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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Aparna Rao: High-tech art (with a sense of humor) |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

irk v. to irritate, annoy, or bother someone; to provoke a feeling of frustration, exasperation, or mild anger

synonym: annoy, irritate, bother

(1) always **irk** me, (2) **irk** the participants

His constant interruptions during the meeting **irked** his colleagues.

mystification n. the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate

synonym: puzzle, perplexity, confusion

(1) **mystification** of the public, (2) **mystification** of the subject

The magician's tricks were a source of **mystification** for the audience.

landline n. (also "wireline") a telephone line that transmits and receives signals through a physical wire or cable network, as opposed to a cellular or satellite connection

synonym: fixed line, wired phone

(1) **landline** phone, (2) **landline** connection

We need to install a **landline** in our new office before we can start taking client calls.

typewriter

n. a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over

(1) **typewriter** keys, (2) electronic **typewriter**

I found an old **typewriter** at a thrift store and used it to write my novel.

dispense

v. to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients

synonym: distribute, allocate, deal out

(1) **dispense** with ceremony, (2) **dispense** justice

The pharmacist started to **dispense** medication to patients.

nephew

n. a son of your brother or sister

(1) three-year-old **nephew**, (2) nieces and **nephews**

My **nephew** is eight months old and still being breastfed.

niece

n. a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law

(1) a bouncing **niece**, (2) play with her **niece**

My **niece** is a talented artist who has won several awards for her drawings.

pygmy

adj. relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale

synonym: tiny, miniature, dwarfish

(1) **pygmy** squirrel, (2) **pygmy** forest

The **pygmy** marmoset is the smallest monkey species in the world.

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym: crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Ageing **creeps** up slowly with time.

foreground

n. the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer

(1) **foreground** segmentation, (2) **foreground** galaxy

A happy group of friends occupies the **foreground** of the picture.

whistle

v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound

synonym: sound, honk, tweet

(1) **whistle** a tune, (2) **whistle** for help

The employee decided to **whistle-blow** on the company's illegal activities.

lifelike

adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

synonym: realistic, naturalistic, vivid

(1) **lifelike** painting, (2) **lifelike** animation

The artist created a **lifelike** sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.

psyche

n. the human soul, mind, or spirit

synonym: mind, soul, spirit

(1) deep **psyche**, (2) **psyche** healing

The therapist helped her understand the workings of her **psyche** and how to cope with her anxiety.

childlike

adj. resembling or characteristic of a child, particularly in being innocent, trusting, or naive

synonym: innocent, naive, trusting

(1) **childlike** charm, (2) **childlike** innocence

She had a **childlike** wonder and curiosity about the world.

intrigue

v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan

with other people to harm someone

synonym : attract, captivate, charm

(1) **intrigue** him, (2) **intrigue** against his rival

The artist's innovative style of work **intrigues** me.

cutout

n. a shape or outline that has been cut or carved out of a material, such as cardboard or wood; a person or thing that has been removed or eliminated from a group or situation; a hole or gap in a fenced or barricaded area for access or viewing

synonym : silhouette, shape, form

(1) **cutout** from magazines, (2) **cutout** of flowers

The artist used a star **cutout** to make a unique art piece.

constrain

v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

synonym : restrict, limit, confine

(1) **constrain** his freedom, (2) **constrain** information flow

The political situation **constrained** the country's economic growth and foreign relations.

instill

v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually

synonym : implant, ingrain, inculcate

(1) **instill** confidence, (2) **instill** medication into my eye

The teacher attempted to **instill** the importance of hard work in her students.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym : intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**

When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

topple

v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing

synonym : overturn, capsized, upset

(1) **topple** communist rule, (2) **topple** off a ledge

The statue was old and unstable, so it easily **toppled** over.

twinkle

v. to shine with a flickering or sparkling light; (noun) the act of shining in a bright and cheerful way

synonym : sparkle, shine, glitter

(1) **twinkle** like a star, (2) the **twinkle** of the stars

His eyes **twinkled** with mischief.

