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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nicholas Negroponte: A 30-year history of the future | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/nicholas_negroponte_a_30_year_history_of_the_future

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

crosstalk

n. interference or disturbance in electronic systems caused by signals or currents from adjacent or nearby elements or circuits; the phenomenon where one cellular signaling pathway influences or interferes with another

synonym : disturbance, cross-interference, XT

(1) molecular **crosstalk**, (2) the **crosstalk** between the two political factions

The interference during the phone call was due to **crosstalk** from nearby electrical wires.

backlog

n. a buildup of tasks or work that has accumulated over time and needs to be completed; a reserve of goods or materials that have not been processed or distributed yet

synonym : accumulation, pile-up, logjam

(1) **backlog** of work, (2) data **backlog**

The company needed help to keep up with the **backlog** of orders.

retrospect

n. a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

synonym : review, hindsight, contemplation

(1) **retrospect** review, (2) with hindsight **retrospect**
In **retrospect**, I wish I had made a different decision.

robotic

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

synonym: automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

occlude

v. to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access

synonym: block, obstruct, close

(1) **occlude** a blood vessel, (2) **occlude** the ureteral orifice

The traffic jam **occluded** the road and caused a significant delay in the journey.

hijack

v. to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence

synonym: commandeer, seize, pirate

(1) **hijack** a helicopter, (2) **hijack** a phone number

He made a desperate effort to **hijack** an airliner.

gorilla

n. a large, powerful, and intelligent primate found in the forests of central Africa, with coarse black or brown fur and a distinctive face

synonym: ape, chimpanzee, orangutan

(1) **gorilla** habitat, (2) endangered **gorilla**

The **gorilla** at the zoo impressed visitors with its size and strength.

parenthesis

n. a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification

synonym: bracket, round bracket, curved bracket

(1) a sentence in **parenthesis**, (2) **parenthesis** in literature
Make sure to include all necessary information within the **parenthesis** in your citation.

lenticular

adj. having the shape or form of a lens or lentil; flat and usually circular with rounded edges, often referring to cloud formations that resemble lenses or smooth, saucer-like objects

synonym: lens-shaped, saucer-shaped, disk-shaped

(1) **lenticular** animation, (2) **lenticular** lens

The hiker witnessed a beautiful display of **lenticular** clouds forming over the mountain peaks.

oscillate

v. to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive

synonym: fluctuate, swing, vibrate

(1) **oscillate** back and forth, (2) **oscillate** between joy and anger

The fan in the room **oscillates**, making the airflow more evenly.

synchronize

v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate

synonym: coordinate, accompany, harmonize

(1) **synchronize** movements, (2) **synchronize** our watches

The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly **synchronized**.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

cello

n. a large stringed instrument of the viola family, typically held between the knees when played; also known as violoncello

synonym : violoncello, violincello

(1) the beautiful sound of a **cello**, (2) **cello** music
She played a passionate solo on her **cello**.

discreet

adj. characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense

synonym : cautious, careful, circumspect

(1) **discreet** manner, (2) **discreet** conversation

He was **discreet** with the sensitive information he had been entrusted with.

commonplace

adj. occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

synonym : ordinary, routine, mundane

(1) become a **commonplace** sight, (2) **commonplace** event

Forgetting someone's name is a **commonplace** occurrence.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

unpack

v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

synonym : dissect, unwrap, unbox

(1) **unpack** a crate, (2) **unpack** a concept

I need to **unpack** my suitcase and put my clothes away.

enlightened

adj. having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook

synonym : educated, informed, aware

(1) **enlightened** age, (2) make an **enlightened** decision

The **enlightened** teacher taught the class about the

importance of compassion and empathy.

cynical

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

synonym : skeptical, mistrustful, doubtful

(1) **cynical** remarks, (2) **cynical** worldview

He was very **cynical** and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

lockstep

n. a way of walking in which people's strides are perfectly synchronized; rigid conformity to a particular plan or set of actions

synonym : uniformity, synchronicity, conformity

(1) follow the rules in **lockstep**, (2) work in **lockstep**

The dancers moved in **lockstep**, perfectly synchronized with one another.

obedient

adj. willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do

synonym : compliant, submissive, dutiful

(1) grow to be **obedient**, (2) **obedient** dog

The **obedient** dog followed its owner's commands.

irate

adj. feeling or showing strong anger or annoyance

synonym : angry, furious, indignant

(1) **irate** protesters, (2) **irate** tone

The **irate** customer demanded a refund for the faulty product.

