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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Larry Smith: Why you will fail to have a great career | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

dismal

adj. depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair

synonym : gloomy, depressing, dreary

(1) **dismal** failure, (2) **dismal** performance

The weather was so **dismal** that we decided to stay indoors all day.

bloodsucker

n. a small animal that feeds on blood, like a leech or a mosquito; a person who is seen as exploiting or taking advantage of others

synonym : leech, tick, parasite

(1) **bloodsucker** mosquito, (2) political **bloodsucker**

The lobbyist was accused of being a **bloodsucker**, using his influence to push through policies that only benefited his clients.

fascination

n. the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

synonym : allure, attraction, charm

(1) rapt in **fascination**, (2) the **fascination** with classical music

I looked at the painting in **fascination**.

obsessive

adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors

synonym : compulsive, fixated, besetting

(1) **obsessive-compulsive** disorder, (2) **obsessive** thoughts

Her **obsessive** behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.

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.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

enumerate

v. to list or mention a number of items or things one by one; to count or calculate systematically

synonym : list, count, itemize

(1) **enumerate** details, (2) **enumerate** options

I will **enumerate** all the items on the grocery list to ensure we remember everything.

irrational

adj. not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers

synonym : illogical, ludicrous, senseless

(1) an **irrational** request, (2) **irrational** numbers

They continued to endure **irrational** treatment by the dictatorship.

- doe** *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
synonym : rabbit, bunny, hare
(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**
Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.
- inscribe** *v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
synonym : engrave, carve, etch
(1) **inscribe** a message, (2) **inscribe** in her mind clearly
The artist **inscribed** a beautiful design on the surface of the vase.
- laureate** *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
(1) Oscar **laureate**, (2) poet **laureate**
The Nobel **laureate** delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.
- unify** *v.* to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit
synonym : bring together, consolidate, merge
(1) **unify** the system, (2) **unify** the party
The people believe that they can **unify** the country.
- practicality** *n.* the quality of being practical or useful in real-life circumstances; the ability to make responsible decisions based on practical considerations rather than abstract or theoretical ones
synonym : usefulness, functionality, pragmatism
(1) the **practicality** of the solution, (2) lack of **practicality**
The company chose a more expensive option to prioritize **practicality** over aesthetics.

warp

v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

synonym : twist, distort, deform

(1) **warp** under pressure, (2) become **warped**

The ship's hull was **warped** from years of use in rough seas.

worldview

n. a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world

synonym : perspective, position, viewpoint

(1) mainstream **worldview**, (2) the **worldview** of the ancient civilization

The war between the two countries was also a battle between competing **worldviews**.

mumble

v. to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately

synonym : murmur, mutter, whisper

(1) **mumble** a reply, (2) **mumble** under your breath

She tended to **mumble** when she was nervous or unsure of herself.

magician

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

synonym : illusionist, conjurer, wizard

(1) **magician's** hat, (2) street **magician**

The children were delighted with the **magician's** clever tricks.

evocative

adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind

synonym : suggestive, stimulating, provocative

(1) **evocative** memories, (2) **evocative** language

The music was **evocative** of a bygone era.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym : frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

ricochet

v. to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface

synonym: bounce, rebound, spring

(1) **ricochet** off the walls, (2) **ricochet** into a crowd

The police officer fired a warning shot that **ricocheted** off the pavement and hit a nearby car.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ri_____et off the walls
v. to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface
2. mu___e a reply
v. to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately
3. in_____be in her mind clearly
v. to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
4. ter_____ng experience
adj. very frightening or intimidating
5. ma_____an's hat
n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
6. the pra_____ity of the solution
n. the quality of being practical or useful in real-life circumstances; the ability to make responsible decisions based on practical considerations rather than abstract or theoretical ones
7. un__y the party
v. to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit
8. blo_____er mosquito
n. a small animal that feeds on blood, like a leech or a mosquito; a person who is seen as exploiting or taking advantage of others

ANSWERS: 1. ricochet, 2. mumble, 3. inscribe, 4. terrifying, 5. magician, 6. practicality, 7. unify, 8. bloodsucker

9. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
10. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
11. en_____te options *v.* to list or mention a number of items or things one by one; to count or calculate systematically
12. ev_____ve memories *adj.* tending to evoke or bring something to mind
13. ev_____ve language *adj.* tending to evoke or bring something to mind
14. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
15. street ma_____an *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
16. mainstream wo_____ew *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
17. mu___e under your breath *v.* to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately

ANSWERS: 9. opportune, 10. germ, 11. enumerate, 12. evocative, 13. evocative, 14. germ, 15. magician, 16. worldview, 17. mumble

18. the wo_____ew of the ancient civilization *n.* a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
19. w__p under pressure *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
20. become w__ped *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
21. in_____be a message *v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
22. di___l failure *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
23. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
24. poet la_____te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
25. rapt in fas_____on *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
26. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

ANSWERS: 18. worldview, 19. warp, 20. warp, 21. inscribe, 22. dismal, 23. doe, 24. laureate, 25. fascination, 26. doe

27. ri____et into a crowd *v.* to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface
28. ob_____ve thoughts *adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
29. the fas_____on with classical music *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
30. political blo_____er *n.* a small animal that feeds on blood, like a leech or a mosquito; a person who is seen as exploiting or taking advantage of others
31. en_____te details *v.* to list or mention a number of items or things one by one; to count or calculate systematically
32. un__y the system *v.* to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit
33. lack of pra_____ity *n.* the quality of being practical or useful in real-life circumstances; the ability to make responsible decisions based on practical considerations rather than abstract or theoretical ones
34. Oscar la_____te *n.* a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work

ANSWERS: 27. ricochet, 28. obsessive, 29. fascination, 30. bloodsucker, 31. enumerate, 32. unify, 33. practicality, 34. laureate

35. ob_____ve-compulsive disorder *adj.* relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
36. di___l performance *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
37. irr_____al numbers *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
38. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
39. an irr_____al request *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
40. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating

ANSWERS: 35. obsessive, 36. dismal, 37. irrational, 38. opportune, 39. irrational, 40. terrifying

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The war between the two countries was also a battle between competing _____.
n. a particular philosophy or cognitive orientation of life or conception of the world
2. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
adj. very frightening or intimidating
3. The lobbyist was accused of being a _____ using his influence to push through policies that only benefited his clients.
n. a small animal that feeds on blood, like a leech or a mosquito; a person who is seen as exploiting or taking advantage of others
4. The Nobel _____ delivered an inspiring speech to the graduating class.
n. a person who has been awarded an honor or a prize for achievement in a particular field, especially in literature or academia; a poet who is honored for achieving the highest level of excellence in a competition or for producing a lifetime body of work
5. Her _____ behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.
adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
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 music was _____ of a bygone era.
adj. tending to evoke or bring something to mind

ANSWERS: 1. worldviews, 2. terrifying, 3. bloodsucker, 4. laureate, 5. obsessive, 6. opportune, 7. evocative

8. The artist _____ a beautiful design on the surface of the vase.
- v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
9. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
- n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
10. The weather was so _____ that we decided to stay indoors all day.
- adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
11. The people believe that they can _____ the country.
- v.* to bring or join something together so that they form a single unit
12. I will _____ all the items on the grocery list to ensure we remember everything.
- v.* to list or mention a number of items or things one by one; to count or calculate systematically
13. The company chose a more expensive option to prioritize _____ over aesthetics.
- n.* the quality of being practical or useful in real-life circumstances; the ability to make responsible decisions based on practical considerations rather than abstract or theoretical ones
14. The children were delighted with the _____ clever tricks.
- n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

ANSWERS: 8. inscribed, 9. doe, 10. dismal, 11. unify, 12. enumerate, 13. practicality, 14. magician's

15. The ship's hull was _____ from years of use in rough seas.
- v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
16. She tended to _____ when she was nervous or unsure of herself.
- v.* to speak quietly, unclearly, or in a way that is difficult to understand; to murmur or mutter inarticulately
17. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
- n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
18. They continued to endure _____ treatment by the dictatorship.
- adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
19. I looked at the painting in _____.
- n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
20. The police officer fired a warning shot that _____ off the pavement and hit a nearby car.
- v.* to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface

ANSWERS: 15. warped, 16. mumble, 17. germ, 18. irrational, 19. fascination, 20. ricocheted