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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dan Ariely: What makes us feel good about our work? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

intuition

n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

synonym: instinct, gut feeling, sixth sense

(1) creative **intuition**, (2) **intuition** research

Some studies suggest that people's **intuitions** can be influenced by their experiences and biases.

maze

n. a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through

synonym: labyrinth, puzzle, network

(1) puzzle **maze**, (2) labyrinth **maze**

We got lost in the **maze** of streets while exploring the city.

simplistic

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

synonym: basic, uncomplicated, elementary

(1) **simplistic** approach, (2) **simplistic** design

The politician's solution to the problem was too **simplistic** to solve the underlying issue.

frostbite

n. a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation

synonym: cryopathy, chilblains, ice burn

(1) **frostbite** symptoms, (2) **frostbite** on the hand

The athlete had to quit the race due to severe **frostbite** on his feet.

disassemble

v. to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components

synonym: dismantle, take apart, break down

(1) **disassemble** a machine, (2) **disassemble** furniture

The mechanic had to **disassemble** the engine to locate and fix the problem.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym: joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

futile

adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

synonym: useless, worthless, ineffective

(1) **futile** talk, (2) make a **futile** protest

It was **futile** to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.

bionic

adj. relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original

(1) **bionic** exoskeleton, (2) **bionic** technology

The soldier was fitted with a **bionic** arm after losing him in combat.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

speculate

v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

synonym : assume, conjecture, infer

(1) **speculate** about the reason, (2) **speculate** on the outcome

He **speculated** that this investment would lead to success.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym : bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

kosher

adj. conforming to Jewish dietary laws; conforming to proper or ethical standards; legitimate, lawful, or acceptable

synonym : legitimate, allowable, permissible

(1) **kosher** supermarket, (2) **kosher** deli

The synagogue offers a list of certified **kosher** products that members can refer to when grocery shopping.

unimportant

adj. not important

synonym : inconsiderable, inconsequential, insignificant

(1) **unimportant** information, (2) **unimportant** event

He regretted having undertaken the **unimportant** job without thinking about the consequences.

shred

v. to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

synonym : rip up, tear up, cut

(1) **shred** paper into little pieces, (2) **shred** lettuce for a salad

There is not a **shred** of evidence that he is guilty.

overdo

v. to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert

synonym: overwork, exaggerate, hyperbolize

(1) **overdo** exercise, (2) **overdo** caffeine

If you **overdo** the laundry detergent, it can damage your clothes.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

unpopular

adj. not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation

synonym: disliked, unloved, unsupported

(1) **unpopular** decision, (2) an **unpopular** opinion

The politician's stance on controversial issues made him an **unpopular** candidate for many voters.

origami

n. the Japanese art or practice of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures

synonym: paper folding, paper art

(1) **origami** paper, (2) **origami** art

I love making **origami** cranes during my free time.

blacksmith

n. a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil

(1) **blacksmith** welding, (2) **blacksmith** shop

The **blacksmith** shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.

alienation

n. the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment

synonym: estrangement, separation, detachment

(1) human **alienation**, (2) international **alienation**

His feelings of **alienation** from society led to depression.

Session 2: Spelling

1. in____te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
2. bi___c technology *adj.* relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original
3. dis_____le furniture *v.* to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
4. ov___o exercise *v.* to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert
5. in____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
6. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. ov___o caffeine *v.* to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert
8. labyrinth m__e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through

ANSWERS: 1. innovate, 2. bionic, 3. disassemble, 4. overdo, 5. innovate, 6. opportune, 7. overdo, 8. maze

9. ko___r supermarket *adj.* conforming to Jewish dietary laws; conforming to proper or ethical standards; legitimate, lawful, or acceptable
10. puzzle m__e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
11. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
12. fr_____te symptoms *n.* a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation
13. sh__d lettuce for a salad *v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
14. an un_____ar opinion *adj.* not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation
15. un_____ar decision *adj.* not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation
16. sp_____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
17. bi___c exoskeleton *adj.* relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original

ANSWERS: 9. kosher, 10. maze, 11. confuse, 12. frostbite, 13. shred, 14. unpopular, 15. unpopular, 16. speculate, 17. bionic

18. bla_____th shop *n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
19. make a fu___e protest *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
20. dis_____le a machine *v.* to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
21. human ali_____on *n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
22. bla_____th welding *n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
23. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
24. sh__d paper into little pieces *v.* to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
25. fr_____te on the hand *n.* a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation
26. sp_____te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
27. uni_____nt information *adj.* not important
28. uni_____nt event *adj.* not important

ANSWERS: 18. blacksmith, 19. futile, 20. disassemble, 21. alienation, 22. blacksmith, 23. opportune, 24. shred, 25. frostbite, 26. speculate, 27. unimportant, 28. unimportant

29. ko___r deli *adj.* conforming to Jewish dietary laws; conforming to proper or ethical standards; legitimate, lawful, or acceptable
30. or_____i paper *n.* the Japanese art or practice of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures
31. fu___e talk *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
32. international ali_____on *n.* the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
33. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
34. in_____on research *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
35. sim_____ic approach *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
36. creative in_____on *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
37. silly p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

ANSWERS: 29. kosher, 30. origami, 31. futile, 32. alienation, 33. confuse, 34. intuition, 35. simplistic, 36. intuition, 37. pun

38. sim_____ic design *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
39. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
40. or_____i art *n.* the Japanese art or practice of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures

ANSWERS: 38. simplistic, 39. pun, 40. origami

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The mechanic had to _____ the engine to locate and fix the problem.
v. to take apart, dismantle, or separate a device, machine, or other objects into its parts or components
2. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
3. The soldier was fitted with a _____ arm after losing him in combat.
adj. relating to or using technology or devices that enhance or replace biological functions, typically in a way that mimics or improves upon the original
4. His feelings of _____ from society led to depression.
n. the state of being isolated or detached from one's social, emotional, or political environment
5. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
6. It was _____ to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.
adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
7. The politician's stance on controversial issues made him an _____ candidate for many voters.
adj. not liked, supported, or approved by many people; having an unfavorable reputation

ANSWERS: 1. disassemble, 2. pun, 3. bionic, 4. alienation, 5. confused, 6. futile, 7. unpopular

8. If you _____ the laundry detergent, it can damage your clothes.
- v.* to exaggerate or exceed limits of something; to do or use something to such an excessive or exaggerated extent that it causes harm or becomes unpleasant; to overexert
9. The _____ shaped a horseshoe on his anvil.
- n.* a smith who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
10. The synagogue offers a list of certified _____ products that members can refer to when grocery shopping.
- adj.* conforming to Jewish dietary laws; conforming to proper or ethical standards; legitimate, lawful, or acceptable
11. The politician's solution to the problem was too _____ to solve the underlying issue.
- adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
12. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
- v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
13. We got lost in the _____ of streets while exploring the city.
- n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
14. Some studies suggest that people's _____ can be influenced by their experiences and biases.
- n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

ANSWERS: 8. overdo, 9. blacksmith, 10. kosher, 11. simplistic, 12. innovate, 13. maze, 14. intuitions

15. He regretted having undertaken the _____ job without thinking about the consequences.

adj. not important

16. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

17. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.

v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

18. There is not a _____ of evidence that he is guilty.

v. to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

19. I love making _____ cranes during my free time.

n. the Japanese art or practice of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures

20. The athlete had to quit the race due to severe _____ on his feet.

n. a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation

ANSWERS: 15. unimportant, 16. opportune, 17. speculated, 18. shred, 19. origami, 20. frostbite