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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Miguel Nicolelis: A monkey that controls a robot with its thoughts. No, really. | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

brainstorming

n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas

(1) **brainstorming** session, (2) do a **brainstorming** about a new product

Many companies employ **brainstorming** as a good way of generating innovative ideas.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

snippet

n. a small piece or brief extract of something

synonym: fragment, excerpt, brief

(1) **snippet** of wisdom, (2) code **snippet**

The journalist saved a **snippet** of the interview for later reference.

astronomer

n. a physicist who studies astronomy

synonym: stargazer, cosmologist, astrophysicist

(1) amateur **astronomer**, (2) solar **astronomer**

This question has fascinated solar **astronomers** for decades.

toil

v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

synonym: struggle, labor, work hard

(1) **toil** to make a living, (2) **toil** up the mountain

The farmers **toiled** in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.

popcorn

n. a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack

synonym: popped corn, puffed corn, corn kernels

(1) a **popcorn** vendor, (2) **popcorn** kernels

We popped some **popcorn** and settled in to watch a movie.

loudspeaker

n. an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas

synonym: speaker, loudhailer, megaphone

(1) wireless **loudspeaker**, (2) **loudspeaker** system

The teacher spoke through the **loudspeaker** so that every student could hear the announcement.

symphony

n. a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

synonym: orchestra, harmony, concert

(1) a **symphony** orchestra, (2) a beautiful **symphony**
The frequent performances of the **symphony** prove its popularity.

robotic

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

synonym: automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

actuate

v. to cause a machine or equipment to start to work

synonym: motivate, spark, drive

(1) **actuate** the circuits, (2) **actuate** a parking brake

A desire for success **actuated** her.

superstar

n. a very famous and successful performer or athlete

synonym: celebrity, icon, megastar

(1) **superstar** athlete, (2) jazz **superstar**

She is a **superstar** in the music industry.

aurora

n. a natural appearance of colored light in Earth's sky that is usually seen in high-latitude regions, especially around the Arctic and Antarctic

(1) **aurora** watching, (2) polar **aurora**

Northern and southern hemispheres alike experience the **aurora**.

primate

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

synonym: ape, monkey, lemur

(1) **primate** species, (2) **primate** sanctuary

Many scientists study **primate** behavior and intelligence.

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.

crave

v. to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely

synonym: desire, yearn, long for

(1) **crave** chocolate, (2) **crave** advice from others

She **craves** success and is always pushing herself to do better.

tactile

adj. relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch

synonym: touchable, tangible, palpable

(1) **tactile** stimulation, (2) **tactile** feedback

The **tactile** sensation of the fabric was soft and smooth to the touch.

assimilate

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

synonym: absorb, incorporate, integrate

(1) **assimilate** into society, (2) **assimilate** a language

The immigrant struggled to **assimilate** into the new culture.

epithelial

adj. relating to the layer of cells that covers the majority of the body's surfaces

(1) **epithelial** surface, (2) **epithelial** layer

The majority of cells in the lung are **epithelial** cells.

voracious

adj. having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

synonym: ravenous, insatiable, greedy

(1) **voracious** thirst, (2) **voracious** reader

The **voracious** appetite of the teenager was legendary.

treadmill

n. a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a moving belt on which the user walks, jogs, or runs in place; a monotonous, repetitive task or activity that feels like it is going nowhere, much like a person walking on a treadmill

synonym: exercise machine, routine

(1) **treadmill** workout, (2) nonstop **treadmill**

I like to watch TV while running on the **treadmill** to pass the time.

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.

neurological

adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

synonym: nervous, neural, brain-related

(1) fever with **neurological** signs, (2) **neurological** symptoms

The patient was diagnosed with a **neurological** disorder affecting their motor skills.

lesion

n. a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease

synonym: injury, wound, damage

(1) muscle **lesion**, (2) brain **lesion**

The doctor examined the **lesion** on the patient's skin to determine if it was cancerous.

exoskeleton

n. a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab

synonym : chitin, exocuticle, carapace

(1) **exoskeleton** suit, (2) robotic **exoskeleton**

The **exoskeleton** of the crab protects it from predators and environmental changes.

proficient

adj. having a high level of skill or knowledge in a particular area

synonym : expert, skilled, adept

(1) **proficient** speaker, (2) **proficient** skill

She is **proficient** in Spanish and can communicate fluently.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. the branch of neu_____nce | <i>n.</i> the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system |
| 2. robotic exo_____on | <i>n.</i> a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab |
| 3. solar ast_____er | <i>n.</i> a physicist who studies astronomy |
| 4. code sn_____t | <i>n.</i> a small piece or brief extract of something |
| 5. t__l up the mountain | <i>v.</i> to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time |
| 6. wireless lou_____er | <i>n.</i> an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas |
| 7. a po_____n vendor | <i>n.</i> a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack |
| 8. ta_____e feedback | <i>adj.</i> relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch |
| 9. epi_____al surface | <i>adj.</i> relating to the layer of cells that covers the majority of the body's surfaces |

ANSWERS: 1. neuroscience, 2. exoskeleton, 3. astronomer, 4. snippet, 5. toil, 6. loudspeaker, 7. popcorn, 8. tactile, 9. epithelial

10. cr__e advice from others *v.* to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely
11. vo_____us reader *adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something
12. ac_____e the circuits *v.* to cause a machine or equipment to start to work
13. au___a watching *n.* a natural appearance of colored light in Earth's sky that is usually seen in high-latitude regions, especially around the Arctic and Antarctic
14. pr_____e species *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
15. cr__e chocolate *v.* to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely
16. ta_____e stimulation *adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch
17. epi_____al layer *adj.* relating to the layer of cells that covers the majority of the body's surfaces
18. hu_____id design *n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
19. ac_____e a parking brake *v.* to cause a machine or equipment to start to work
20. muscle le___n *n.* a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease

ANSWERS: 10. crave, 11. voracious, 12. actuate, 13. aurora, 14. primate, 15. crave, 16. tactile, 17. epithelial, 18. humanoid, 19. actuate, 20. lesion

21. bra_____ing session *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
22. hu_____id hand *n.* a machine or creature that has a body shape similar to that of a human
23. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
24. ne____n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
25. amateur ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
26. fever with neu_____cal signs *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
27. exo_____on suit *n.* a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab
28. brain le____n *n.* a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease
29. ass_____te into society *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
30. sn_____t of wisdom *n.* a small piece or brief extract of something
31. ass_____te a language *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

ANSWERS: 21. brainstorming, 22. humanoid, 23. trajectory, 24. neuron, 25. astronomer, 26. neurological, 27. exoskeleton, 28. lesion, 29. assimilate, 30. snippet, 31. assimilate

32. lou_____er system *n.* an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas
33. pr_____e sanctuary *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
34. t__l to make a living *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
35. do a bra_____ing about a new product *n.* a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
36. po_____n kernels *n.* a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack
37. pro_____nt skill *adj.* having a high level of skill or knowledge in a particular area
38. polar au____a *n.* a natural appearance of colored light in Earth's sky that is usually seen in high-latitude regions, especially around the Arctic and Antarctic
39. ro_____c arm *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
40. jazz su_____ar *n.* a very famous and successful performer or athlete

ANSWERS: 32. loudspeaker, 33. primate, 34. toil, 35. brainstorming, 36. popcorn, 37. proficient, 38. aurora, 39. robotic, 40. superstar

41. vo_____us thirst *adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something
42. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
43. pro_____nt speaker *adj.* having a high level of skill or knowledge in a particular area
44. tr_____ll workout *n.* a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a moving belt on which the user walks, jogs, or runs in place; a monotonous, repetitive task or activity that feels like it is going nowhere, much like a person walking on a treadmill
45. su_____ar athlete *n.* a very famous and successful performer or athlete
46. ro_____c guide operation *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
47. nonstop tr_____ll *n.* a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a moving belt on which the user walks, jogs, or runs in place; a monotonous, repetitive task or activity that feels like it is going nowhere, much like a person walking on a treadmill
48. a beautiful sy_____ny *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements

ANSWERS: 41. voracious, 42. neuroscience, 43. proficient, 44. treadmill, 45. superstar, 46. robotic, 47. treadmill, 48. symphony

49. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
50. a sy_____ny orchestra *n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
51. excite the ne_____ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
52. neu_____cal symptoms *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

ANSWERS: 49. trajectory, 50. symphony, 51. neuron, 52. neurological

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The majority of cells in the lung are _____ cells.
adj. relating to the layer of cells that covers the majority of the body's surfaces
2. Many companies employ _____ as a good way of generating innovative ideas.
n. a group activity or business method in which a group of people meet and think about something at the same time to solve a problem or to create good ideas
3. The _____ of the crab protects it from predators and environmental changes.
n. a hard, external protective covering or framework that supports and gives shape to the body of an invertebrate animal, such as an insect or crab
4. She is _____ in Spanish and can communicate fluently.
adj. having a high level of skill or knowledge in a particular area
5. She is a _____ in the music industry.
n. a very famous and successful performer or athlete
6. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
7. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

ANSWERS: 1. epithelial, 2. brainstorming, 3. exoskeleton, 4. proficient, 5. superstar, 6. neuron, 7. neuroscience

8. The patient was diagnosed with a _____ disorder affecting their motor skills.

adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

9. The _____ sensation of the fabric was soft and smooth to the touch.

adj. relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch

10. The immigrant struggled to _____ into the new culture.

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

11. The _____ appetite of the teenager was legendary.

adj. having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

12. This question has fascinated solar _____ for decades.

n. a physicist who studies astronomy

13. I like to watch TV while running on the _____ to pass the time.

n. a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a moving belt on which the user walks, jogs, or runs in place; a monotonous, repetitive task or activity that feels like it is going nowhere, much like a person walking on a treadmill

14. The teacher spoke through the _____ so that every student could hear the announcement.

n. an electronic device that amplifies sound, typically used to address a large audience or to play music or other audio content in public areas

15. 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

ANSWERS: 8. neurological, 9. tactile, 10. assimilate, 11. voracious, 12. astronomers, 13. treadmill, 14. loudspeaker, 15. humanoid

16. The doctor examined the _____ on the patient's skin to determine if it was cancerous.
- n.* a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease
17. The farmers _____ in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.
- v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
18. A desire for success _____ her.
- v.* to cause a machine or equipment to start to work
19. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
- n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
20. The frequent performances of the _____ prove its popularity.
- n.* a long musical composition in Western classical music for orchestra, usually with three or four main parts called movements
21. She _____ success and is always pushing herself to do better.
- v.* to have a strong desire for something; to long for or want intensely
22. The journalist saved a _____ of the interview for later reference.
- n.* a small piece or brief extract of something
23. Northern and southern hemispheres alike experience the _____.
- n.* a natural appearance of colored light in Earth's sky that is usually seen in high-latitude regions, especially around the Arctic and Antarctic

ANSWERS: 16. lesion, 17. toiled, 18. actuated, 19. trajectory, 20. symphony, 21. craves, 22. snippet, 23. aurora

24. The surgeon removed the tumor using _____ video assistance.

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

25. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

26. We popped some _____ and settled in to watch a movie.

n. a type of corn that expands and puffs up when heated, often used for making a snack

ANSWERS: 24. robotic, 25. primate, 26. popcorn