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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kate Stone: DJ decks made of ... paper | TED Talk
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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

suspense

n. a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome

synonym: tension, anticipation, excitement

(1) **suspense** thriller, (2) **suspense-filled** movie

The mystery novel was full of **suspense**, keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the end.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate
This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

sneak

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

synonym: creep, tiptoe, smuggle

(1) **sneak** a cigarette, (2) **sneak** out of danger
The children tried to **sneak** out and eat the candy.

eavesdrop

v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission

synonym: listen in, spy, overhear

(1) **eavesdrop** conversation, (2) **eavesdrop** on a secret plot
I accidentally **eavesdropped** on a confidential meeting last week.

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship
He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

homestead

n. a house or farm and the surrounding land, typically used as a home and workplace by a family or individual

synonym: farmstead, ranch, plantation

(1) wilderness **homestead**, (2) family **homestead**
My grandparents lived on a remote **homestead** in the mountains.

motorbike

n. a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle

synonym: motorcycle, bike, two-wheeler

(1) **motorbike** ride, (2) stolen **motorbike**
She identified the **motorbike** thief using the CCTV footage.

nanoscale

adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

helium

n. a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table

synonym: He, light gas, noble gas

(1) **helium** atom, (2) **helium** gas

The **helium-filled** balloons floated into the sky.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym: respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

determinant

n. 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.

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

conductivity

n. the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.

synonym: conduction

(1) low **conductivity**, (2) electrical **conductivity**

High thermal **conductivity** is also essential for the exterior of the machine.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

capacitor

n. a device that is placed inside electronic equipment such as televisions and radios and that stores electrical charge

synonym: condenser

(1) **capacitor** load, (2) AC **capacitor**

Hundreds of ceramic **capacitors** are used in a single smartphone.

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.

graffiti

n. writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place

synonym: street art, tagging, vandalism

(1) **graffiti** art, (2) **graffiti** tag

The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the **graffiti** on the buildings downtown.

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.

instantaneous

adj. occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment

synonym : immediate, prompt, rapid

(1) **instantaneous** reaction, (2) **instantaneous** message

The new software provides **instantaneous** results, making it much more efficient than the previous version.

turntable

n. a revolving plate or platform used for rotating objects, particularly a device used for playing vinyl records that rotates the record at a constant speed while a needle reads the grooves to produce sound

(1) rotating **turntable**, (2) vintage **turntable**

I carefully placed the vinyl record on the **turntable** and enjoyed the smooth music.

crossfade

v. to smoothly transition or blend between two audio tracks, videos, or images, usually by reducing the volume of one while simultaneously increasing the volume of the other

synonym : fade out, blend, mix

(1) **crossfade** music, (2) **crossfade** between scenes

The DJ skillfully **crossfaded** between two songs, creating a seamless transition on the dance floor.

niece

n. a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law

(1) a bouncing **niece**, (2) play with her **niece**

My **niece** is a talented artist who has won several awards for her drawings.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. play with her ni__e | <i>n.</i> a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law |
| 2. AC ca_____or | <i>n.</i> a device that is placed inside electronic equipment such as televisions and radios and that stores electrical charge |
| 3. ea_____op conversation | <i>v.</i> to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission |
| 4. ea_____op on a secret plot | <i>v.</i> to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission |
| 5. a bouncing ni__e | <i>n.</i> a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law |
| 6. gr_____ti art | <i>n.</i> writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place |
| 7. ins_____ous message | <i>adj.</i> occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment |
| 8. co___r degree | <i>v.</i> to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something |
| 9. environmental det_____nt | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 10. co_____e fantasy with reality | <i>v.</i> to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand |

ANSWERS: 1. niece, 2. capacitor, 3. eavesdrop, 4. eavesdrop, 5. niece, 6. graffiti, 7. instantaneous, 8. confer, 9. determinant, 10. confuse

11. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
12. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
13. su_____se thriller *n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome
14. ca_____or load *n.* a device that is placed inside electronic equipment such as televisions and radios and that stores electrical charge
15. na_____le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
16. rotating tu_____le *n.* a revolving plate or platform used for rotating objects, particularly a device used for playing vinyl records that rotates the record at a constant speed while a needle reads the grooves to produce sound
17. se__r a positive relationship *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
18. he___m gas *n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
19. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 11. confer, 12. determinant, 13. suspense, 14. capacitor, 15. nanoscale, 16. turntable, 17. sever, 18. helium, 19. obsess

