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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

James B. Glattfelder: Who controls the world? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

simplistic

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

synonym: basic, uncomplicated, elementary

(1) **simplistic** approach, (2) **simplistic** design

The politician's solution to the problem was too **simplistic** to solve the underlying issue.

overconfidence

n. excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior

synonym: overestimation, hubris, arrogance

(1) **overconfidence** bias, (2) false **overconfidence**

The student's **overconfidence** in their writing abilities caused them not to bother to proofread their essay, resulting in a poor grades.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym: doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

nutshell

n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

synonym: summary, essence, covering

(1) move into a **nutshell**, (2) **nutshell** version

Can you explain your argument in a **nutshell**?

dirk

n. a long and straight-bladed dagger or short sword, typically associated with Scottish Highlanders; a small sidearm or weapon with a pointed blade and a straight handle

synonym: dagger, blade, stiletto

(1) rusty **dirk**, (2) ornate **dirk**

He concealed a small **dirk** in his coat for protection.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap

There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

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.

swarm

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

synonym: horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

termite

n. a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture

synonym : woodworm, white ant, insect

(1) **termite** damage, (2) **termite** inspection

The house was infested with **termites** and required extensive repairs.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym : respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **noded** quietly in response to the question.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

transnational

adj. relating to or involving activities, organizations, or individuals that cross national boundaries or operate in multiple countries; having a presence or influence in multiple countries or regions

synonym : international, global, cross-border

(1) **transnational** migration, (2) **transnational** crime

The company operates as a **transnational** corporation, with offices and operations in multiple countries.

periphery

n. the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people

synonym: edge, border, margin

(1) around the **periphery**, (2) **periphery** countries

The factory was located on the city's **periphery**, away from residential areas.

probabilistic

adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

synonym: probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

emergent

adj. starting to exist or view, or to become known

synonym: coming, appearing, developing

(1) **emergent** repair of an aorta, (2) an **emergent** republic

Extensive areas of **emergent** plants are usually called marsh.

tantalize

v. to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable

synonym: tease, tempt, torment

(1) **tantalize** taste buds, (2) **tantalize** with promises

The smell of freshly baked cookies in the kitchen **tantalized** me.

tainted

adj. spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste

synonym: spoiled, contaminated, infected

(1) **tainted** soil, (2) **tainted** reputation

The meat had to be thrown out because it was **tainted** with bacteria.

gridlock

n. a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making

synonym: traffic jam, standstill, impasse

(1) **gridlock** situation, (2) political **gridlock**

The rush hour traffic in the city often leads to **gridlock** on the highways.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym: immobilize, disable, numb

(1) **paralyze** a city, (2) **paralyze** a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

dogma

n. a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted

synonym: doctrine, tenet, creed

(1) religious **dogma**, (2) the secret **dogma**

All members strictly followed the **dogma** of the organization.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sim_____ic approach *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
2. ta_____ze with promises *v.* to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable
3. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
4. religious do__a *n.* a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
5. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
6. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
7. a sw__m of mosquitoes *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

ANSWERS: 1. simplistic, 2. tantalize, 3. nod, 4. dogma, 5. rev, 6. nod, 7. swarm

8. locust sw__m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
9. false ove_____nce *n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
10. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
11. rusty d__k *n.* a long and straight-bladed dagger or short sword, typically associated with Scottish Highlanders; a small sidearm or weapon with a pointed blade and a straight handle
12. ta_____d reputation *adj.* spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste
13. em_____nt repair of an aorta *adj.* starting to exist or view, or to become known
14. te_____e damage *n.* a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
15. a sk_____al attitude *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
16. political gr_____ck *n.* a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making

ANSWERS: 8. swarm, 9. overconfidence, 10. rev, 11. dirk, 12. tainted, 13. emergent, 14. termite, 15. skeptical, 16. gridlock

