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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Deborah Gordon: Inside the ant colony | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

pheromone

n. a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

synonym: scent, odor, aroma

(1) **pheromone** trail, (2) sexual **pheromone**

The perfume industry often uses synthetic **pheromones** to enhance their products' appeal.

fertilize

v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

synonym: pollinate, inseminate, enrich

(1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg

The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to **fertilize** a wife.

predetermine

v. to decide or determine in advance; to establish or influence beforehand

synonym: determine in advance, predestine, decide beforehand

(1) **predetermine** effectiveness, (2) **predetermine** result

I can't **predetermine** the game's outcome, and anything can happen.

convoluted

adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

synonym : intricate, complex, bending

(1) **convoluted** plot, (2) **convoluted** legal language

James Joyce's books are full of long, **convoluted** sentences.

deplete

v. to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials

synonym : exhaust, consume, use up

(1) **deplete** customer confidence, (2) **deplete** glycogen stores

If we continue to **deplete** the Earth's natural resources, we will cause severe damage to the environment.

dissipate

v. to disperse or scatter widely

synonym : scatter, disperse, evaporate

(1) **dissipate** heat, (2) **dissipate** stress

The fog **dissipated**, and the air cleared up.

decentralize

v. to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones

synonym : deconcentrate, disperse, distribute

(1) **decentralize** authority, (2) **decentralize** organizational structure

We need to **decentralize** our data to recover quickly from a disaster.

salesperson

n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers

synonym : dealer, seller, vendor

(1) a **salesperson** in a store, (2) a drapery **salesperson**

He received the title of the best **salesperson** in all our branches worldwide.

minefield

n. an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a

figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps

synonym : hazard, danger, obstacle course

(1) enter a political **minefield**, (2) navigate the **minefield**

The corporate restructuring process was a **minefield** with many obstacles that needed to be navigated.

Session 2: Spelling

1. dec_____ize authority *v.* to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones
2. a sal_____on in a store *n.* a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers
3. pre_____ine effectiveness *v.* to decide or determine in advance; to establish or influence beforehand
4. navigate the mi_____ld *n.* an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps
5. de_____e glycogen stores *v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
6. di_____te heat *v.* to disperse or scatter widely
7. de_____e customer confidence *v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
8. con_____ed plot *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
9. di_____te stress *v.* to disperse or scatter widely
10. fe_____ze the female egg *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 1. decentralize, 2. salesperson, 3. predetermine, 4. minefield, 5. deplete, 6. dissipate, 7. deplete, 8. convoluted, 9. dissipate, 10. fertilize

11. con_____ed legal language *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
12. fe_____ze the soil *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
13. enter a political mi_____ld *n.* an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps
14. ph_____ne trail *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
15. sexual ph_____ne *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
16. pre_____ine result *v.* to decide or determine in advance; to establish or influence beforehand
17. dec_____ize organizational structure *v.* to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones
18. a drapery sal_____on *n.* a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers

ANSWERS: 11. convoluted, 12. fertilize, 13. minefield, 14. pheromone, 15. pheromone, 16. predetermine, 17. decentralize, 18. salesperson

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He received the title of the best _____ in all our branches worldwide.
n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers
2. The corporate restructuring process was a _____ with many obstacles that needed to be navigated.
n. an area or situation that contains a hidden danger or risk, particularly a literal minefield of explosives or a figurative minefield of potential problems or missteps
3. The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to _____ a wife.
v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
4. If we continue to _____ the Earth's natural resources, we will cause severe damage to the environment.
v. to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
5. I can't _____ the game's outcome, and anything can happen.
v. to decide or determine in advance; to establish or influence beforehand
6. The perfume industry often uses synthetic _____ to enhance their products' appeal.
n. a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
7. We need to _____ our data to recover quickly from a disaster.
v. to move the power, control, or authority of an organization, government, or system from a single place to several smaller ones

ANSWERS: 1. salesperson, 2. minefield, 3. fertilize, 4. deplete, 5. predetermine, 6. pheromones, 7. decentralize

8. The fog _____ and the air cleared up.

v. to disperse or scatter widely

9. James Joyce's books are full of long, _____ sentences.

adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

ANSWERS: 8. dissipated, 9. convoluted