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.

clunky

adj. heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

synonym : clumsy, bulky, burdensome

(1) **clunky** phrasing, (2) **clunky** robot

Refined character portrayal makes up for **clunky** gameplay.

profoundly

adv. to a great or complete degree; deeply

synonym: deeply, greatly, completely

(1) **profoundly** insightful, (2) sleep **profoundly**

The novel affected her **profoundly**, causing her to question her beliefs and values.

treasury

n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual

synonym: coffer, exchequer, bank

(1) **treasury** bonds, (2) **treasury** money

The protracted war nearly depleted the country's **treasury**.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym: application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

android

n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

synonym: droid, cyborg

(1) household **android**, (2) **Android** tablet

The lab is developing an **android** robot that assists in dangerous construction work.

nominate

v. to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

synonym: appoint, designate, elect

(1) **nominate** him for an award, (2) **nominate** government representatives

The organization **nominated** her to be the next president.

inefficient

adj. lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.

synonym: ineffective, counterproductive, inadequate

(1) **inefficient** use, (2) **inefficient** management

The system is still so **inefficient** that it is useless.

ingest

v. to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge

synonym: swallow, consume, devour

(1) **ingest** food, (2) **ingest** medication

People who compulsively **ingest** non-food items, such as dirt or chalk, suffer from a condition called pica.

bloodstream

n. the blood flowing through the body

(1) **bloodstream** in an artery, (2) **bloodstream** to the brain

Cancer cells are often carried throughout the body by the **bloodstream**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. the beautiful sound of a ce__o *n.* a large stringed instrument of the viola family, typically held between the knees when played; also known as violoncello
3. make an enl_____ed decision *adj.* having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook
4. no_____te government representatives *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
5. molecular cr_____lk *n.* interference or disturbance in electronic systems caused by signals or currents from adjacent or nearby elements or circuits; the phenomenon where one cellular signaling pathway influences or interferes with another
6. household an_____d *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
7. len_____ar animation *adj.* having the shape or form of a lens or lentil; flat and usually circular with rounded edges, often referring to cloud formations that resemble lenses or smooth, saucer-like objects
8. un___k a concept *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. cello, 3. enlightened, 4. nominate, 5. crosstalk, 6. android, 7. lenticular, 8. unpack

9. oc____e the ureteral orifice *v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access
10. ob____nt dog *adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
11. cy____l worldview *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
12. go____a habitat *n.* a large, powerful, and intelligent primate found in the forests of central Africa, with coarse black or brown fur and a distinctive face
13. os____te between joy and anger *v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
14. ro____c arm *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
15. ce__o music *n.* a large stringed instrument of the viola family, typically held between the knees when played; also known as violoncello
16. endangered go____a *n.* a large, powerful, and intelligent primate found in the forests of central Africa, with coarse black or brown fur and a distinctive face
17. co____r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

ANSWERS: 9. occlude, 10. obedient, 11. cynical, 12. gorilla, 13. oscillate, 14. robotic, 15. cello, 16. gorilla, 17. confer

18. par_____is in literature *n.* a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification
19. tr_____ry bonds *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
20. work in lo_____ep *n.* a way of walking in which people's strides are perfectly synchronized; rigid conformity to a particular plan or set of actions
21. ir__e protesters *adj.* feeling or showing strong anger or annoyance
22. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
23. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
24. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
25. hi___k a phone number *v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence
26. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

ANSWERS: 18. parenthesis, 19. treasury, 20. lockstep, 21. irate, 22. app, 23. confer, 24. onstage, 25. hijack, 26. onstage

27. com_____ce event *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
28. ba_____g of work *n.* a buildup of tasks or work that has accumulated over time and needs to be completed; a reserve of goods or materials that have not been processed or distributed yet
29. cl____y robot *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
30. follow the rules in lo_____ep *n.* a way of walking in which people's strides are perfectly synchronized; rigid conformity to a particular plan or set of actions
31. os_____te back and forth *v.* to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
32. syn_____ze our watches *v.* to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
33. pro_____ly insightful *adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
34. cl____y phrasing *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
35. syn_____ze movements *v.* to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate
36. no_____te him for an award *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

ANSWERS: 27. commonplace, 28. backlog, 29. clunky, 30. lockstep, 31. oscillate, 32. synchronize, 33. profoundly, 34. clunky, 35. synchronize, 36. nominate

37. cy____l remarks *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
38. tr____ry money *n.* the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
39. become a com_____ce sight *adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest
40. enl_____ed age *adj.* having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook
41. data ba_____g *n.* a buildup of tasks or work that has accumulated over time and needs to be completed; a reserve of goods or materials that have not been processed or distributed yet
42. grow to be ob_____nt *adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
43. ir__e tone *adj.* feeling or showing strong anger or annoyance
44. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
45. with hindsight ret_____ct *n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished
46. hi___k a helicopter *v.* to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence

ANSWERS: 37. cynical, 38. treasury, 39. commonplace, 40. enlightened, 41. backlog, 42. obedient, 43. irate, 44. opportune, 45. retrospect, 46. hijack

47. ret_____ct review *n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished
48. An_____d tablet *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
49. in____t food *v.* to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
50. sleep pro_____ly *adv.* to a great or complete degree; deeply
51. di_____et manner *adj.* characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense
52. blo_____am to the brain *n.* the blood flowing through the body
53. blo_____am in an artery *n.* the blood flowing through the body
54. ine_____nt use *adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
55. oc_____e a blood vessel *v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access
56. len_____ar lens *adj.* having the shape or form of a lens or lentil; flat and usually circular with rounded edges, often referring to cloud formations that resemble lenses or smooth, saucer-like objects