20. wilderness ho_____ad *n.* a house or farm and the surrounding land, typically used as a home and workplace by a family or individual
21. ca__e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
22. ca__e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
23. low con_____ity *n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
24. sn__k out of danger *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
25. ins_____ous reaction *adj.* occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment
26. things at the na_____le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
27. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
28. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
29. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
30. su_____se-filled movie *n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome

ANSWERS: 20. homestead, 21. carve, 22. carve, 23. conductivity, 24. sneak, 25. instantaneous, 26. nanoscale, 27. confuse, 28. fascinate, 29. nod, 30. suspense

31. family ho_____ad *n.* a house or farm and the surrounding land, typically used as a home and workplace by a family or individual
32. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
33. cr_____de music *v.* to smoothly transition or blend between two audio tracks, videos, or images, usually by reducing the volume of one while simultaneously increasing the volume of the other
34. he___m atom *n.* a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
35. se__r a rope *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
36. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
37. ob_____on with character *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
38. electrical con_____ity *n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
39. mo_____ke ride *n.* a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle
40. 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

ANSWERS: 31. homestead, 32. nod, 33. crossfade, 34. helium, 35. sever, 36. fascinate, 37. obsession, 38. conductivity, 39. motorbike, 40. app

41. stolen mo_____ke *n.* a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle
42. sn__k a cigarette *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
43. national ob_____on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
44. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
45. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
46. gr_____ti tag *n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place
47. vintage tu_____le *n.* a revolving plate or platform used for rotating objects, particularly a device used for playing vinyl records that rotates the record at a constant speed while a needle reads the grooves to produce sound
48. cr_____de between scenes *v.* to smoothly transition or blend between two audio tracks, videos, or images, usually by reducing the volume of one while simultaneously increasing the volume of the other
49. 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

ANSWERS: 41. motorbike, 42. sneak, 43. obsession, 44. obsess, 45. creditor, 46. graffiti, 47. turntable, 48. crossfade, 49. app

50. bankrupt cr ____ or

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

ANSWERS: 50. creditor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The city spent a lot of money cleaning up the _____ on the buildings downtown.
 - n.* writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place

2. My grandparents lived on a remote _____ in the mountains.
 - n.* a house or farm and the surrounding land, typically used as a home and workplace by a family or individual

3. I carefully placed the vinyl record on the _____ and enjoyed the smooth music.
 - n.* a revolving plate or platform used for rotating objects, particularly a device used for playing vinyl records that rotates the record at a constant speed while a needle reads the grooves to produce sound

4. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.
 - v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

5. The magic tricks _____ the children.
 - v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

6. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
 - n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

7. Her remarks _____ the debate.
 - v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

ANSWERS: 1. graffiti, 2. homestead, 3. turntable, 4. carved, 5. fascinated, 6. creditor, 7. confused

8. I accidentally _____ on a confidential meeting last week.
v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
9. She identified the _____ thief using the CCTV footage.
n. a lightweight, two-wheeled vehicle with an engine designed for use on roads; also known as a motorcycle
10. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
11. The _____ balloons floated into the sky.
n. a colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, inert, monatomic gas, the first in the noble gas series in the periodic table
12. Hundreds of ceramic _____ are used in a single smartphone.
n. a device that is placed inside electronic equipment such as televisions and radios and that stores electrical charge
13. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the _____ lattice structure of the metal.
adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
14. 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
15. The new software provides _____ results, making it much more efficient than the previous version.
adj. occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment

ANSWERS: 8. eavesdropped, 9. motorbike, 10. nodded, 11. helium-filled, 12. capacitors, 13. nanoscale, 14. confer, 15. instantaneous

16. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
17. 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
18. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
- v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
19. My _____ is a talented artist who has won several awards for her drawings.
- n.* a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
20. The mystery novel was full of _____ keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the end.
- n.* a state of uncertain or anxious anticipation or waiting; a feeling of excitement or apprehension that arises from the uncertainty of an outcome
21. The DJ skillfully _____ between two songs, creating a seamless transition on the dance floor.
- v.* to smoothly transition or blend between two audio tracks, videos, or images, usually by reducing the volume of one while simultaneously increasing the volume of the other
22. High thermal _____ is also essential for the exterior of the machine.
- n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
23. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.
- n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

ANSWERS: 16. determinant, 17. app's, 18. obsessed, 19. niece, 20. suspense, 21. crossfaded, 22. conductivity, 23. obsession

24. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

25. The children tried to _____ out and eat the candy.

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

ANSWERS: 24. severed, 25. sneak