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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Karen D. Davis: How does your brain respond to pain? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym: preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym: amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

imaginable

adj. capable of being imagined

synonym: conceivable, plausible, possible

(1) easily **imaginable**, (2) worst **imaginable** case

This is the only **imaginable** strategy.

ache

v. to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain

synonym: hurt, throb, smart

(1) **ache** abominably, (2) **ache** all the time

I **ache** all over after running a marathon yesterday.

nociceptor

n. a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain

(1) thermal **nociceptor**, (2) **nociceptor** fiber

The **nociceptors** in the skin are activated by heat, cold, and pressure.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym: nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

glia

n. a type of brain cell that supports and insulates neurons, provides nutrients to them, and helps to regulate their activity

synonym: astrocyte, microglia, oligodendrocyte

(1) neural **glia**, (2) **glia** function

The human brain contains both neurons and **glia** cells.

superhighway

n. a large, wide road designed for high-speed traffic

synonym: expressway, motorway, artery

(1) six-lane **superhighway**, (2) a tollgate of a **superhighway**

The University provides a wireless Internet **superhighway** to its students.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym: interlink, connect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

salience

n. the quality of being prominent, significant, or relevant; the degree to which something stands out or is noticeable

synonym: prominence, importance, significance

(1) the **salience** of the topic, (2) emotional **salience**

The **salience** of the issue was highlighted in the national news.

modulate

v. to change the key, style, loudness, etc., of something in music to create a particular effect; to fix or adjust the time, amount, degree, or rate of something

synonym: regulate, inflect, adjust

(1) **modulate** the function, (2) **modulate** from one key to another

These chemicals **modulate** the effect of metabolism.

endorphin

n. a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being

synonym: pain reliever, mood elevator

(1) beta- **endorphin**, (2) **endorphin** rush

The release of **endorphins** during exercise can provide a natural high and help to relieve stress.

enkephalin

n. a type of peptide molecule that acts as a neurotransmitter in the brain and is involved in pain relief and other physiological processes

synonym: endorphin, endomorphin

(1) **enkephalin** receptor, (2) opioid **enkephalin**

The level of **enkephalin** in the brain can be affected by certain drugs.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

anesthetic

n. a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain

synonym: sedative, anesthesia, painkiller

(1) **anesthetic** injection, (2) local **anesthetic**

The dentist administered an **anesthetic** to numb the patient's mouth before the procedure.

Session 2: Spelling

1. get dis_____ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
2. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
3. en_____in rush *n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being
4. excite the ne____ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
5. worst ima_____le case *adj.* capable of being imagined
6. di_____ct public opinion *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
7. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
8. in_____fy a good relationship *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
9. a__e abominably *v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain

ANSWERS: 1. distracted, 2. medicinal, 3. endorphin, 4. neuron, 5. imaginable, 6. distract, 7. determinant, 8. intensify, 9. ache

10. dis_____ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
11. neural g__a *n.* a type of brain cell that supports and insulates neurons, provides nutrients to them, and helps to regulate their activity
12. opioid enk_____in *n.* a type of peptide molecule that acts as a neurotransmitter in the brain and is involved in pain relief and other physiological processes
13. mo_____te the function *v.* to change the key, style, loudness, etc., of something in music to create a particular effect; to fix or adjust the time, amount, degree, or rate of something
14. directly int_____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
15. beta-en_____in *n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being
16. ne____n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
17. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
18. emotional sa_____ce *n.* the quality of being prominent, significant, or relevant; the degree to which something stands out or is noticeable

ANSWERS: 10. distracted, 11. glia, 12. enkephalin, 13. modulate, 14. interconnect, 15. endorphin, 16. neuron, 17. medicinal, 18. salience

19. in_____fy diplomatic efforts *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
20. mo_____te from one key to another *v.* to change the key, style, loudness, etc., of something in music to create a particular effect; to fix or adjust the time, amount, degree, or rate of something
21. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
22. six-lane sup_____way *n.* a large, wide road designed for high-speed traffic
23. a__e all the time *v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain
24. di_____ct attention from the real issue *v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
25. easily ima_____le *adj.* capable of being imagined
26. ane_____ic injection *n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
27. g__a function *n.* a type of brain cell that supports and insulates neurons, provides nutrients to them, and helps to regulate their activity
28. noc_____or fiber *n.* a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain

ANSWERS: 19. intensify, 20. modulate, 21. determinant, 22. superhighway, 23. ache, 24. distract, 25. imaginable, 26. anesthetic, 27. glia, 28. nociceptor

29. a tollgate of a sup_____way *n.* a large, wide road designed for high-speed traffic
30. enk_____in receptor *n.* a type of peptide molecule that acts as a neurotransmitter in the brain and is involved in pain relief and other physiological processes
31. human activities int_____ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
32. local ane_____ic *n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
33. the sa_____ce of the topic *n.* the quality of being prominent, significant, or relevant; the degree to which something stands out or is noticeable
34. thermal noc_____or *n.* a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain

ANSWERS: 29. superhighway, 30. enkephalin, 31. interconnect, 32. anesthetic, 33. salience, 34. nociceptor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Our system can now _____ with other databases.
v. to connect similar things
2. These chemicals _____ the effect of metabolism.
v. to change the key, style, loudness, etc., of something in music to create a particular effect; to fix or adjust the time, amount, degree, or rate of something
3. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
4. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
5. The _____ in the skin are activated by heat, cold, and pressure.
n. a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain
6. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
7. I _____ all over after running a marathon yesterday.
v. to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain

ANSWERS: 1. interconnect, 2. modulate, 3. medicinal, 4. distract, 5. nociceptors, 6. determinant, 7. ache

8. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
9. The University provides a wireless Internet _____ to its students.
n. a large, wide road designed for high-speed traffic
10. The level of _____ in the brain can be affected by certain drugs.
n. a type of peptide molecule that acts as a neurotransmitter in the brain and is involved in pain relief and other physiological processes
11. This is the only _____ strategy.
adj. capable of being imagined
12. The _____ of the issue was highlighted in the national news.
n. the quality of being prominent, significant, or relevant; the degree to which something stands out or is noticeable
13. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
14. The dentist administered an _____ to numb the patient's mouth before the procedure.
n. a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
15. The human brain contains both neurons and _____ cells.
n. a type of brain cell that supports and insulates neurons, provides nutrients to them, and helps to regulate their activity

ANSWERS: 8. neuron, 9. superhighway, 10. enkephalin, 11. imaginable, 12. salience, 13. distracted, 14. anesthetic, 15. glia

16. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
- v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
17. The release of _____ during exercise can provide a natural high and help to relieve stress.
- n.* a natural hormone-like substance that is produced by the body and that acts on the nervous system to reduce pain and induce a feeling of well-being

ANSWERS: 16. intensify, 17. endorphins