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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Chris Downey: Design with the blind in mind | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

Braille

n. a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols

(1) **Braille** alphabet, (2) **Braille** system

The museum provided **Braille** labels for visually impaired visitors.

audible

adj. able to be heard; loud enough to be heard clearly
synonym: hearable, perceptible, loud enough

(1) **audible** sound, (2) **audible** words

An **audible** sigh from the back of the room broke the silence.

synchronicity

n. the simultaneous occurrence of seemingly unrelated events that are connected in a meaningful way, suggesting the presence of a deeper, more significant pattern or purpose

synonym: coincidence, simultaneity, concurrence

(1) **synchronicity** theory, (2) **synchronicity** effect

The occurrence of events in **synchronicity** is often taken as a sign of divine intervention.

- yell** v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
synonym: shout, scream, cry
(1) **yell** for help, (2) **yell** as loud as we can
When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and **yelled** at me.
- rattle** v. to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds
synonym: jolt, shake, babble
(1) **rattle** along a road, (2) **rattle** and bang at the door
The vast earthquake caused the house to **rattle**.
- retriever** n. a dog bred and trained for retrieving game, particularly birds, for hunters; a device or machine designed for retrieving or recovering items that are difficult to reach or obtain
synonym: hunter, hound, beagle
(1) **retriever** dog, (2) data **retriever**
The golden **retriever** was trained as a therapy dog to comfort hospital patients.
- leash** n. a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions
synonym: tether, lead, restraint
(1) dog **leash**, (2) walk on a **leash**
Make sure to put the **leash** on your dog before walking.
- greet** v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
synonym: welcome, salute, acknowledge
(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea
He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
- misconception** n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
synonym: fallacy, incomprehension, misunderstanding

(1) dispel the **misconception**, (2) commonly held **misconception**

There are numerous **misconceptions** about food and health.

oblivious

adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful

synonym: forgetful, clueless, unaware

(1) **oblivious** of his promise, (2) **oblivious** to our response

She was so engrossed in her work that she was **oblivious** to her surroundings.

complication

n. something that makes a situation or condition that is complex or confused

synonym: confusion, complexity, difficulty

(1) **complication** of structure, (2) resolve without **complication**

He also continued to struggle with serious long-term **complications**.

tandem

n. a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other

synonym: bicycle built for two, double, tandem bike

(1) **tandem** approach, (2) **tandem** skydiving

The **tandem** bike ride was fun for the couple to enjoy together.

commute

v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

synonym: travel, journey, trip

(1) **commute** to work, (2) daily **commute**

He had to **commute** two hours each way to get to work.

juxtaposition

n. the act or an instance of placing two or more things close to one another, often to highlight a contrast or

comparison between them

synonym : apposition, contrast, adjacency

(1) artistic **juxtaposition**, (2) unusual **juxtaposition**

The painting's **juxtaposition** of bright colors and dark shadows created a striking effect.

unsightly

adj. unpleasant or displeasing to look at; not visually attractive or appealing; visually offensive or unattractive

synonym : ugly, unattractive, hideous

(1) **unsightly** blemish, (2) **unsightly** scar

The building's facade was marred by **unsightly** graffiti.

trivalent

adj. having a valence of three, meaning an atom or ion that can form three chemical bonds or attach to three other atoms or ions

synonym : threefold, triple, triadic

(1) **trivalent** influenza, (2) **trivalent** metal

The **trivalent** vaccine protects against three different strains of the virus.

mundane

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

synonym : ordinary, everyday, prosaic

(1) **mundane** affairs, (2) **mundane** objects

After returning from the war, he had a pretty **mundane** life.

stark

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

synonym : crude, blunt, desolate

(1) **stark** landscape, (2) **stark** truth

The scenery of the battlefield was **stark** and grey.

paramount

adj. more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position

synonym : central, major, crucial

(1) the lord **paramount**, (2) **paramount** to all the others

This country became a country of **paramount** geostrategic

importance to us.

propensity

n. a natural inclination, preference, or tendency toward a particular activity, behavior, or opinion

synonym: tendency, inclination, disposition

(1) **propensity** for violence, (2) **propensity** to procrastinate
His **propensity** for lying caused him to lose many friends.

indifference

n. a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something

synonym: apathy, disinterest, unconcern

(1) **indifference** to pain, (2) general **indifference**
I tried to assume an air of **indifference**.

symphony

n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

synonym: orchestra, harmony, concert

(1) a **symphony** orchestra, (2) a beautiful **symphony**
The frequent performances of the **symphony** prove its popularity.

bakery

n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold

synonym: bakeshop, bakehouse

(1) run a **bakery**, (2) **bakery** industry
He worked at the **bakery** as a baker.

paranoid

adj. unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you

(1) **paranoid** about issues, (2) **paranoid** disorder

A **paranoid** person may have delusions that people want to harm.

yank

v. to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement

synonym: draw, jerk, tug

(1) **yank** out a tooth, (2) **yank** at a rope
He tried to **yank** the memories from his brain.

crosswalk

n. a designated path usually marked with horizontal lines on a street or road, used by pedestrians to cross safely
synonym : pedestrian crossing, zebra crossing, crossway

(1) stop at the **crosswalk**, (2) zebra **crosswalk**
Pedestrians waiting to cross the busy street should use the **crosswalk** for safety.

mandarin

n. an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China

synonym : Chinese, Beijing dialect

(1) ancient **mandarin** house, (2) **Mandarin** Chinese
Mandarin dialects typically have relatively few vowels.

