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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Andrew McAfee: Are droids taking our jobs? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

underemployed

adj. employed in a job that does not fully utilize one's skills, education, or experience; employed in a job that is below one's qualifications or aspirations

synonym: underutilized, unemployed, idle

(1) **underemployed** population, (2) **underemployed** graduates

The **underemployed** worker was grateful for any job opportunities that came their way

android

n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

synonym: droid, cyborg

(1) household **android**, (2) **Android** tablet

The lab is developing an **android** robot that assists in dangerous construction work.

recession

n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

synonym: downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**

The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

rebound

v. to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched

synonym: spring back, resile, recover

(1) **rebound** from a setback, (2) **rebound** back into positive growth

The basketball bounced off the rim and **rebounded** to the player.

checkbook

n. a book containing blank checks that can be used to withdraw money from a bank or to make payments by mail

synonym: check register, bank ledger, account book

(1) update your **checkbook**, (2) keep a **checkbook**

I need to balance my **checkbook** to ensure I spend my money wisely.

crater

n. a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite

synonym: cavity, hole, pit

(1) **crater** lake, (2) lunar **crater**

An enormous **crater** marks the area where the vast volcanic explosion occurred.

anemic

adj. relating to or suffering from anemia, a condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin, resulting in lower-than-normal levels of oxygen in the body; lacking vitality, energy, or strength

synonym: weak, feeble, fragile

(1) **anemic** appearance, (2) **anemic** economy

The company's website had **anemic** traffic, with very few visitors each month.

instantaneous

adj. occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment

synonym: immediate, prompt, rapid

(1) **instantaneous** reaction, (2) **instantaneous** message

The new software provides **instantaneous** results, making it much more efficient than the previous version.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict
Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

ken

n. knowledge, perception, understanding, or range of sight;
(verb) to be aware of or know

synonym: knowledge, understanding, familiarity

(1) within my **ken**, (2) **ken** of the person

He had a good **ken** of the city and could easily find his way around.

jeopardy

n. the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss

synonym: danger, risk, peril

(1) put his life in **jeopardy**, (2) tax in **jeopardy**

The project is in **jeopardy** of being canceled due to a lack of funding.

supercomputer

n. a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing

synonym: high-performance computer, mainframe, giant computer

(1) **supercomputer** performance, (2) **supercomputer** technology

China has developed one of the world's fastest **supercomputers** for its space program.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym: course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

vouch

v. to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement

synonym : confirm, validate, attest

(1) **vouch** for the authenticity, (2) **vouch** for the accuracy of the data

I can **vouch** for her honesty and integrity.

humanoid

n. a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human

synonym : android, anthropomorphic

(1) **humanoid** hand, (2) **humanoid** design

The **humanoid** robot was able to mimic human movements and expressions.

entrepreneurship

n. the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one

synonym : self-employment, risk-taking

(1) **entrepreneurship** culture, (2) embody **entrepreneurship**

The government is investing in programs to support **entrepreneurship** and small business development.

boredom

n. a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

synonym : ennui, tedium, monotony

(1) **boredom** relief, (2) chronic **boredom**

The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off **boredom**.

optimist

n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

synonym : positive thinker, dreamer, idealist

(1) **optimist** by nature, (2) excessive **optimist**

She is a confident **optimist** who always looks on the bright side.

utopian

adj. ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)

synonym: idealistic, perfectionistic, unrealistic

(1) **utopian** society, (2) **utopian** goal

He had a **utopian** vision of a world without war.

dystopia

n. an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

synonym: anti-utopia

(1) a crumbling **dystopia**, (2) the escape from **dystopia**

The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into **dystopias**.

conquest

n. the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation

synonym: subjugation, domination, mastery

(1) imperial **conquest**, (2) make a **conquest**

He continued to grow his empire through **conquest**.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

flourish

v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

synonym: boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide

The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

conclusive

adj. serving to settle an issue or put an end to doubt or uncertainty; irrefutable and leaves no room for doubt
synonym : decisive, definitive, convincing

