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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: How tsunamis work | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

besiege

v. to surround and attack or harass with relentless persistence; to crowd or overwhelm with a large number of requests or demands

synonym: beset, encircle, surround

(1) **besiege** a fortress, (2) **besiege** an enemy

Enemy troops **besieged** the town during the war.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym: douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

wrath

n. extreme anger

synonym: fury, irritation, anger

(1) **wrath** of God, (2) a high person's **wrath**

He finally exploded with **wrath** due to the team's repeated failures.

gravitational

adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

synonym: weighty, heavy, earthbound

(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves

The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.

trough

n. a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity

synonym: trough, channel, depression

(1) the **trough** in an economic cycle, (2) **trough-shaped** valley

The farmers filled the feeding **trough** with hay for the livestock.

eruption

n. an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something

synonym: explosion, outburst, burst

(1) **eruption** alert level, (2) emotional **eruption**

The volcanic **eruption** caused widespread destruction and left the area covered in ash.

landslide

n. a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

synonym: avalanche, mudslide, rockfall

(1) **landslide** victory, (2) prevent a **landslide**

The massive **landslide** buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.

tectonic

adj. relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it

synonym: seismic, geologic, geological

(1) **tectonic** valleys, (2) a **tectonic** earthquake

The **tectonic** plates shifted, causing an earthquake.

displace

v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

synonym : evict, exile, remove

(1) **displace** workers, (2) **displace** the explosive power
The construction of the new dam will **displace** hundreds of families living downstream.

ripple

n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym : wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water

Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

detectable

adj. capable of being discovered or identified

synonym : perceptible, noticeable, observable

(1) a barely **detectable** change, (2) **detectable** by the human ear

The object is **detectable** at ultraviolet wavelengths.

shoal

n. a shallow area in a body of water, such as a river, lake, or sea, where the depth is significantly less than surrounding areas; a sandbar or underwater ridge that can be a hazard to navigation; a large group of fish or other aquatic animals swimming together

synonym : sandbank, sandbar, shallows

(1) **shoal** of fish, (2) reef **shoal**

The fisherman's boat narrowly avoided hitting a dangerous **shoal** in the shallow waters.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym : condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

mislead

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

synonym : misinform, delude, belie

(1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy
Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

divert

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym: distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **divert** attention, (2) **divert** an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym: excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales

The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

Session 2: Spelling

1. wr__h of God *n.* extreme anger
2. mi____d the enemy *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
3. gra_____nal waves *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
4. a te____ic earthquake *adj.* relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
5. di___t an assault *v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
6. er_____on alert level *n.* an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something
7. I was dr__ned in work *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
8. dr__n in a bath *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
9. a barely det_____le change *adj.* capable of being discovered or identified
10. te____ic valleys *adj.* relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it

ANSWERS: 1. wrath, 2. mislead, 3. gravitational, 4. tectonic, 5. divert, 6. eruption, 7. drown, 8. drown, 9. detectable, 10. tectonic

11. det_____le by the human ear *adj.* capable of being discovered or identified
12. a high person's wr__h *n.* extreme anger
13. be_____e an enemy *v.* to surround and attack or harass with relentless persistence; to crowd or overwhelm with a large number of requests or demands
14. sh__l of fish *n.* a shallow area in a body of water, such as a river, lake, or sea, where the depth is significantly less than surrounding areas; a sandbar or underwater ridge that can be a hazard to navigation; a large group of fish or other aquatic animals swimming together
15. emotional er_____on *n.* an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something
16. mi_____d him into trusting her *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
17. the tr___h in an economic cycle *n.* a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity
18. di___t attention *v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

ANSWERS: 11. detectable, 12. wrath, 13. besiege, 14. shoal, 15. eruption, 16. mislead, 17. trough, 18. divert

19. reef sh__l *n.* a shallow area in a body of water, such as a river, lake, or sea, where the depth is significantly less than surrounding areas; a sandbar or underwater ridge that can be a hazard to navigation; a large group of fish or other aquatic animals swimming together
20. di____ce the explosive power *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
21. prevent a la____de *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
22. tr___h-shaped valley *n.* a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity
23. gra_____nal energy *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
24. su____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
25. su____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
26. di____ce workers *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

ANSWERS: 19. shoal, 20. displace, 21. landslide, 22. trough, 23. gravitational, 24. surpass, 25. surpass, 26. displace

27. be____e a fortress *v.* to surround and attack or harass with relentless persistence; to crowd or overwhelm with a large number of requests or demands
28. ri___e in the water *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
29. la_____de victory *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
30. co____ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
31. co____ss the chest *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
32. a ri___e of laughter *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

ANSWERS: 27. besiege, 28. ripple, 29. landslide, 30. compress, 31. compress, 32. ripple

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The object is _____ at ultraviolet wavelengths.
adj. capable of being discovered or identified
2. The _____ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
3. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
4. The _____ plates shifted, causing an earthquake.
adj. relating to the structure of the Earth's crust and the large-scale processes that occur as a result of movements within it
5. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
6. Many businesses felt the _____ effect of the economy's decline.
n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
7. The volcanic _____ caused widespread destruction and left the area covered in ash.
n. an instance of a sudden and violent release of lava, gas, or ash from a volcano; a sudden outburst or explosion of something

ANSWERS: 1. detectable, 2. gravitational, 3. surpassed, 4. tectonic, 5. drown, 6. ripple, 7. eruption

8. Enemy troops _____ the town during the war.
- v.* to surround and attack or harass with relentless persistence; to crowd or overwhelm with a large number of requests or demands
9. The construction of the new dam will _____ hundreds of families living downstream.
- v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
10. The fisherman's boat narrowly avoided hitting a dangerous _____ in the shallow waters.
- n.* a shallow area in a body of water, such as a river, lake, or sea, where the depth is significantly less than surrounding areas; a sandbar or underwater ridge that can be a hazard to navigation; a large group of fish or other aquatic animals swimming together
11. The farmers filled the feeding _____ with hay for the livestock.
- n.* a long, narrow container used for feeding farm animals; a low point or depression between two ridges or peaks; a prolonged period of low economic or emotional activity
12. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.
- v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
13. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
- v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
14. He finally exploded with _____ due to the team's repeated failures.
- n.* extreme anger

ANSWERS: 8. besieged, 9. displace, 10. shoal, 11. trough, 12. mislead, 13. compressed, 14. wrath

15. Due to the road construction, we had to _____ our course to get to the restaurant.

- v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

16. The massive _____ buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.

- n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

ANSWERS: 15. divert, 16. landslide