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.

fragility

n. the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable

synonym : delicacy, weakness, frailty

(1) **fragility** of life, (2) emotional **fragility**
The **fragility** of the glass required careful handling during shipping.

takeaway

n. a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information

synonym : conclusion, message, insight

(1) **takeaway** pizza, (2) **takeaway** message
The main **takeaway** from the meeting was the need for better communication.

dweller

n. a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location

synonym: resident, occupant, inhabitant

(1) city **dweller**, (2) rural **dweller**

The mountain **dweller** lived off the land and had a deep connection to nature.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

synonym: cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ob_____us of his promise *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
2. y__l for help *v.* to shout in a sudden and loud way
3. pro_____ty to procrastinate *n.* a natural inclination, preference, or tendency toward a particular activity, behavior, or opinion
4. fr_____ty of life *n.* the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
5. gr__t an idea *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
6. unusual jux_____ion *n.* the act or an instance of placing two or more things close to one another, often to highlight a contrast or comparison between them
7. tr_____nt influenza *adj.* having a valence of three, meaning an atom or ion that can form three chemical bonds or attach to three other atoms or ions
8. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
9. st__k truth *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
10. dog le__h *n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

ANSWERS: 1. oblivious, 2. yell, 3. propensity, 4. fragility, 5. greet, 6. juxtaposition, 7. trivalent, 8. opportune, 9. stark, 10. leash

11. pa_____nt to all the others *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
12. mu_____e objects *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
13. general ind_____nce *n.* a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
14. walk on a le__h *n.* a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions
15. mu_____e affairs *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
16. m__d allergy *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
17. re_____er dog *n.* a dog bred and trained for retrieving game, particularly birds, for hunters; a device or machine designed for retrieving or recovering items that are difficult to reach or obtain
18. Br_____e system *n.* a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols

ANSWERS: 11. paramount, 12. mundane, 13. indifference, 14. leash, 15. mundane, 16. mold, 17. retriever, 18. Braille

19. data re_____er *n.* a dog bred and trained for retrieving game, particularly birds, for hunters; a device or machine designed for retrieving or recovering items that are difficult to reach or obtain
20. au_____e sound *adj.* able to be heard; loud enough to be heard clearly
21. co_____e to work *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
22. y__k out a tooth *v.* to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement
23. y__k at a rope *v.* to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement
24. ta_____ay pizza *n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information
25. au_____e words *adj.* able to be heard; loud enough to be heard clearly
26. ob_____us to our response *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
27. ta_____ay message *n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information
28. daily co_____e *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

ANSWERS: 19. retriever, 20. audible, 21. commute, 22. yank, 23. yank, 24. takeaway, 25. audible, 26. oblivious, 27. takeaway, 28. commute

29. pa____id disorder *adj.* unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
30. Ma____in Chinese *n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
31. dispel the mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
32. ra___e along a road *v.* to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds
33. pro_____ty for violence *n.* a natural inclination, preference, or tendency toward a particular activity, behavior, or opinion
34. the lord pa_____nt *adj.* more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
35. ta___m approach *n.* a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other
36. pa____id about issues *adj.* unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
37. un_____ly blemish *adj.* unpleasant or displeasing to look at; not visually attractive or appealing; visually offensive or unattractive

ANSWERS: 29. paranoid, 30. mandarin, 31. misconception, 32. rattle, 33. propensity, 34. paramount, 35. tandem, 36. paranoid, 37. unsightly

38. a beautiful sy____ny *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
39. tr_____nt metal *adj.* having a valence of three, meaning an atom or ion that can form three chemical bonds or attach to three other atoms or ions
40. ta___m skydiving *n.* a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other
41. city dw_____r *n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
42. rural dw_____r *n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
43. ind_____nce to pain *n.* a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
44. st__k landscape *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
45. a casting m__d *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

ANSWERS: 38. symphony, 39. trivalent, 40. tandem, 41. dweller, 42. dweller, 43. indifference, 44. stark, 45. mold

46. resolve without com_____ion *n.* something that makes a situation or condition that is complex or confused
47. stop at the cr_____lk *n.* a designated path usually marked with horizontal lines on a street or road, used by pedestrians to cross safely
48. syn_____ity effect *n.* the simultaneous occurrence of seemingly unrelated events that are connected in a meaningful way, suggesting the presence of a deeper, more significant pattern or purpose
49. ba___y industry *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
50. com_____ion of structure *n.* something that makes a situation or condition that is complex or confused
51. Br_____e alphabet *n.* a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols
52. ancient ma_____in house *n.* an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China
53. y__l as loud as we can *v.* to shout in a sudden and loud way
54. zebra cr_____lk *n.* a designated path usually marked with horizontal lines on a street or road, used by pedestrians to cross safely
55. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 46. complication, 47. crosswalk, 48. synchronicity, 49. bakery, 50. complication, 51. Braille, 52. mandarin, 53. yell, 54. crosswalk, 55. opportune