(1) **conclusive** information, (2) **conclusive** statement

The research provided **conclusive** evidence that the new treatment was effective.

darn

v. to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches
synonym : mend, repair, patch

(1) **darn** stockings, (2) **darn** hole

I have to **darn** these socks before they become unwearable.

mockery

n. the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
synonym : ridicule, derision, taunt

(1) **mockery** of the situation, (2) public **mockery**

The comedian's **mockery** of the recent political scandal drew laughs from the crowd.

loosen

v. to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax
synonym : relax, slacken, untie

(1) **loosen** grip, (2) **loosen** knot

Please **loosen** the screws on the back panel so we can access the inside of the machine.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

circumspect

adj. careful, cautious, and aware of potential consequences; characterized by a willingness to consider all possible outcomes before taking action

synonym: cautious, careful, prudent

(1) **circumspect** approach, (2) **circumspect** decision-making

Given the uncertainties of the stock market, a **circumspect** attitude towards investing is often recommended.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

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.

freeman

n. a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote

synonym: citizen, individual, person

(1) **freeman** rights, (2) **freeman** status

In the colonial period, only **freeman** was allowed to vote.

hyperbole

n. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point

synonym: exaggeration, overstatement, embellishment

(1) escalate the **hyperbole**, (2) avoid **hyperbole** in writing

The marketing campaign relied heavily on **hyperbole** to sell the product.

broaden

v. to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal.

synonym: expand, widen, enlarge

(1) **broaden** students' knowledge, (2) **broaden** their horizon

The company **broadened** its product line to include more customer options.

drudgery

n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant

synonym: tedium, laboriousness, grind

(1) office **drudgery**, (2) daily **drudgery**

The tedious **drudgery** of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.

overlord

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

synonym: master, tyrant, autocrat

(1) evil **overlord**, (2) colonial **overlord**

In the feudal system, the **overlord** owned most of the wealth.

Session 2: Spelling

1. bo____m relief *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

2. chronic bo____m *n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation

3. an___c appearance *adj.* relating to or suffering from anemia, a condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin, resulting in lower-than-normal levels of oxygen in the body; lacking vitality, energy, or strength

4. lo___n knot *v.* to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax

5. cr___r lake *n.* a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite

6. d__n hole *v.* to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches

7. k_n of the person *n.* knowledge, perception, understanding, or range of sight; (verb) to be aware of or know

ANSWERS: 1. boredom, 2. boredom, 3. anemic, 4. loosen, 5. crater, 6. darn, 7. ken

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| 8. theoretical ph_____st | <i>n.</i> | a scientist who specializes in the field of physics |
| 9. ent_____hip culture | <i>n.</i> | the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one |
| 10. update your ch_____ok | <i>n.</i> | a book containing blank checks that can be used to withdraw money from a bank or to make payments by mail |
| 11. sma_____ne app developer | <i>n.</i> | a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet |
| 12. talented ph_____st | <i>n.</i> | a scientist who specializes in the field of physics |
| 13. fl_____sh worldwide | <i>v.</i> | to grow or develop vigorously or successfully |
| 14. excessive op_____st | <i>n.</i> | a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future |
| 15. human in_____ct | <i>n.</i> | the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level |
| 16. embody ent_____hip | <i>n.</i> | the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one |
| 17. re_____d back into positive growth | <i>v.</i> | to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched |
| 18. hu_____id design | <i>n.</i> | a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human |
| 19. br_____n students' knowledge | <i>v.</i> | to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal. |

ANSWERS: 8. physicist, 9. entrepreneurship, 10. checkbook, 11. smartphone, 12. physicist, 13. flourish, 14. optimist, 15. intellect, 16. entrepreneurship, 17. rebound, 18. humanoid, 19. broaden

