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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mina Bissell: Experiments that point to a new understanding of cancer | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

fertilize

v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

synonym : pollinate, inseminate, enrich

(1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg

The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to **fertilize** a wife.

blip

n. a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend

(1) temporary **blip**, (2) minor **blip**

The stock market had one bad **blip** today.

enormity

n. the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent

synonym : horribleness, seriousness, immensity

(1) grasp the **enormity**, (2) the **enormity** of the task

The **enormity** of the financial fraud was uncovered after years of investigation.

oncology

n. the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies

synonym : cancer treatment, study of tumors

(1) **oncology** center, (2) modern **oncology** treatment
The pharmaceutical company unveiled its latest breakthrough drug for the **oncology** market.

inject

v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym: shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

dissociation

n. the separation of ideas, emotions, or memories from a person's consciousness; a process by which molecules or compounds separate into smaller units or individual atoms

synonym: separation, detachment, disconnection

(1) trauma-related **dissociation**, (2) **dissociation** reaction

His **dissociation** from his emotions made him distant and unresponsive.

acinus

n. a small, rounded sac or cavity found in the body, particularly in glands and organs, such as the respiratory system or the exocrine glands, where it is involved in the production and secretion of substances

synonym: alveolus, air sac, sacculus

(1) **acinus** of pancreas, (2) alveolar **acinus**

Each **acinus** in the salivary gland produces and secretes saliva.

inert

adj. lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive

synonym : motionless, inactive, dormant

(1) **inert** gases, (2) **inert** ingredients

The rock was completely **inert** and didn't react when we tried to break it open.

gob

n. a lump or chunk of a substance; a large amount of something, especially in the sense of an excess or surplus; a colloquial term for mouth

synonym : globe, lump, dollop

(1) **gob** of mud, (2) sticky **gob**

After taking a **gob** of food, he politely wiped his mouth with a napkin.

droplet

n. a small drop of liquid

synonym : bead, drip, dewdrop

(1) **droplet** size, (2) **droplet** formation

A single **droplet** of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

skepticism

n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

synonym : distrust, doubt, suspicion

(1) natural **skepticism**, (2) **skepticism** toward bureaucracy

This party expresses **skepticism** about the efficacy of the health insurance system.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

scaffold

n. a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work

synonym : platform, staging, framework

(1) **scaffold** construction, (2) go to the **scaffold**

The construction workers set up the **scaffold** to reach the top of the building.

reorganize

v. to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization

synonym : rearrange, reconstruct, reshuffle

(1) **reorganize** a department, (2) **reorganize** his debts

The new CEO was appointed to **reorganize** their business.

vivo

adj. alive or existing in a living organism or system; relating to or involving "live" organisms or systems, particularly in scientific research or experimentation

synonym : alive, living, animate

(1) **vivo** imaging, (2) in **vivo** research

The **vivo** colors of the flowers made the garden come alive.

magnify

v. to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder

synonym : enlarge, elaborate, intensify

(1) **magnify** the danger, (2) **magnify** the image for display

Terrorists often attempt to **magnify** the economic impact of their acts of destruction.

revert

v. to return to a previous state or condition; to reply

synonym : return, go back, restore

(1) **revert** to a heavy smoker, (2) **revert** to the original subject

After trying the new software, I **reverted** to the old version.

phenotype

n. the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction

between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives

synonym : trait, characteristic, attribute

(1) **phenotype** variation, (2) dominant **phenotype**

Our genetic **phenotype** determines the color of our eyes.

repose

n. a state of rest, relaxation, or tranquility; a period of rest or sleep; composure or calmness; a state of being at ease; (verb) to rest or relax; to be situated or positioned

synonym : rest, relaxation, tranquility

(1) state of **repose**, (2) peaceful **repose**

After a long day at work, I found my **repose** in a cozy armchair by the fireplace.

mantra

n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation

synonym : hymn, chant, phrase

(1) campaign **mantra**, (2) chant the **mantra** of structural reform

She repeated her personal **mantra** to herself to stay motivated.

chromatin

n. a complex of DNA and protein found in eukaryotic cells, which primary function is to compact the DNA to fit within the confines of the cell's nucleus

synonym : genetic material, DNA packaging

(1) **chromatin** condensation, (2) **chromatin** structure

Chromatin-remodeling proteins play a crucial role in the accessibility of DNA to the transcription machinery, thereby influencing gene expression.

arrogant

adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities

synonym : haughty, supercilious, disdainful

(1) an **arrogant** attitude, (2) grow **arrogant**

He was so **arrogant** that he thought he was always right.

arrogance

n. excessive self-confidence or self-importance

synonym: hubris, haughtiness, conceit

(1) brazen **arrogance**, (2) **arrogance** of power

He acted with **arrogance** and was not well-liked by his colleagues.

