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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

George Zaidan: Why is ketchup so hard to pour? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

Newtonian

adj. relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation

synonym: classical, physics, mechanics

(1) **Newtonian** physics, (2) **Newtonian** mechanics

The motion of planets can be described using **Newtonian** mechanics.

merry

adj. cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood

synonym: jolly, happy, cheerful

(1) **merry-making**, (2) **merry** laughter

We had a **merry** time at the Christmas party, singing carols and drinking eggnog.

mayonnaise

n. a thick, creamy condiment or sauce made by emulsifying (= the process of mixing two or more immiscible substances to form a stable mixture) egg yolks, oil, vinegar or lemon juice, and seasonings; typically used as a spread, dip, or dressing for salads or sandwiches

(1) **mayonnaise** dressing, (2) homemade **mayonnaise**

My favorite sandwich is a BLT with extra **mayonnaise**.

toothpaste

n. a paste or gel used for cleaning the teeth and freshening the breath

synonym: paste, gel, dentifrice

(1) **toothpaste** hygiene product, (2) **toothpaste** tube

I always use mint-flavored **toothpaste** to refresh my mouth in the morning and at night.

glassy

adj. resembling glass in appearance or texture; smooth, shiny, and hard

synonym: shiny, smooth, reflective

(1) **glassy** texture, (2) **glassy** appearance

The **glassy** surface of the lake reflected the colorful autumn leaves.

pulverize

v. to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly

synonym: crush, smash, demolish

(1) **pulverize** rocks, (2) **pulverize** competition

The demolition crew had to **pulverize** the old building to make room for the new one.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

thrash

v. to beat violently with a stick or whip; to move violently and uncontrollably; to defeat soundly in a competition or contest

synonym: beat, pummel, thrum

(1) **thrash** about with pain, (2) **thrash** out a deal

He **thrashed** in the water when he realized he was too far from the shore.

squish

v. to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted

synonym : crush, smash, squeeze

(1) **squish** the ellipse, (2) **squish** a tomato

He **squished** the insect between his fingers to get rid of it.

ellipsis

n. the omission of a word or phrase from a sentence or text that is still grammatically complete, indicated by a set of three dots (...) or other markings

synonym : omission, dot-dot-dot, three dots

(1) **ellipsis** mark, (2) use an **ellipsis**

The poem's last line trailed off with an **ellipsis**, inviting readers to interpret the meaning for themselves.

dissolve

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

synonym : disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

lubricate

v. to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface

synonym : grease, oil, make slippery

(1) **lubricate** the economy, (2) **lubricate** the hinges with oil

The mechanic **lubricated** the gears to prevent them from grinding.

rearrange

v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

synonym : readjust, reorganize, reconstruct

(1) **rearrange** the furniture, (2) **rearrange** his schedule

Please **rearrange** these files as we start a new project tomorrow.

oobleck

n. a non-Newtonian fluid made of cornstarch and water, which behaves both like a liquid and a solid depending

on the force exerted on it

synonym: slime, goo, gel

(1) **oobleck's** texture, (2) **oobleck** experiment

My children made **oobleck** slime during their playdate, keeping them entertained for hours.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

xanthan

n. a polysaccharide produced by bacteria, used as a food thickener, stabilizer, or emulsifier in various products, including sauces, dressings, and gluten-free foods

synonym: polysaccharide, gum, thickener

(1) **xanthan** stabilizer, (2) **xanthan** thickener

Many gluten-free products use **xanthan** gum as a substitute for the binding properties of gluten.

telltale

adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something

synonym: revealing, indicative, suggestive

(1) **telltale** evidence, (2) **telltale** heart

The **telltale** signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.

languid

adj. displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest

synonym: lazy, lackadaisical, slow

(1) **languid** summer afternoon, (2) **languid** movements

The **languid** pace of the rural town was a refreshing change from the bustling city life.

Session 2: Spelling

1. lu_____te the hinges with oil
v. to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface
2. re_____ge his schedule
v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
3. Ne_____an mechanics
adj. relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
4. may_____se dressing
n. a thick, creamy condiment or sauce made by emulsifying (= the process of mixing two or more immiscible substances to form a stable mixture) egg yolks, oil, vinegar or lemon juice, and seasonings; typically used as a spread, dip, or dressing for salads or sandwiches
5. te_____le evidence
adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
6. r_t with age
v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
7. la_____d summer afternoon
adj. displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
8. use an el_____is
n. the omission of a word or phrase from a sentence or text that is still grammatically complete, indicated by a set of three dots (...) or other markings

ANSWERS: 1. lubricate, 2. rearrange, 3. Newtonian, 4. mayonnaise, 5. telltale, 6. rot, 7. languid, 8. ellipsis

9. me__y laughter *adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
10. too_____te hygiene product *n.* a paste or gel used for cleaning the teeth and freshening the breath
11. sq___h a tomato *v.* to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted
12. too_____te tube *n.* a paste or gel used for cleaning the teeth and freshening the breath
13. el_____is mark *n.* the omission of a word or phrase from a sentence or text that is still grammatically complete, indicated by a set of three dots (...) or other markings
14. Ne_____an physics *adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
15. pu_____ze competition *v.* to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly
16. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
17. oo_____k experiment *n.* a non-Newtonian fluid made of cornstarch and water, which behaves both like a liquid and a solid depending on the force exerted on it
18. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
19. oo_____k's texture *n.* a non-Newtonian fluid made of cornstarch and water, which behaves both like a liquid and a solid depending on the force exerted on it