20. con_____ve statement *adj.* serving to settle an issue or put an end to doubt or uncertainty; irrefutable and leaves no room for doubt
21. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
22. br_____n their horizon *v.* to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal.
23. make a co_____st *n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
24. ins_____ous reaction *adj.* occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment
25. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
26. evil ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
27. mo_____y of the situation *n.* the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
28. hu_____id hand *n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
29. d__n stockings *v.* to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches
30. fr_____n rights *n.* a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote

ANSWERS: 20. conclusive, 21. improvisation, 22. broaden, 23. conquest, 24. instantaneous, 25. intellect, 26. overlord, 27. mockery, 28. humanoid, 29. darn, 30. freeman

31. keep a ch_____ok *n.* a book containing blank checks that can be used to withdraw money from a bank or to make payments by mail
32. An_____d tablet *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
33. colonial ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
34. cir_____ct approach *adj.* careful, cautious, and aware of potential consequences; characterized by a willingness to consider all possible outcomes before taking action
35. an____c economy *adj.* relating to or suffering from anemia, a condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin, resulting in lower-than-normal levels of oxygen in the body; lacking vitality, energy, or strength
36. tax in je_____dy *n.* the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss
37. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
38. ut_____n goal *adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
39. recover from a re_____on *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

ANSWERS: 31. checkbook, 32. android, 33. overlord, 34. circumspect, 35. anemic, 36. jeopardy, 37. stabilize, 38. utopian, 39. recession

40. household an____d *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
41. avoid hy_____le in writing *n.* exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
42. sup_____ter technology *n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing
43. a crumbling dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
44. lo____n grip *v.* to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax
45. within my k_n *n.* knowledge, perception, understanding, or range of sight; (verb) to be aware of or know
46. fl_____sh economically *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
47. op_____st by nature *n.* a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future
48. st_____ze blood sugar levels *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
49. put his life in je_____dy *n.* the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss

ANSWERS: 40. android, 41. hyperbole, 42. supercomputer, 43. dystopia, 44. loosen, 45. ken, 46. flourish, 47. optimist, 48. stabilize, 49. jeopardy

50. re_____on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
51. daily dr_____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
52. office dr_____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
53. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
54. fr_____n status *n.* a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote
55. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
56. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
57. ins_____ous message *adj.* occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment
58. vo__h for the authenticity *v.* to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement
59. cir_____ct decision-making *adj.* careful, cautious, and aware of potential consequences; characterized by a willingness to consider all possible outcomes before taking action

ANSWERS: 50. recession, 51. drudgery, 52. drudgery, 53. trajectory, 54. freeman, 55. smartphone, 56. improvisation, 57. instantaneous, 58. vouch, 59. circumspect

60. con_____ve information *adj.* serving to settle an issue or put an end to doubt or uncertainty; irrefutable and leaves no room for doubt
61. imperial co_____st *n.* the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation
62. sup_____ter performance *n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing
63. lunar cr____r *n.* a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite
64. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
65. re_____d from a setback *v.* to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched
66. ut_____n society *adj.* ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
67. the escape from dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
68. vo__h for the accuracy of the data *v.* to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement

ANSWERS: 60. conclusive, 61. conquest, 62. supercomputer, 63. crater, 64. trajectory, 65. rebound, 66. utopian, 67. dystopia, 68. vouch

69. und_____yed graduates *adj.* employed in a job that does not fully utilize one's skills, education, or experience; employed in a job that is below one's qualifications or aspirations
70. escalate the hy_____le *n.* exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
71. public mo_____y *n.* the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
72. und_____yed population *adj.* employed in a job that does not fully utilize one's skills, education, or experience; employed in a job that is below one's qualifications or aspirations

ANSWERS: 69. underemployed, 70. hyperbole, 71. mockery, 72. underemployed

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He had a good ____ of the city and could easily find his way around.
n. knowledge, perception, understanding, or range of sight; (verb) to be aware of or know

2. I have to ____ these socks before they become unwearable.
v. to mend a piece of clothing by sewing over a hole or tear with small, tight stitches

