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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

John McWhorter: Are Elvish, Klingon, Dothraki and Na'vi real languages? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax
His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

trilogy

n. a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme

synonym: triple, triptych

(1) **trilogy** series, (2) **trilogy** format

The Lord of the Rings **trilogy** is a classic in the fantasy genre.

conlang

n. (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes

synonym: constructed language, artificial language

(1) **conlang** dictionary, (2) **conlang** grammar

The **conlang** community has grown tremendously with the rise of fantasy literature and films.

slang

n. informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be

considered appropriate in a professional or formal context

synonym : lingo, jargon, vernacular

(1) **slang** phrases, (2) Internet **slang**

A lot of **slang** words and phrases were popularized by hip-hop music.

lingo

n. the special vocabulary or terminology used by a particular group or profession

synonym : language, jargon, slang

(1) computer **lingo**, (2) medical **lingo**

The language used in the article was technical **lingo**, making it difficult for non-experts to understand.

hoodlum

n. a person who engages in criminal or violent behavior; a thug or gangster

synonym : thug, delinquent, gangster

(1) **hoodlum** behavior, (2) notorious **hoodlum**

The police arrested the juvenile **hoodlum** responsible for the recent string of burglaries in the neighborhood.

clockwork

n. a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock

synonym : mechanism, movement, gears

(1) run like **clockwork**, (2) **clockwork** precision

The **clockwork** mechanism in the grandfather clock needed to be wound up every week.

memorize

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

synonym : learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

urn

n. a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes

synonym : vase, container, jar

(1) memorial **urn**, (2) **urn** decoration

The athlete's remains were scattered at sea rather than placed in an **urn**.

elf

n. a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers

synonym : sprite, pixie, faerie

(1) mischievous **elf**, (2) helpful **elf**

I dressed up as an **elf** for the Christmas party.

soak

v. to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money

synonym : saturate, steep, douse

(1) **soak** in a hot spring, (2) **soak** away stress

I **soaked** the shirt in the sink before washing it.

conjugate

v. to give the different forms of a verb, as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person

synonym : catenate, concatenate

(1) **conjugate** the verb, (2) a **conjugated** protein

The verb is **conjugated** in the main alternative form.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

hamlet

n. a small village or settlement, often without a church

synonym : village, settlement, community

(1) **hamlet** village, (2) historic **hamlet**

The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small **hamlet**.

pronounce

v. to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way

synonym: articulate, enunciate, voice

(1) **pronounce** a judgment, (2) **pronounce** a name

She struggled to **pronounce** the word in a foreign language.

uvula

n. a fleshy, cone-shaped structure that hangs down from the soft palate at the back of the throat, playing a role in speech and swallowing

synonym: dangly bit, throat punchbag

(1) infected **uvula**, (2) sore **uvula**

The doctor recommended surgery to address the enlarged **uvula** causing sleep apnea.

heartfelt

adj. genuine, sincere, and expressing deep feelings or emotions

synonym: sincere, genuine, heartfelt

(1) **heartfelt** apology, (2) **heartfelt** condolence

The letter was a **heartfelt** expression of gratitude to her parents.

quad

n. (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes

synonym: quadrangle, square, block

(1) **quad** room, (2) **quad** biking

We met at the campus **quad** to study for our upcoming exams.

valedictory

adj. relating to a farewell or final address, typically delivered at a graduation ceremony or on leaving a position or place; bidding goodbye

synonym: farewell, goodbye, parting

(1) **valedictory** letter, (2) **valedictory** address

The **valedictory** speech left the graduating class feeling inspired and motivated.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. s__k in a hot spring | v. | to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money |
| 2. tr____y format | n. | a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme |
| 3. de____te a few hours | v. | to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use |
| 4. sore uv__a | n. | a fleshy, cone-shaped structure that hangs down from the soft palate at the back of the throat, playing a role in speech and swallowing |
| 5. memorial u_n | n. | a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes |
| 6. pr____ce a name | v. | to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way |
| 7. mischievous e_f | n. | a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers |
| 8. inh____nt tax | n. | a person or an animal that lives in a particular place |

ANSWERS: 1. soak, 2. trilogy, 3. dedicate, 4. uvula, 5. urn, 6. pronounce, 7. elf, 8. inhabitant

9. a co_____ted protein *v.* to give the different forms of a verb, as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person
10. he_____lt condolence *adj.* genuine, sincere, and expressing deep feelings or emotions
11. tr_____y series *n.* a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme
12. cl_____rk precision *n.* a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock
13. q__d room *n.* (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes
14. Internet sl__g *n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context
15. helpful e_f *n.* a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers
16. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
17. q__d biking *n.* (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes

ANSWERS: 9. conjugate, 10. heartfelt, 11. trilogy, 12. clockwork, 13. quad, 14. slang, 15. elf, 16. dedicate, 17. quad

18. ho_____m behavior *n.* a person who engages in criminal or violent behavior; a thug or gangster
19. infected uv__a *n.* a fleshy, cone-shaped structure that hangs down from the soft palate at the back of the throat, playing a role in speech and swallowing
20. co_____te the verb *v.* to give the different forms of a verb, as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person
21. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
22. medical li__o *n.* the special vocabulary or terminology used by a particular group or profession
23. me_____ze musical scores *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
24. val_____ry letter *adj.* relating to a farewell or final address, typically delivered at a graduation ceremony or on leaving a position or place; bidding goodbye
25. ha___t village *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
26. run like cl_____rk *n.* a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock
27. val_____ry address *adj.* relating to a farewell or final address, typically delivered at a graduation ceremony or on leaving a position or place; bidding goodbye

ANSWERS: 18. hoodlum, 19. uvula, 20. conjugate, 21. inhabitant, 22. lingo, 23. memorize, 24. valedictory, 25. hamlet, 26. clockwork, 27. valedictory

28. co____g dictionary *n.* (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes
29. computer li__o *n.* the special vocabulary or terminology used by a particular group or profession
30. try hard to me____ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
31. notorious ho____m *n.* a person who engages in criminal or violent behavior; a thug or gangster
32. co____g grammar *n.* (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes
33. s__k away stress *v.* to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money
34. historic ha____t *n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
35. u_n decoration *n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes
36. sl__g phrases *n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context

ANSWERS: 28. conlang, 29. lingo, 30. memorize, 31. hoodlum, 32. conlang, 33. soak, 34. hamlet, 35. urn, 36. slang

37. pr_____ce a judgment

v. to say or speak (a word or words)
correctly or in a particular way

38. he_____lt apology

adj. genuine, sincere, and expressing deep
feelings or emotions

ANSWERS: 37. pronounce, 38. heartfelt

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We met at the campus _____ to study for our upcoming exams.
n. (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes

2. The _____ mechanism in the grandfather clock needed to be wound up every week.
n. a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock

3. The police arrested the juvenile _____ responsible for the recent string of burglaries in the neighborhood.
n. a person who engages in criminal or violent behavior; a thug or gangster

4. The _____ community has grown tremendously with the rise of fantasy literature and films.
n. (short for "constructed language") an artificial language created by individuals or communities for artistic, scientific, or cultural purposes

5. The Lord of the Rings _____ is a classic in the fantasy genre.
n. a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme

6. I _____ the shirt in the sink before washing it.
v. to allow liquid to be absorbed, typically by immersing in it; to leave as a guarantee in return for money

7. I dressed up as an _____ for the Christmas party.
n. a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers

ANSWERS: 1. quad, 2. clockwork, 3. hoodlum, 4. conlang, 5. trilogy, 6. soaked, 7. elf

8. The winter snowstorm entirely engulfed the small _____.
- n.* a small village or settlement, often without a church
9. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.
- v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
10. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
- n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
11. The letter was a _____ expression of gratitude to her parents.
- adj.* genuine, sincere, and expressing deep feelings or emotions
12. A lot of _____ words and phrases were popularized by hip-hop music.
- n.* informal or non-standard language that is often used within a specific group or culture and may not be considered appropriate in a professional or formal context
13. The athlete's remains were scattered at sea rather than placed in an ____.
- n.* a large, typically rounded container, often made of ceramic, metal, or glass, used for storing the ashes of a cremated person or pet or for decorative purposes
14. She struggled to _____ the word in a foreign language.
- v.* to say or speak (a word or words) correctly or in a particular way
15. The doctor recommended surgery to address the enlarged _____ causing sleep apnea.
- n.* a fleshy, cone-shaped structure that hangs down from the soft palate at the back of the throat, playing a role in speech and swallowing

ANSWERS: 8. hamlet, 9. memorize, 10. inhabitant, 11. heartfelt, 12. slang, 13. urn, 14. pronounce, 15. uvula

16. The verb is _____ in the main alternative form.

- v.* to give the different forms of a verb, as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person

17. He _____ his life to helping others.

- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

18. The _____ speech left the graduating class feeling inspired and motivated.

- adj.* relating to a farewell or final address, typically delivered at a graduation ceremony or on leaving a position or place; bidding goodbye

19. The language used in the article was technical _____ making it difficult for non-experts to understand.

- n.* the special vocabulary or terminology used by a particular group or profession

ANSWERS: 16. conjugated, 17. dedicated, 18. valedictory, 19. lingo,