17. an em____nt republic *adj.* starting to exist or view, or to become known
18. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
19. the secret do__a *n.* a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
20. ornate d__k *n.* a long and straight-bladed dagger or short sword, typically associated with Scottish Highlanders; a small sidearm or weapon with a pointed blade and a straight handle
21. tra_____nal crime *adj.* relating to or involving activities, organizations, or individuals that cross national boundaries or operate in multiple countries; having a presence or influence in multiple countries or regions
22. pa____ze a city *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
23. pe_____ry countries *n.* the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
24. ove_____nce bias *n.* excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
25. move into a nu____ll *n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

ANSWERS: 17. emergent, 18. institutionalize, 19. dogma, 20. dirk, 21. transnational, 22. paralyze, 23. periphery, 24. overconfidence, 25. nutshell

26. human activities int_____ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
27. directly int_____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
28. sk_____al scientists *adj.* doubting that something is accurate or useful
29. pa_____ze a person *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
30. pro_____tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
31. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
32. French pa_____x *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
33. around the pe_____ry *n.* the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
34. pro_____tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
35. nu_____ll version *n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

ANSWERS: 26. interconnect, 27. interconnect, 28. skeptical, 29. paralyze, 30. probabilistic, 31. institutionalize, 32. paradox, 33. periphery, 34. probabilistic, 35. nutshell

36. ta_____ze taste buds *v.* to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable
37. tra_____nal migration *adj.* relating to or involving activities, organizations, or individuals that cross national boundaries or operate in multiple countries; having a presence or influence in multiple countries or regions
38. ta_____d soil *adj.* spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste
39. sim_____ic design *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
40. te_____e inspection *n.* a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
41. gr_____ck situation *n.* a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making
42. the pa_____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

ANSWERS: 36. tantalize, 37. transnational, 38. tainted, 39. simplistic, 40. termite, 41. gridlock, 42. paradox

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. There are many theories to explain this _____.
n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
2. In a _____ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.
adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
3. The venom from the snake bite _____ his arm.
v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
4. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
5. All members strictly followed the _____ of the organization.
n. a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
6. The meat had to be thrown out because it was _____ with bacteria.
adj. spoiled or contaminated, usually with something harmful; damaged in quality or taste
7. Our system can now _____ with other databases.
v. to connect similar things

ANSWERS: 1. paradox, 2. probabilistic, 3. paralyzed, 4. nodded, 5. dogma, 6. tainted, 7. interconnect

8. The politician's solution to the problem was too _____ to solve the underlying issue.

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

9. The rush hour traffic in the city often leads to _____ on the highways.

n. a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making

10. Extensive areas of _____ plants are usually called marsh.

adj. starting to exist or view, or to become known

11. A _____ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

12. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

13. The factory was located on the city's _____ away from residential areas.

n. the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people

14. Can you explain your argument in a _____

n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

ANSWERS: 8. simplistic, 9. gridlock, 10. emergent, 11. swarm, 12. institutionalize, 13. periphery, 14. nutshell?

15. The house was infested with _____ and required extensive repairs.
n. a small, pale social insect that feeds on wood and can cause significant damage to wooden structures and furniture
16. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
17. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
18. The smell of freshly baked cookies in the kitchen _____ me.
v. to tease or torment by presenting something desirable but out of reach or unattainable; to tempt or lure with the promise of something desirable
19. He concealed a small _____ in his coat for protection.
n. a long and straight-bladed dagger or short sword, typically associated with Scottish Highlanders; a small sidearm or weapon with a pointed blade and a straight handle
20. The student's _____ in their writing abilities caused them not to bother to proofread their essay, resulting in a poor grades.
n. excessive trust or faith in one's abilities, judgments, or decisions, often leading to mistaken assumptions or risky behavior
21. The company operates as a _____ corporation, with offices and operations in multiple countries.
adj. relating to or involving activities, organizations, or individuals that cross national boundaries or operate in multiple countries; having a presence or influence in multiple countries or regions

ANSWERS: 15. termites, 16. rev, 17. skeptical, 18. tantalized, 19. dirk, 20. overconfidence, 21. transnational

ANSWERS: