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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dennis Wildfogel: How big is infinity? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

graze

v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

synonym : nibble, feed, scrape

(1) turn cattle out to **graze**, (2) **graze** the left shoulder

The sheep **graze** on the green grass in the meadow.

auditorium

n. a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances

synonym : hall, theater, amphitheater

(1) open-air **auditorium**, (2) **auditorium** annex

The **auditorium** seating was filled with people waiting for the concert to begin.

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.

astound

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

synonym : amaze, astonish, surprise

(1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer
The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

vilify

v. to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them

synonym: defame, slander, malign

(1) **vilify** the press, (2) publicly **vilify**

The media has been **vilifying** the politician for his controversial statements.

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.

conjecture

n. an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof

synonym: theory, guess, speculation

(1) **conjecture** theory, (2) scientific **conjecture**

There was much **conjecture** about the cause of the fire, but the investigation is still ongoing.

unsolved

adj. not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma

synonym: unresolved, mysterious, perplexing

(1) **unsolved** mystery, (2) **unsolved** crime

The case remains **unsolved** after years of investigation.

shatter

v. to break suddenly into many pieces

synonym: break, crash, destroy

(1) **shatter** the plate, (2) **shatter** a world record

Her husband's death **shattered** her life entirely.

unanswered

adj. not responded to or explained

synonym : ignored, unrequited, undecided

(1) **unanswered** love, (2) **unanswered** e-mail

Pardon me for leaving some of your questions **unanswered**.

pinnacle

n. the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

synonym : summit, peak, apex

(1) architectural **pinnacle**, (2) reached the **pinnacle**

Climbing to the **pinnacle** of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-------------------------------|------|--|
| 1. ins_____ize customary laws | v. | to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 2. vi___y the press | v. | to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them |
| 3. sh_____r a world record | v. | to break suddenly into many pieces |
| 4. architectural pi_____le | n. | the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success |
| 5. ins_____ize a system | v. | to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 6. aud_____um annex | n. | a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances |
| 7. con_____re theory | n. | an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof |
| 8. as_____d the viewer | v. | to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much |
| 9. una_____ed love | adj. | not responded to or explained |
| 10. reached the pi_____le | n. | the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success |

ANSWERS: 1. institutionalize, 2. vilify, 3. shatter, 4. pinnacle, 5. institutionalize, 6. auditorium, 7. conjecture, 8. astound, 9. unanswered, 10. pinnacle

11. open-air aud_____um *n.* a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances
12. un_____ed mystery *adj.* not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma
13. una_____ed e-mail *adj.* not responded to or explained
14. gr__e the left shoulder *v.* to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
15. scientific con_____re *n.* an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof
16. publicly vi___y *v.* to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them
17. un_____ed crime *adj.* not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma
18. 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
19. sh_____r the plate *v.* to break suddenly into many pieces
20. 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

ANSWERS: 11. auditorium, 12. unsolved, 13. unanswered, 14. graze, 15. conjecture, 16. vilify, 17. unsolved, 18. irrational, 19. shatter, 20. irrational

21. as____d everyone

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

22. turn cattle out to gr__e

v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

ANSWERS: 21. astound, 22. graze

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The final result was nothing short of _____.
v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
2. 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.)
3. The media has been _____ the politician for his controversial statements.
v. to speak or write about someone or something in a way that is likely to make people have a very low opinion of them
4. 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
5. Pardon me for leaving some of your questions _____.
adj. not responded to or explained
6. The sheep _____ on the green grass in the meadow.
v. to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
7. Climbing to the _____ of the mountain is a challenge that many outdoor enthusiasts strive to achieve.
n. the highest point or peak of something, particularly a mountain or a career; the greatest or highest level of achievement or success

ANSWERS: 1. astounding, 2. institutionalize, 3. vilifying, 4. irrational, 5. unanswered, 6. graze, 7. pinnacle

8. Her husband's death _____ her life entirely.
v. to break suddenly into many pieces
9. The _____ seating was filled with people waiting for the concert to begin.
n. a room or building used for concerts, plays, or other public performances
10. The case remains _____ after years of investigation.
adj. not yet understood, explained, or resolved; remaining a mystery or enigma
11. There was much _____ about the cause of the fire, but the investigation is still ongoing.
n. an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof

ANSWERS: 8. shattered, 9. auditorium, 10. unsolved, 11. conjecture