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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tom Whyntie: The beginning of the universe for beginners | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym : commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life
He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

cosmology

n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

synonym : cosmogony

(1) physical **cosmology**, (2) modern **cosmology**
Cosmology evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.

monumental

adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive

synonym : massive, awesome, enormous

(1) **monumental** task, (2) **monumental** sculpture
Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's **monumental** contributions to physics.

jokingly

adv. done or said in a playful, humorous, or lighthearted manner, often intended to make others laugh or to avoid

taking oneself too seriously

synonym: tongue-in-cheek, jestingly, facetiously

(1) **jokingly** mocked, (2) **jokingly** asked

She **jokingly** suggested they quit their jobs and run to a tropical island.

recreate

v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

synonym: renovate, vivify, revive

(1) **recreate** a single country, (2) **recreate** the feeling of the 1920s

She **recreated** the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

peek

n. a quick or furtive look; (verb) to take a quick and secret look at something

synonym: glimpse, look, glance

(1) sneak **peek**, (2) **peek** at others' misfortune

She took a quick **peek** inside the box before closing it again.

swirl

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

synonym: spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust

The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

overpower

v. to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength

synonym: overwhelm, conquer, surpass

(1) **overpower** the suspect, (2) **overpower** the opponent

The shooter was eventually **overpowered** and arrested by police.

proton

n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

(1) **proton** decay, (2) **proton** conductivity

The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and **protons**.

microsecond

n. one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second

(1) at a **microsecond** rate, (2) 10 millimeters per **microsecond**

This process all happens within a **microsecond**.

quark

n. a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

(1) **quark** physics, (2) the antiparticle of a **quark**

The Big Bang theory states that **quark-gluon** plasma filled the entire universe before matter as we know it was created.

collide

v. to hit something violently when moving

synonym: clash, slam, contradict

(1) **collide** head-on, (2) **collide** in midair

The interests of the two countries **collide**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sw__l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
2. ov_____er the suspect *v.* to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
3. mon_____al task *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
4. physical co_____gy *n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
5. pr___n conductivity *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
6. co_____e in midair *v.* to hit something violently when moving
7. re_____te a single country *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
8. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
9. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
10. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
11. qu__k physics *n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

ANSWERS: 1. swirl, 2. overpower, 3. monumental, 4. cosmology, 5. proton, 6. collide, 7. recreate, 8. physicist, 9. smashing, 10. physicist, 11. quark

12. jo____ly asked *adv.* done or said in a playful, humorous, or lighthearted manner, often intended to make others laugh or to avoid taking oneself too seriously
13. modern co_____gy *n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
14. sw__l up dirt and dust *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
15. re_____te the feeling of the 1920s *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
16. p__k at others' misfortune *n.* a quick or furtive look; (verb) to take a quick and secret look at something
17. the antiparticle of a qu__k *n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet
18. de___e my own life *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
19. jo____ly mocked *adv.* done or said in a playful, humorous, or lighthearted manner, often intended to make others laugh or to avoid taking oneself too seriously
20. 10 millimeters per mic_____nd *n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
21. pr___n decay *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

ANSWERS: 12. jokingly, 13. cosmology, 14. swirl, 15. recreate, 16. peek, 17. quark, 18. devote, 19. jokingly, 20. microsecond, 21. proton

22. sneak p__k *n.* a quick or furtive look; (verb) to take a quick and secret look at something
23. mon_____al sculpture *adj.* great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
24. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
25. co_____e head-on *v.* to hit something violently when moving
26. at a mic_____nd rate *n.* one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second
27. ov_____er the opponent *v.* to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
28. de___e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

ANSWERS: 22. peek, 23. monumental, 24. smashing, 25. collide, 26. microsecond, 27. overpower, 28. devote

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and _____.
n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
2. The interests of the two countries _____.
v. to hit something violently when moving
3. She _____ the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.
v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
4. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
5. The Big Bang theory states that _____ plasma filled the entire universe before matter as we know it was created.
n. a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet
6. She _____ suggested they quit their jobs and run to a tropical island.
adv. done or said in a playful, humorous, or lighthearted manner, often intended to make others laugh or to avoid taking oneself too seriously
7. This process all happens within a _____.
n. one millionth (= 0.000,001) of a second

ANSWERS: 1. protons, 2. collide, 3. recreated, 4. smashing, 5. quark-gluon, 6. jokingly, 7. microsecond

8. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
9. The shooter was eventually _____ and arrested by police.
v. to conquer or establish complete control over someone by using superior strength
10. _____ evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.
n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
11. The chef expertly _____ the sauce onto the plate.
v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern
12. Everyone, even non-scholars, knows Einstein's _____ contributions to physics.
adj. great in importance or influence, size, extent, or solidity; massive
13. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
14. She took a quick _____ inside the box before closing it again.
n. a quick or furtive look; (verb) to take a quick and secret look at something

ANSWERS: 8. physicist, 9. overpowered, 10. Cosmology, 11. swirled, 12. monumental, 13. devoted, 14. peek