3. The _____ worker was grateful for any job opportunities that came their way
adj. employed in a job that does not fully utilize one's skills, education, or experience; employed in a job that is below one's qualifications or aspirations

4. The lab is developing an _____ robot that assists in dangerous construction work.
n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

5. The tedious _____ of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.
n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant

6. He continued to grow his empire through _____.
n. the act or process of taking control of a country, area, or situation

7. The basketball bounced off the rim and _____ to the player.
v. to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched

ANSWERS: 1. ken, 2. darn, 3. underemployed, 4. android, 5. drudgery, 6. conquest, 7. rebounded

8. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
9. The _____ robot was able to mimic human movements and expressions.
n. a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
10. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
11. The country is facing a _____ with high unemployment and low GDP.
n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
12. The Ottoman Empire _____ for over five centuries.
v. to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
13. Please _____ the screws on the back panel so we can access the inside of the machine.
v. to make something less tight, firm, or fixed; to free from restraint or constraint; to relax
14. The marketing campaign relied heavily on _____ to sell the product.
n. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
15. The company _____ its product line to include more customer options.
v. to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal.

ANSWERS: 8. intellect, 9. humanoid, 10. improvisation, 11. recession, 12. flourished, 13. loosen, 14. hyperbole, 15. broadened

16. The new software provides _____ results, making it much more efficient than the previous version.

adj. occurring or happening immediately or without delay; taking place in an instant or moment

17. An enormous _____ marks the area where the vast volcanic explosion occurred.

n. a huge bowl-shaped cavity in the earth or an object in space, usually created by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite

18. He had a _____ vision of a world without war.

adj. ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)

19. She is a confident _____ who always looks on the bright side.

n. a person who tends to expect the best in all things and to be hopeful and confident about the future

20. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

21. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

22. In the feudal system, the _____ owned most of the wealth.

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

23. Given the uncertainties of the stock market, a _____ attitude towards investing is often recommended.

adj. careful, cautious, and aware of potential consequences; characterized by a willingness to consider all possible outcomes before taking action

ANSWERS: 16. instantaneous, 17. crater, 18. utopian, 19. optimist, 20. trajectory, 21. smartphones, 22. overlord, 23. circumspect

24. The comedian's _____ of the recent political scandal drew laughs from the crowd.
- n.* the act of ridiculing or making fun of someone or something, often in a contemptuous or mocking manner
25. I need to balance my _____ to ensure I spend my money wisely.
- n.* a book containing blank checks that can be used to withdraw money from a bank or to make payments by mail
26. China has developed one of the world's fastest _____ for its space program.
- n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing
27. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
- n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
28. The long lecture on a topic I already knew left me struggling to fight off _____.
- n.* a state of weariness, restlessness, or impatience that arises from not being interested or engaged in an activity, task, or situation
29. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.
- v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
30. The project is in _____ of being canceled due to a lack of funding.
- n.* the state of being in danger or at risk of harm or loss
31. The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into _____.
- n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

ANSWERS: 24. mockery, 25. checkbook, 26. supercomputers, 27. physicist, 28. boredom, 29. stabilizes, 30. jeopardy, 31. dystopias

32. In the colonial period, only _____ was allowed to vote.

n. a person who is not a serf or enslaved person and has the right to hold property and vote

33. The research provided _____ evidence that the new treatment was effective.

adj. serving to settle an issue or put an end to doubt or uncertainty; irrefutable and leaves no room for doubt

34. The company's website had _____ traffic, with very few visitors each month.

adj. relating to or suffering from anemia, a condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin, resulting in lower-than-normal levels of oxygen in the body; lacking vitality, energy, or strength

35. I can _____ for her honesty and integrity.

v. to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement

36. The government is investing in programs to support _____ and small business development.

n. the process or skill of starting and running a business, particularly a new and innovative one

ANSWERS: 32. freeman, 33. conclusive, 34. anemic, 35. vouch, 36. entrepreneurship