. sharply exact or accurate or delimited

ANSWERS: 1. definite, 2. define, 3. modern, 4. vast, 5. bond, 6. wavelength, 7. chemical, 8. gigantic, 9. characteristic, 10. disturb, 11. imaginary, 12. precise

ANSWERS: 13. consequence, 14. wavelength, 15. chip, 16. insulate, 17. relative, 18. solid, 19. electron, 20. dual, 21. trace, 22. molecule, 23. combine, 24. separate

ANSWERS: 25. biology, 26. molecule, 27. superposition, 28. detection, 29. individual, 30. combine, 31. barrier, 32. quantum, 33. chip, 34. philosophy

detect, 41. barrier, 42. nucleus

- 43. de t smuggling across borders 44. re___ve factors 45. pr___le cause of a fire 46. oc y his time 47. se d orders 48. es____al commodities of life 49. sp ic instructions 50. tracking de e 51. historical phe on 52. get in___t access 53. a planetary or t
- v. to find or recognize something, especially something difficult to see, hear, etc.
- adj. considered and evaluated through comparison with something else
- adj. likely to happen or likely to be true
- v. to consume all of someone's space, attention, or time
- adj. closed or secured with
- adj. indispensable; fundamental
- adj. clearly defined or particular to a certain thing or situation; distinct, explicit, and precise
- a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
- something that exists and can be perceptible, especially one that is not fully understood
- adj. happening immediately, with no delay
- n. the path of an object around a celestial body, especially a planet, star, or moon, under the influence of gravity; (of medicine) the bony cavity in the skull that houses the eyeball and its associated structures, like muscles, nerves, and blood vessels

ANSWERS: 43. detect, 44. relative, 45. probable, 46. occupy, 47. sealed, 48. essential, 49. specific, 50. device, 51. phenomenon, 52. instant, 53. orbit

ANSWERS: 54. disturb, 55. gigantic, 56. orbit, 57. conductor, 58. modern, 59. imaginary, 60. physics, 61. involve, 62. absurd, 63. instant, 64. blur

64. b__r image

n.

vision

a faint or indistinct image or sound;

something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear

65. the nus of a team	n.	the central and most important part of something; (biology) a part of the cell containing DNA and RNA and responsible for growth and reproduction; (physics) the very dense central region of an atom
66. mecs of the game	n.	the branch of physics that deals with the study of motion, forces, and energy; (mechanic) someone whose occupation is repairing and maintaining automobiles
67. sod ally	adj.	hard or firm; characterized by good substantial quality
68. a white ste	n.	a long, narrow band of a different color or texture than the surface on which it appears
69. toxic chals	adj.	relating to or connected with chemistry;
70. semtor industry	n.	a material or substance that can conduct electricity under certain conditions but not others, often used in electronic devices
71. environmental detnt	n.	a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
72. take several inputs simsly	adv.	at the same time
73. simsly affected	adv.	at the same time
74. exd a line	v.	to broaden in scope, range, or area

individual, 81. detection, 82. solar, 83. transistor, 84. insulate

ANSWERS: 85. blur, 86. dramatic, 87. specific, 88. abandon, 89. abandon, 90. transistor, 91. characteristic, 92. silicon, 93. dramatic

94. se djar adj. closed or secured with 95. ex d the warranty to broaden in scope, range, or area a close emotional connection between 96. global b d market n. two or more people; a certificate of debt that a government or corporation issues to raise money the study of general and fundamental 97. western phi____hy questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind 98. de___e a word to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something 99. exp nt design the scientific test conducted to observe n. what happens and gain new knowledge the smallest unit of ordinary matter that 100. oxygen a__m forms a chemical element, composed of a nucleus and one or more electrons bound to the nucleus the branch of physics that deals with the 101. me____cs equation n. study of motion, forces, and energy; (mechanic) someone whose occupation is repairing and maintaining automobiles a chemical element with the symbol Si 102. crystalline si n that is a hard, brittle crystalline solid with a blue-grey metallic luster and

ANSWERS: 94. sealed, 95. extend, 96. bond, 97. philosophy, 98. define, 99. experiment, 100. atom, 101. mechanics, 102. silicon, 103. bound

103. bo d up a staircase

ν.

used for the transistors and integrated

to move forward by leaps and bounds;

to form the boundary of something

circuit chips in computers

104. ste texture	n.	a long, narrow band of a different color or texture than the surface on which it appears
105. beam of elons	n.	a tiny particle with the negative electrical charge
106. pre analyses	adj.	sharply exact or accurate or delimited
107. pale energy	n.	a small piece of something; a word or piece of a term with grammatical function but little or no significance
108. sete video into chapter	v.	to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different
109. the sor system	adj.	of, from, or relating to the sun
110. probabilistic qum theory	n.	the smallest amount or unit of something, especially (electromagnetic) energy
111. vt majority	adj.	enormous in size, number, amount, or quantity
112. coor directing a symphony	n.	someone who leads the performance of musicians or a piece of music; (in physics) an object, substance, or material that readily allows the flow of electricity, heat, etc.
113. neutral hydrogen ams	n.	the smallest unit of ordinary matter that forms a chemical element, composed of a nucleus and one or more electrons bound to the nucleus
114. dl purpose	adj.	having two parts, aspects, or elements
115. dete plan	adj.	clearly defined or determined; having no doubt or uncertainty; precise or exact

ANSWERS: 104. stripe, 105. electron, 106. precise, 107. particle, 108. separate, 109. solar, 110. quantum, 111. vast, 112. conductor, 113. atom, 114. dual, 115. definite

116. oc___y a position to consume all of someone's space, ν. attention, or time a piece of equipment, tool, or 117. electronic de___e n. technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic 118. unintended con____ces the outcome of a particular action or n. event, especially relative to an individual 119. laws of ph____s the science of matter and energy and their interactions a scientist who specializes in the field of 120. theoretical ph st n. physics to find or discover someone or 121. tr__e a telephone call something that was lost 122. bo ded with delight to move forward by leaps and bounds; ν. to form the boundary of something 123. natural phe on something that exists and can be n. perceptible, especially one that is not fully understood 124. sem____tor device a material or substance that can n. conduct electricity under certain conditions but not others, often used in electronic devices 125. pr____le outcome adj. likely to happen or likely to be true 126. ab d storyline adj. ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical

ANSWERS: 116. occupy, 117. device, 118. consequence, 119. physics, 120. physicist, 121. trace, 122. bound, 123. phenomenon, 124. semiconductor, 125. probable, 126. absurd

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

 They had formed a friendship a close emotional connection between two or more people; a certificate of debt that a government or corporation issues to raise money
2. Her visit will from Monday to Friday.
ν. to broaden in scope, range, or area
3. The content is and informative for me.
adj. sharply exact or accurate or delimited
4. Two students answered the teacher's question
adv. at the same time
5. We can use this campaign as a bargaining in the negotiations.
n. a small fragment of something broken off from the whole; a long and thin piece of potato fried in oil or fat
6. The shape of the DNA is a double helix.
n. a group of two or more atoms held together by attractive forces known as chemical bonds
7. I always carry a backup in case my phone runs out of battery.
 a piece of equipment, tool, or technology that serves a particular purpose or function, often mechanical or electronic
8. The police placed a across the street to halt traffic.
n. a fence or other obstruction that makes it hard to move or get in; any condition that makes it difficult to make progress or to achieve an objective
ANSWERS: 1. bond, 2. extend, 3. precise, 4. simultaneously, 5. chip, 6. molecule, 7. device, 8. barrier