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym : chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

intimidate

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

synonym : frighten, threaten, terrify

(1) **intimidate** an opponent, (2) effectively **intimidate** a thief

The boss tried to **intimidate** his subordinate with threats.

conceal

v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered

synonym : hide, keep secret, camouflage

(1) **conceal** my identity, (2) **conceal** a close relationship

Despite the intense verbal abuse, she **concealed** her anger well.

seam

n. a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil

synonym : stitch, seam, joint

(1) uneven **seam**, (2) the **seam** on the shoulder

She took the dress to the tailor to fix the torn **seam**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. in_____l medication into my eye *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
2. co_____l my identity *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
3. py__y forest *adj.* relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale
4. typ_____er keys *n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
5. electronic typ_____er *n.* a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
6. always i_k me *v.* to irritate, annoy, or bother someone; to provoke a feeling of frustration, exasperation, or mild anger
7. nieces and ne___ws *n.* a son of your brother or sister
8. to___e off a ledge *v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing

ANSWERS: 1. instill, 2. conceal, 3. pygmy, 4. typewriter, 5. typewriter, 6. irk, 7. nephew, 8. topple

9. mys_____ion of the subject *n.* the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate
10. cr__p along the leaf *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
11. for_____nd galaxy *n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
12. co_____in information flow *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
13. cu___t of flowers *n.* a shape or outline that has been cut or carved out of a material, such as cardboard or wood; a person or thing that has been removed or eliminated from a group or situation; a hole or gap in a fenced or barricaded area for access or viewing
14. ch_____ke charm *adj.* resembling or characteristic of a child, particularly in being innocent, trusting, or naive
15. effectively int_____te a thief *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
16. tw_____e like a star *v.* to shine with a flickering or sparkling light; (noun) the act of shining in a bright and cheerful way
17. in_____l confidence *v.* to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
18. ch_____ke innocence *adj.* resembling or characteristic of a child, particularly in being innocent, trusting, or naive

ANSWERS: 9. mystification, 10. creep, 11. foreground, 12. constrain, 13. cutout, 14. childlike, 15. intimidate, 16. twinkle, 17. instill, 18. childlike

19. ps___e healing *n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
20. deep ps___e *n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
21. li_____ke animation *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
22. fo_____nd segmentation *n.* the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
23. a bouncing ni___e *n.* a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
24. in_____ue him *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
25. wh_____e for help *v.* to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound
26. play with her ni___e *n.* a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
27. to___e communist rule *v.* to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
28. uneven s___m *n.* a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil

ANSWERS: 19. psyche, 20. psyche, 21. lifelike, 22. foreground, 23. niece, 24. intrigue, 25. whistle, 26. niece, 27. topple, 28. seam

29. cu___t from magazines *n.* a shape or outline that has been cut or carved out of a material, such as cardboard or wood; a person or thing that has been removed or eliminated from a group or situation; a hole or gap in a fenced or barricaded area for access or viewing
30. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
31. di_____se with ceremony *v.* to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
32. three-year-old ne___w *n.* a son of your brother or sister
33. py__y squirrel *adj.* relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale
34. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
35. co_____in his freedom *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
36. co_____l a close relationship *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
37. int_____te an opponent *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
38. li_____ke painting *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

ANSWERS: 29. cutout, 30. blob, 31. dispense, 32. nephew, 33. pygmy, 34. blob, 35. constrain, 36. conceal, 37. intimidate, 38. lifelike

39. the tw_____e of the stars
v. to shine with a flickering or sparkling light; (noun) the act of shining in a bright and cheerful way
40. la_____ne connection
n. (also "wireline") a telephone line that transmits and receives signals through a physical wire or cable network, as opposed to a cellular or satellite connection
41. in_____ue against his rival
v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
42. aggressive in_____ct
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
43. in_____ct for self-preservation
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
44. mys_____ion of the public
n. the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate
45. di_____se justice
v. to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
46. cr__p toward the mouse
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
47. wh_____e a tune
v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound

ANSWERS: 39. twinkle, 40. landline, 41. intrigue, 42. instinct, 43. instinct, 44. mystification, 45. dispense, 46. creep, 47. whistle

48. i_k the participants
49. la_____ne phone
50. the s__m on the shoulder
- v.* to irritate, annoy, or bother someone; to provoke a feeling of frustration, exasperation, or mild anger
- n.* (also "wireline") a telephone line that transmits and receives signals through a physical wire or cable network, as opposed to a cellular or satellite connection
- n.* a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil

ANSWERS: 48. irk, 49. landline, 50. seam

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The political situation _____ the country's economic growth and foreign relations.
 - v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
2. My _____ is a talented artist who has won several awards for her drawings.
 - n. a daughter of one's sibling, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
3. The therapist helped her understand the workings of her _____ and how to cope with her anxiety.
 - n. the human soul, mind, or spirit
4. The statue was old and unstable, so it easily _____ over.
 - v. to cause to lose balance and fall over, especially by pushing
5. The employee decided to _____ on the company's illegal activities.
 - v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound
6. She took the dress to the tailor to fix the torn _____.
 - n. a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil
7. The artist used a star _____ to make a unique art piece.
 - n. a shape or outline that has been cut or carved out of a material, such as cardboard or wood; a person or thing that has been removed or eliminated from a group or situation; a hole or gap in a fenced or barricaded area for access or viewing

ANSWERS: 1. constrained, 2. niece, 3. psyche, 4. toppled, 5. whistle-blow, 6. seam, 7. cutout

8. The teacher attempted to _____ the importance of hard work in her students.
v. to impart, introduce, or cause to be absorbed gradually
9. The boss tried to _____ his subordinate with threats.
v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
10. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
11. Despite the intense verbal abuse, she _____ her anger well.
v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
12. His eyes _____ with mischief.
v. to shine with a flickering or sparkling light; (noun) the act of shining in a bright and cheerful way
13. The magician's tricks were a source of _____ for the audience.
n. the act or process of making something difficult to understand or explain, often to deceive or manipulate
14. Aging _____ up slowly with time.
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
15. A happy group of friends occupies the _____ of the picture.
n. the part of a view, picture, etc., that is nearest to the viewer
16. The _____ marmoset is the smallest monkey species in the world.
adj. relating to or characteristic of a group of small-statured people inhabiting certain regions in Africa; referring to something very small in size or scale

ANSWERS: 8. instill, 9. intimidate, 10. instinct, 11. concealed, 12. twinkled, 13. mystification, 14. creeps, 15. foreground, 16. pygmy

17. The pharmacist started to _____ medication to patients.
v. to distribute, allocate, or deliver something to the intended recipients
18. My _____ is eight months old and still being breastfed.
n. a son of your brother or sister
19. His constant interruptions during the meeting _____ his colleagues.
v. to irritate, annoy, or bother someone; to provoke a feeling of frustration, exasperation, or mild anger
20. The artist created a _____ sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.
adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior
21. She had a _____ wonder and curiosity about the world.
adj. resembling or characteristic of a child, particularly in being innocent, trusting, or naive
22. I found an old _____ at a thrift store and used it to write my novel.
n. a mechanical device used for writing, consisting of type keys that, when pressed, imprint ink onto paper or other writing material, mainly used before modern computers, printers, and word processors took over
23. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
24. We need to install a _____ in our new office before we can start taking client calls.
n. (also "wireline") a telephone line that transmits and receives signals through a physical wire or cable network, as opposed to a cellular or satellite connection

ANSWERS: 17. dispense, 18. nephew, 19. irked, 20. lifelike, 21. childlike, 22. typewriter, 23. blob, 24. landline

25. The artist's innovative style of work _____ me.

- v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone

ANSWERS: 25. intrigues