ANSWERS: 47. retrospect, 48. android, 49. ingest, 50. profoundly, 51. discreet, 52. bloodstream, 53. bloodstream, 54. inefficient, 55. occlude, 56. lenticular

57. un___k a crate *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
58. the cr_____lk between the two political factions *n.* interference or disturbance in electronic systems caused by signals or currents from adjacent or nearby elements or circuits; the phenomenon where one cellular signaling pathway influences or interferes with another
59. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
60. ro_____c guide operation *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
61. di_____et conversation *adj.* characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense
62. ine_____nt management *adj.* lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.
63. a sentence in par_____is *n.* a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification

ANSWERS: 57. unpack, 58. crosstalk, 59. app, 60. robotic, 61. discreet, 62. inefficient, 63. parenthesis

64. in___t medication

v. to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge

ANSWERS: 64. ingest

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Cancer cells are often carried throughout the body by the _____.
n. the blood flowing through the body

2. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

3. The _____ at the zoo impressed visitors with its size and strength.
n. a large, powerful, and intelligent primate found in the forests of central Africa, with coarse black or brown fur and a distinctive face

4. The ball speed will increase when the lower body movements are perfectly _____.
v. to happen or cause to happen at the same time or rate

5. The hiker witnessed a beautiful display of _____ clouds forming over the mountain peaks.
adj. having the shape or form of a lens or lentil; flat and usually circular with rounded edges, often referring to cloud formations that resemble lenses or smooth, saucer-like objects

6. He was _____ with the sensitive information he had been entrusted with.
adj. characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense

7. He made a desperate effort to _____ an airliner.
v. to seize control of an airplane or other vehicle during an operation, especially with violence

ANSWERS: 1. bloodstream, 2. confer, 3. gorilla, 4. synchronized, 5. lenticular, 6. discreet, 7. hijack

8. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
9. The _____ dog followed its owner's commands.
adj. willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
10. People who compulsively _____ non-food items, such as dirt or chalk, suffer from a condition called pica.
v. to take food or drink into the body, often through the mouth; to absorb or assimilate something, often used to describe the intake of information or knowledge
11. The interference during the phone call was due to _____ from nearby electrical wires.
n. interference or disturbance in electronic systems caused by signals or currents from adjacent or nearby elements or circuits; the phenomenon where one cellular signaling pathway influences or interferes with another
12. The lab is developing an _____ robot that assists in dangerous construction work.
n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
13. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. The organization _____ her to be the next president.
v. to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

ANSWERS: 8. onstage, 9. obedient, 10. ingest, 11. crosstalk, 12. android, 13. opportune, 14. nominated

15. I need to _____ my suitcase and put my clothes away.

- v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

16. In _____ I wish I had made a different decision.

- n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

17. The _____ customer demanded a refund for the faulty product.

- adj.* feeling or showing strong anger or annoyance

18. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.

- n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

19. Forgetting someone's name is a _____ occurrence.

- adj.* occurring very often; lacking originality or interest

20. Refined character portrayal makes up for _____ gameplay.

- adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

21. Make sure to include all necessary information within the _____ in your citation.

- n.* a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification

22. The traffic jam _____ the road and caused a significant delay in the journey.

- v.* to obstruct or block something, usually a passage or opening, in a way that prevents normal flow or access

ANSWERS: 15. unpack, 16. retrospect, 17. irate, 18. app's, 19. commonplace, 20. clunky, 21. parenthesis, 22. occluded

23. He was very _____ and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.
adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
24. The novel affected her _____ causing her to question her beliefs and values.
adv. to a great or complete degree; deeply
25. She played a passionate solo on her _____.
n. a large stringed instrument of the viola family, typically held between the knees when played; also known as violoncello
26. The protracted war nearly depleted the country's _____.
n. the government department in charge of managing public funds; the funds of a government or institution or individual
27. The fan in the room _____ making the airflow more evenly.
v. to swing or move back and forth like a pendulum or a wave; to fluctuate or alternate between two points or states; to hesitate or be indecisive
28. The company needed help to keep up with the _____ of orders.
n. a buildup of tasks or work that has accumulated over time and needs to be completed; a reserve of goods or materials that have not been processed or distributed yet
29. The dancers moved in _____ perfectly synchronized with one another.
n. a way of walking in which people's strides are perfectly synchronized; rigid conformity to a particular plan or set of actions

ANSWERS: 23. cynical, 24. profoundly, 25. cello, 26. treasury, 27. oscillates, 28. backlog, 29. lockstep,

30. The system is still so _____ that it is useless.

adj. lacking the ability or skill and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.

31. The surgeon removed the tumor using _____ video assistance.

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

32. The _____ teacher taught the class about the importance of compassion and empathy.

adj. having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook

ANSWERS: 30. inefficient, 31. robotic, 32. enlightened