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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Courtney Stephens: A brief history of melancholy |
TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

temperament

n. a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior

synonym: disposition, character, personality

(1) the **temperament** of an engineer, (2) a hysterical **temperament**

She has a calm **temperament** and never gets overly upset or angry.

bile

n. a digestive fluid produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, which helps to break down fats in the small intestine; bitterness or spitefulness

synonym: gall, bitterness, acrimony

(1) **bile** secretion, (2) **bile** duct

The doctor identified excess **bile** in the patient's bloodstream, indicating a possible liver or gallbladder issue.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym: echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

unexplained

adj. not able to be explained or understood, lacking explanation or justification for something unknown or mysterious

synonym: mysterious, inexplicable, enigmatic

(1) **unexplained** phenomenon, (2) **unexplained** disappearance

There was an **unexplained** noise coming from the attic that frightened us all.

discern

v. to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious

synonym: determine, distinguish, sense

(1) **discern** the big picture, (2) **discern** friend from foe

Parents need to help their children **discern** right and wrong.

melancholy

n. a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation

synonym: sadness, sorrow, gloom

(1) feel **melancholy**, (2) nostalgic **melancholy**

His **melancholy** mood was apparent to everyone who knew him.

contend

v. to struggle to win or surmount something

synonym: compete, oppose, argue

(1) **contend** that tobacco is nonaddictive, (2) **contend** for a championship

Tobacco companies have long **contended** that their product is not addictive.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

anthropology

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

(1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion

The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

heartbreak

n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment

synonym: grief, sorrow, bitterness

(1) ease her **heartbreak**, (2) go through **heartbreak**

They had experienced the **heartbreak** of losing two children due to premature births.

bruise

n. a mark caused by a blow, typically one that is purple or black on the skin

synonym: contusion, injury, wound

(1) livid **bruise**, (2) earlier emotional **bruise**

She had a **bruise** on her arm from where she fell on the playground.

inexpressible

adj. not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication

synonym: unutterable, incommunicable, unspeakable

(1) **inexpressible** gratitude, (2) **inexpressible** pain

The beauty of the sunset was so stunning that it brought **inexpressible** joy to my heart.

perch

v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or

dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

synonym: sit, roost, squat

(1) **perch** on a ledge, (2) **perch** of a bird of prey

The bird **perched** on the branch, watching the world below.

Session 2: Spelling

1. re____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
2. the tem_____nt of an engineer *n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
3. une_____ed disappearance *adj.* not able to be explained or understood, lacking explanation or justification for something unknown or mysterious
4. ant_____ogy of religion *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
5. livid br___e *n.* a mark caused by a blow, typically one that is purple or black on the skin
6. earliest human an____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
7. feel mel_____ly *n.* a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation
8. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
9. di_____n friend from foe *v.* to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious
10. ease her hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
11. nostalgic mel_____ly *n.* a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation

ANSWERS: 1. resonate, 2. temperament, 3. unexplained, 4. anthropology, 5. bruise, 6. ancestor, 7. melancholy, 8. Arthurian, 9. discern, 10. heartbreak, 11. melancholy

12. b__e secretion *n.* a digestive fluid produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, which helps to break down fats in the small intestine; bitterness or spitefulness
13. une_____ed phenomenon *adj.* not able to be explained or understood, lacking explanation or justification for something unknown or mysterious
14. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
15. Ar_____an romances *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
16. b__e duct *n.* a digestive fluid produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, which helps to break down fats in the small intestine; bitterness or spitefulness
17. go through hea_____ak *n.* a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
18. ine_____ble pain *adj.* not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication
19. earlier emotional br___e *n.* a mark caused by a blow, typically one that is purple or black on the skin
20. di_____n the big picture *v.* to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious
21. social ant_____ogy *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

ANSWERS: 12. bile, 13. unexplained, 14. ancestor, 15. Arthurian, 16. bile, 17. heartbreak, 18. inexpressible, 19. bruise, 20. discern, 21. anthropology

22. a hysterical tem_____nt *n.* a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
23. co_____d for a championship *v.* to struggle to win or surmount something
24. deeply re_____te with the consumers *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
25. pe__h on a ledge *v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
26. co_____d that tobacco is nonaddictive *v.* to struggle to win or surmount something
27. ine_____ble gratitude *adj.* not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication
28. pe__h of a bird of prey *v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

ANSWERS: 22. temperament, 23. contend, 24. resonate, 25. perch, 26. contend, 27. inexpressible, 28. perch

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She had a _____ on her arm from where she fell on the playground.
n. a mark caused by a blow, typically one that is purple or black on the skin
2. Tobacco companies have long _____ that their product is not addictive.
v. to struggle to win or surmount something
3. His _____ mood was apparent to everyone who knew him.
n. a feeling of sadness, disappointment, or boredom, often accompanied by a lack of energy or motivation
4. The bird _____ on the branch, watching the world below.
v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost
5. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
6. She has a calm _____ and never gets overly upset or angry.
n. a person's nature or disposition, especially as it permanently affects their behavior
7. The beauty of the sunset was so stunning that it brought _____ joy to my heart.
adj. not able to be expressed in words or language; too great or overwhelming to be adequately conveyed by any means of verbal or visual communication

ANSWERS: 1. bruise, 2. contended, 3. melancholy, 4. perched, 5. anthropology, 6. temperament, 7. inexpressible

8. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
9. Parents need to help their children _____ right and wrong.
v. to see, perceive, or understand something that is not obvious
10. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
11. They had experienced the _____ of losing two children due to premature births.
n. a feeling of great sadness or disappointment
12. There was an _____ noise coming from the attic that frightened us all.
adj. not able to be explained or understood, lacking explanation or justification for something unknown or mysterious
13. The sound _____ well in this theater.
v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
14. The doctor identified excess _____ in the patient's bloodstream, indicating a possible liver or gallbladder issue.
n. a digestive fluid produced by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, which helps to break down fats in the small intestine; bitterness or spitefulness

ANSWERS: 8. Arthurian, 9. discern, 10. ancestor, 11. heartbreak, 12. unexplained, 13. resonates, 14. bile