ANSWERS: 9. merry, 10. toothpaste, 11. squish, 12. toothpaste, 13. ellipsis, 14. Newtonian, 15. pulverize, 16. rot, 17. oobleck, 18. smashing, 19. oobleck

20. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
21. lu_____te the economy *v.* to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface
22. homemade may_____se *n.* a thick, creamy condiment or sauce made by emulsifying (= the process of mixing two or more immiscible substances to form a stable mixture) egg yolks, oil, vinegar or lemon juice, and seasonings; typically used as a spread, dip, or dressing for salads or sandwiches
23. xa_____n stabilizer *n.* a polysaccharide produced by bacteria, used as a food thickener, stabilizer, or emulsifier in various products, including sauces, dressings, and gluten-free foods
24. te_____le heart *adj.* revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
25. th____h about with pain *v.* to beat violently with a stick or whip; to move violently and uncontrollably; to defeat soundly in a competition or contest
26. re_____ge the furniture *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
27. la_____d movements *adj.* displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest

ANSWERS: 20. smashing, 21. lubricate, 22. mayonnaise, 23. xanthan, 24. telltale, 25. thrash, 26. rearrange, 27. languid

28. officially di____ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
29. gl____y texture *adj.* resembling glass in appearance or texture; smooth, shiny, and hard
30. pu____ze rocks *v.* to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly
31. th____h out a deal *v.* to beat violently with a stick or whip; to move violently and uncontrollably; to defeat soundly in a competition or contest
32. di____ve the sugar *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
33. gl____y appearance *adj.* resembling glass in appearance or texture; smooth, shiny, and hard
34. me__y-making *adj.* cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
35. xa____n thickener *n.* a polysaccharide produced by bacteria, used as a food thickener, stabilizer, or emulsifier in various products, including sauces, dressings, and gluten-free foods
36. sq____h the ellipse *v.* to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted

ANSWERS: 28. dissolve, 29. glassy, 30. pulverize, 31. thrash, 32. dissolve, 33. glassy, 34. merry, 35. xanthan, 36. squish

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We had a _____ time at the Christmas party, singing carols and drinking eggnog.
adj. cheerful and lively, often with a sense of joyfulness or celebration; characterized by a happy or festive mood
2. Please _____ these files as we start a new project tomorrow.
v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
3. The _____ pace of the rural town was a refreshing change from the bustling city life.
adj. displaying or having a lack of energy or vitality; slow or relaxed in manner or movement; showing a lack of enthusiasm or interest
4. My children made _____ slime during their playdate, keeping them entertained for hours.
n. a non-Newtonian fluid made of cornstarch and water, which behaves both like a liquid and a solid depending on the force exerted on it
5. Many gluten-free products use _____ gum as a substitute for the binding properties of gluten.
n. a polysaccharide produced by bacteria, used as a food thickener, stabilizer, or emulsifier in various products, including sauces, dressings, and gluten-free foods
6. He _____ in the water when he realized he was too far from the shore.
v. to beat violently with a stick or whip; to move violently and uncontrollably; to defeat soundly in a competition or contest

ANSWERS: 1. merry, 2. rearrange, 3. languid, 4. oobleck, 5. xanthan, 6. thrashed

7. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
8. He _____ the insect between his fingers to get rid of it.
v. to crush or press something so that it becomes flat or distorted
9. The poem's last line trailed off with an _____ inviting readers to interpret the meaning for themselves.
n. the omission of a word or phrase from a sentence or text that is still grammatically complete, indicated by a set of three dots (...) or other markings
10. The _____ signs of a dishonest employee were missing files and constant delay.
adj. revealing or betraying information or evidence; serving as a sign or indicator of something
11. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
12. The _____ surface of the lake reflected the colorful autumn leaves.
adj. resembling glass in appearance or texture; smooth, shiny, and hard
13. I always use mint-flavored _____ to refresh my mouth in the morning and at night.
n. a paste or gel used for cleaning the teeth and freshening the breath
14. The demolition crew had to _____ the old building to make room for the new one.
v. to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly

ANSWERS: 7. smashing, 8. squished, 9. ellipsis, 10. telltale, 11. rot, 12. glassy, 13. toothpaste, 14. pulverize

15. The mechanic _____ the gears to prevent them from grinding.
- v.* to apply a substance, such as oil or grease, to reduce friction or wear on a surface
16. My favorite sandwich is a BLT with extra _____.
- n.* a thick, creamy condiment or sauce made by emulsifying (= the process of mixing two or more immiscible substances to form a stable mixture) egg yolks, oil, vinegar or lemon juice, and seasonings; typically used as a spread, dip, or dressing for salads or sandwiches
17. The political party _____ after much internal fighting.
- v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
18. The motion of planets can be described using _____ mechanics.
- adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation

ANSWERS: 15. lubricated, 16. mayonnaise, 17. dissolved, 18. Newtonian