56. commonly held mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
57. artistic jux_____ion *n.* the act or an instance of placing two or more things close to one another, often to highlight a contrast or comparison between them
58. emotional fr_____ty *n.* the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
59. a sy_____ny orchestra *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
60. gr__t a customer *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
61. run a ba____y *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
62. un_____ly scar *adj.* unpleasant or displeasing to look at; not visually attractive or appealing; visually offensive or unattractive
63. ra____e and bang at the door *v.* to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds
64. syn_____ity theory *n.* the simultaneous occurrence of seemingly unrelated events that are connected in a meaningful way, suggesting the presence of a deeper, more significant pattern or purpose

ANSWERS: 56. misconception, 57. juxtaposition, 58. fragility, 59. symphony, 60. greet, 61. bakery, 62. unsightly, 63. rattle, 64. synchronicity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Pedestrians waiting to cross the busy street should use the _____ for safety.
 - n.* a designated path usually marked with horizontal lines on a street or road, used by pedestrians to cross safely

2. The golden _____ was trained as a therapy dog to comfort hospital patients.
 - n.* a dog bred and trained for retrieving game, particularly birds, for hunters; a device or machine designed for retrieving or recovering items that are difficult to reach or obtain

3. The vast earthquake caused the house to _____.
 - v.* to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds

4. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
 - v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

5. He also continued to struggle with serious long-term _____.
 - n.* something that makes a situation or condition that is complex or confused

6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
 - adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

7. The _____ bike ride was fun for the couple to enjoy together.
 - n.* a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other

ANSWERS: 1. crosswalk, 2. retriever, 3. rattle, 4. greeted, 5. complications, 6. opportune, 7. tandem

8. The _____ of the glass required careful handling during shipping.
n. the quality of being easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; the state of being delicate or vulnerable
9. There are numerous _____ about food and health.
n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
10. He tried to _____ the memories from his brain.
v. to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement
11. She was so engrossed in her work that she was _____ to her surroundings.
adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
12. After returning from the war, he had a pretty _____ life.
adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
13. When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and _____ at me.
v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
14. The museum provided _____ labels for visually impaired visitors.
n. a system of raised dots that are used by people who are blind or visually impaired to read and write consisting of one to six dots arranged in a specific pattern that represents letters, numbers, punctuation, and other symbols
15. He worked at the _____ as a baker.
n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
16. His _____ for lying caused him to lose many friends.
n. a natural inclination, preference, or tendency toward a particular activity, behavior, or opinion

ANSWERS: 8. fragility, 9. misconceptions, 10. yank, 11. oblivious, 12. mundane, 13. yelled, 14. Braille, 15. bakery, 16. propensity

17. The scenery of the battlefield was _____ and grey.

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

18. _____ dialects typically have relatively few vowels.

n. an influential and high-ranking official, notably in the civil service; the branch of Chinese, which is the official language of China

19. The frequent performances of the _____ prove its popularity.

n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

20. Make sure to put the _____ on your dog before walking.

n. a long, flexible cord or chain used to restrain or control a dog (or other animals); a figurative tool used to control or limit someone's behavior or actions

21. An _____ sigh from the back of the room broke the silence.

adj. able to be heard; loud enough to be heard clearly

22. The _____ vaccine protects against three different strains of the virus.

adj. having a valence of three, meaning an atom or ion that can form three chemical bonds or attach to three other atoms or ions

23. The building's facade was marred by _____ graffiti.

adj. unpleasant or displeasing to look at; not visually attractive or appealing; visually offensive or unattractive

24. The occurrence of events in _____ is often taken as a sign of divine intervention.

n. the simultaneous occurrence of seemingly unrelated events that are connected in a meaningful way, suggesting the presence of a deeper, more significant pattern or purpose

ANSWERS: 17. stark, 18. Mandarin, 19. symphony, 20. leash, 21. audible, 22. trivalent, 23. unsightly, 24. synchronicity

25. This country became a country of _____ geostrategic importance to us.
adj. more important than anything else; having superior power and influence or the highest position
26. I tried to assume an air of _____.
n. a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
27. He had to _____ two hours each way to get to work.
v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
28. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.
n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
29. A _____ person may have delusions that people want to harm.
adj. unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
30. The painting's _____ of bright colors and dark shadows created a striking effect.
n. the act or an instance of placing two or more things close to one another, often to highlight a contrast or comparison between them
31. The mountain _____ lived off the land and had a deep connection to nature.
n. a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location

ANSWERS: 25. paramount, 26. indifference, 27. commute, 28. mold, 29. paranoid, 30. juxtaposition, 31. dweller

32. The main _____ from the meeting was the need for better communication.
- n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information

ANSWERS: 32. takeaway