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.

boggle

v. to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised

synonym: hesitate, stagger, bewilder

(1) **boggle** the imagination, (2) **boggle** at the price

The complexity of the situation can **boggle** the mind.

sway

v. to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something

synonym: swing, oscillate, influence

(1) **sway** back and forth, (2) **sway** to the rhythm

The politician tried to **sway** public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. temporary b__p | <i>n.</i> a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend |
| 2. minor b__p | <i>n.</i> a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend |
| 3. ch_____in structure | <i>n.</i> a complex of DNA and protein found in eukaryotic cells, which primary function is to compact the DNA to fit within the confines of the cell's nucleus |
| 4. on_____gy center | <i>n.</i> the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies |
| 5. bo___e the imagination | <i>v.</i> to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised |
| 6. in___t a personal opinion into a debate | <i>v.</i> to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube) |
| 7. the en_____ty of the task | <i>n.</i> the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent |
| 8. ma_____y the image for display | <i>v.</i> to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder |

ANSWERS: 1. blip, 2. blip, 3. chromatin, 4. oncology, 5. boggle, 6. inject, 7. enormity, 8. magnify

9. go to the sc_____ld *n.* a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work
10. an ar_____nt attitude *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
11. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
12. in____t under the skin *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
13. modern on_____gy treatment *n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies
14. g_b of mud *n.* a lump or chunk of a substance; a large amount of something, especially in the sense of an excess or surplus; a colloquial term for mouth
15. natural ske_____sm *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
16. in__t gases *adj.* lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive
17. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
18. sc_____ld construction *n.* a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work

ANSWERS: 9. scaffold, 10. arrogant, 11. physicist, 12. inject, 13. oncology, 14. gob, 15. skepticism, 16. inert, 17. physicist, 18. scaffold

19. s__y back and forth *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
20. dr____t formation *n.* a small drop of liquid
21. ph_____pe variation *n.* the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives
22. ma_____y the danger *v.* to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder
23. in__t ingredients *adj.* lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive
24. grasp the en____ty *n.* the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent
25. bo___e at the price *v.* to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised
26. trauma-related dis_____ion *n.* the separation of ideas, emotions, or memories from a person's consciousness; a process by which molecules or compounds separate into smaller units or individual atoms

ANSWERS: 19. sway, 20. droplet, 21. phenotype, 22. magnify, 23. inert, 24. enormity, 25. boggle, 26. dissociation

27. ac___s of pancreas *n.* a small, rounded sac or cavity found in the body, particularly in glands and organs, such as the respiratory system or the exocrine glands, where it is involved in the production and secretion of substances
28. peaceful re___e *n.* a state of rest, relaxation, or tranquility; a period of rest or sleep; composure or calmness; a state of being at ease; (verb) to rest or relax; to be situated or positioned
29. campaign ma___a *n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
30. v__o imaging *adj.* alive or existing in a living organism or system; relating to or involving "live" organisms or systems, particularly in scientific research or experimentation
31. dis_____ion reaction *n.* the separation of ideas, emotions, or memories from a person's consciousness; a process by which molecules or compounds separate into smaller units or individual atoms
32. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
33. grow ar_____nt *adj.* having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
34. alveolar ac___s *n.* a small, rounded sac or cavity found in the body, particularly in glands and organs, such as the respiratory system or the exocrine glands, where it is involved in the production and secretion of substances

ANSWERS: 27. acinus, 28. repose, 29. mantra, 30. vivo, 31. dissociation, 32. excite, 33. arrogant, 34. acinus

35. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
36. dominant ph_____pe *n.* the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives
37. fe_____ze the soil *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
38. s__y to the rhythm *v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
39. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
40. reo_____ze his debts *v.* to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization
41. fe_____ze the female egg *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 35. sect, 36. phenotype, 37. fertilize, 38. sway, 39. excite, 40. reorganize, 41. fertilize

42. ske_____sm toward bureaucracy *n.* an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge
43. reo_____ze a department *v.* to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization
44. sticky g_b *n.* a lump or chunk of a substance; a large amount of something, especially in the sense of an excess or surplus; a colloquial term for mouth
45. ar_____ce of power *n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance
46. re___t to a heavy smoker *v.* to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
47. ch_____in condensation *n.* a complex of DNA and protein found in eukaryotic cells, which primary function is to compact the DNA to fit within the confines of the cell's nucleus
48. re___t to the original subject *v.* to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
49. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
50. brazen ar_____ce *n.* excessive self-confidence or self-importance
51. state of re___e *n.* a state of rest, relaxation, or tranquility; a period of rest or sleep; composure or calmness; a state of being at ease; (verb) to rest or relax; to be situated or positioned

ANSWERS: 42. skepticism, 43. reorganize, 44. gob, 45. arrogance, 46. revert, 47. chromatin, 48. revert, 49. sect, 50. arrogance, 51. repose

52. chant the ma___a of structural reform

n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation

53. in v__o research

adj. alive or existing in a living organism or system; relating to or involving "live" organisms or systems, particularly in scientific research or experimentation

54. dr_____t size

n. a small drop of liquid

ANSWERS: 52. mantra, 53. vivo, 54. droplet

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

2. This party expresses _____ about the efficacy of the health insurance system.
n. an attitude of doubting or questioning that claims or statements are true or valuable or that something will happen; the disbelief in any claims of ultimate knowledge

3. The new CEO was appointed to _____ their business.
v. to change to a more sufficient or suitable form of organization

4. She repeated her personal _____ to herself to stay motivated.
n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation

5. The _____ colors of the flowers made the garden come alive.
adj. alive or existing in a living organism or system; relating to or involving "live" organisms or systems, particularly in scientific research or experimentation

6. The rock was completely _____ and didn't react when we tried to break it open.
adj. lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive

7. _____ proteins play a crucial role in the accessibility of DNA to the transcription machinery, thereby influencing gene expression.
n. a complex of DNA and protein found in eukaryotic cells, which primary function is to compact the DNA to fit within the confines of the cell's nucleus

ANSWERS: 1. sect, 2. skepticism, 3. reorganize, 4. mantra, 5. vivo, 6. inert, 7. Chromatin-remodeling

8. The stock market had one bad _____ today.
- n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend
9. Each _____ in the salivary gland produces and secretes saliva.
- n.* a small, rounded sac or cavity found in the body, particularly in glands and organs, such as the respiratory system or the exocrine glands, where it is involved in the production and secretion of substances
10. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
- n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
11. After taking a ____ of food, he politely wiped his mouth with a napkin.
- n.* a lump or chunk of a substance; a large amount of something, especially in the sense of an excess or surplus; a colloquial term for mouth
12. The politician tried to _____ public opinion in his favor, but his arguments fell flat.
- v.* to move back and forth or side to side gently, often in response to external factors such as wind or water; to influence or persuade someone to do something; to control or dominate something
13. The complexity of the situation can _____ the mind.
- v.* to be overwhelmed or surprised by something; to hesitate or be uncertain about something; to cause someone to feel overwhelmed or surprised
14. Let's try to _____ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
- v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
15. His _____ from his emotions made him distant and unresponsive.
- n.* the separation of ideas, emotions, or memories from a person's consciousness; a process by which molecules or compounds separate into smaller units or individual atoms

ANSWERS: 8. blip, 9. acinus, 10. physicist, 11. gob, 12. sway, 13. boggle, 14. inject, 15. dissociation

16. The _____ of the financial fraud was uncovered after years of investigation.
n. the quality of being extremely evil or wicked; the vastness of size or extent
17. The pharmaceutical company unveiled its latest breakthrough drug for the _____ market.
n. the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of tumors, especially malignancies
18. He was so _____ that he thought he was always right.
adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's importance or abilities
19. A single _____ of water can reflect the entire world upside down.
n. a small drop of liquid
20. Our genetic _____ determines the color of our eyes.
n. the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives
21. He acted with _____ and was not well-liked by his colleagues.
n. excessive self-confidence or self-importance
22. The construction workers set up the _____ to reach the top of the building.
n. a temporary platform or structure used to support workers and materials during construction or maintenance work
23. Terrorists often attempt to _____ the economic impact of their acts of destruction.
v. to make something look bigger than it really is, especially by looking at it through a lens; to make something bigger, stronger, or louder

ANSWERS: 16. enormity, 17. oncology, 18. arrogant, 19. droplet, 20. phenotype, 21. arrogance, 22. scaffold, 23. magnify

24. After a long day at work, I found my _____ in a cozy armchair by the fireplace.
- n.* a state of rest, relaxation, or tranquility; a period of rest or sleep; composure or calmness; a state of being at ease; (verb) to rest or relax; to be situated or positioned
25. The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to _____ a wife.
- v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
26. After trying the new software, I _____ to the old version.
- v.* to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
27. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 24. repose, 25. fertilize, 26. reverted, 27. excited