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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Susan Solomon: The promise of research with stem cells | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

embryonic

adj. of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development

synonym : embryonal

(1) **embryonic** stem cells, (2) **embryonic** development

The project is still in its **embryonic** stage.

pluripotent

adj. describing cells that have the potential to differentiate into any specialized cell in the body, often used in the context of stem cell research and applications

synonym : versatile, all-purpose, adaptable

(1) **pluripotent** embryonic cells, (2) **pluripotent** gene expression

Pluripotent stem cells can differentiate into any cell in the body.

morph

v. to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another

synonym : alter, modify, transform

(1) **morph** into a different shape, (2) **morph** into something entirely different

This company **morphed** into an enterprise company.

Alzheimer

n. a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

synonym : dementia, memory loss, cognitive decline

(1) **Alzheimer's** brain, (2) **Alzheimer's** risk factors

My grandmother has **Alzheimer's** disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.

polio

n. an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability

synonym : poliomyelitis, infantile paralysis

(1) **polio** epidemic, (2) **polio** eradication

The **polio** vaccine development is regarded as one of the greatest medical achievements of the 20th century.

siege

n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

synonym : blockade, encirclement, barricade

(1) hostage **siege**, (2) lay **siege** to his house

People began storing up food and supplies for the **siege**.

ponder

v. to think deeply or carefully about something

synonym : think about, consider, reflect on

(1) **ponder** divine matters, (2) **ponder** life's meaning

She sat quietly, **pondering** the difficult decision.

reprogram

v. to modify or recreate a program

synonym : recreate, modify, revamp

(1) **reprogram** a device, (2) **reprogram** a database

He **reprogrammed** the computer's operating system to remove the safeguard.

biopsy

n. the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease

synonym : examination, autopsy

(1) **biopsy** of bone marrow, (2) liquid **biopsy**

The doctor performed an excisional breast **biopsy**.

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.

recapitulate

v. to summarize or repeat the main points of something

synonym : summarize, repeat, restate

(1) **recapitulate** briefly, (2) **recapitulate** a speech

He **recapitulated** the main points of the meeting for those who had not been able to attend.

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym : open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

toxin

n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

synonym : poison, venom, contaminant

(1) **toxin** exposure, (2) **toxin** production

Mold exposure can release dangerous **toxins** into the air.

hypothesize

v. to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate

synonym : speculate, theorize, conjecture

(1) **hypothesize** as to outcomes, (2) **hypothesize** what

could have happened

Scientists **hypothesize** that the new fish species evolved to survive in deep-sea environments.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

lifesaver

n. a device or person that saves someone's life, often in an emergency or dangerous situation

synonym: rescuer, savior, protector

(1) **lifesaver** ring, (2) emergency **lifesaver**

The GPS device was a **lifesaver** when we got lost in the middle of nowhere.

petri

n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

(1) **petri** dish test, (2) bacteria on **petri** dishes

Glass **petri** dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

subgroup

n. a smaller group within a larger group

synonym: subset, division, segment

(1) **subgroup** of the population, (2) patient **subgroup**

The researchers divided the study participants into two **subgroups**.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

aspirin

n. a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation

(1) prescribe **aspirin**, (2) **aspirin** sensitivity

She took a tablet of **aspirin** to soothe the fever.

hurdle

n. a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
synonym : obstacle, barrier, challenge

(1) overcome **hurdles**, (2) **hurdle** race

The company faced several **hurdles** in the development of its new product.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

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.

incurable

adj. not able to be cured, healed, or remedied; beyond recovery or redemption

synonym : unrecoverable, irreparable, hopeless

(1) **incurable** patient, (2) **incurable** romantic

The patient was diagnosed with an **incurable** disease and given only a few months to live.

Session 2: Spelling

1. hyp_____ze as to outcomes *v.* to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate
2. po____r life's meaning *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
3. 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
4. mo__h into something entirely different *v.* to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
5. Al_____er's risk factors *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
6. mo__h into a different shape *v.* to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
7. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
8. to__n production *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

ANSWERS: 1. hypothesize, 2. ponder, 3. robotic, 4. morph, 5. Alzheimer, 6. morph, 7. smartphone, 8. toxin

9. pe__i dish test *n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
10. plu_____nt embryonic cells *adj.* describing cells that have the potential to differentiate into any specialized cell in the body, often used in the context of stem cell research and applications
11. liquid bi___y *n.* the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease
12. emergency li_____er *n.* a device or person that saves someone's life, often in an emergency or dangerous situation
13. rec_____ate briefly *v.* to summarize or repeat the main points of something
14. prescribe as_____n *n.* a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation
15. plu_____nt gene expression *adj.* describing cells that have the potential to differentiate into any specialized cell in the body, often used in the context of stem cell research and applications
16. 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
17. bacteria on pe__i dishes *n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

ANSWERS: 9. petri, 10. pluripotent, 11. biopsy, 12. lifesaver, 13. recapitulate, 14. aspirin, 15. pluripotent, 16. robotic, 17. petri

18. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
19. po___r divine matters *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
20. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
21. bi___y of bone marrow *n.* the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease
22. em_____ic development *adj.* of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development
23. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
24. as_____n sensitivity *n.* a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation
25. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
26. in_____le romantic *adj.* not able to be cured, healed, or remedied; beyond recovery or redemption
27. Al_____er's brain *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

ANSWERS: 18. app, 19. ponder, 20. industrious, 21. biopsy, 22. embryonic, 23. medicinal, 24. aspirin, 25. medicinal, 26. incurable, 27. Alzheimer

28. re_____am a device *v.* to modify or recreate a program
29. li_____er ring *n.* a device or person that saves someone's life, often in an emergency or dangerous situation
30. to__n exposure *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
31. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
32. 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
33. hostage si__e *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
34. patient su____up *n.* a smaller group within a larger group
35. re_____am a database *v.* to modify or recreate a program
36. 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
37. un____d the stroller *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

ANSWERS: 28. reprogram, 29. lifesaver, 30. toxin, 31. industrious, 32. neuron, 33. siege, 34. subgroup, 35. reprogram, 36. neuron, 37. unfold

38. po__o eradication *n.* an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
39. su____up of the population *n.* a smaller group within a larger group
40. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
41. hu___e race *n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
42. un___d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
43. lay si__e to his house *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
44. rec_____ate a speech *v.* to summarize or repeat the main points of something
45. hyp_____ze what could have happened *v.* to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate
46. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
47. em_____ic stem cells *adj.* of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development

ANSWERS: 38. polio, 39. subgroup, 40. smartphone, 41. hurdle, 42. unfold, 43. siege, 44. recapitulate, 45. hypothesize, 46. app, 47. embryonic

48. po__o epidemic *n.* an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
49. in_____le patient *adj.* not able to be cured, healed, or remedied; beyond recovery or redemption
50. overcome hu___es *n.* a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome

ANSWERS: 48. polio, 49. incurable, 50. hurdle

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company faced several _____ in the development of its new product.
n. a barrier or obstacle that must be overcome
2. She took a tablet of _____ to soothe the fever.
n. a drug used to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation
3. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
4. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
5. The doctor performed an excisional breast _____.
n. the process of removing and examining tissue from the body of the sick person to determine the existence or cause of a disease
6. Scientists _____ that the new fish species evolved to survive in deep-sea environments.
v. to form or present a theory or explanation without sufficient evidence; to speculate
7. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
8. Mold exposure can release dangerous _____ into the air.
n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

ANSWERS: 1. hurdles, 2. aspirin, 3. industrious, 4. medicinal, 5. biopsy, 6. hypothesize, 7. unfolded, 8. toxins

9. He _____ the main points of the meeting for those who had not been able to attend.
v. to summarize or repeat the main points of something
10. The patient was diagnosed with an _____ disease and given only a few months to live.
adj. not able to be cured, healed, or remedied; beyond recovery or redemption
11. The GPS device was a _____ when we got lost in the middle of nowhere.
n. a device or person that saves someone's life, often in an emergency or dangerous situation
12. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
13. This company _____ into an enterprise company.
v. to change or cause to change something or someone smoothly and gradually from one thing to another
14. _____ stem cells can differentiate into any cell in the body.
adj. describing cells that have the potential to differentiate into any specialized cell in the body, often used in the context of stem cell research and applications
15. He _____ the computer's operating system to remove the safeguard.
v. to modify or recreate a program
16. She sat quietly, _____ the difficult decision.
v. to think deeply or carefully about something

ANSWERS: 9. recapitulated, 10. incurable, 11. lifesaver, 12. app's, 13. morphed, 14. Pluripotent, 15. reprogrammed, 16. pondering

17. 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
18. Glass _____ dishes are used to culture microorganisms.
n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
19. People began storing up food and supplies for the _____.
n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
20. The _____ vaccine development is regarded as one of the greatest medical achievements of the 20th century.
n. an acute infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, leading to paralysis, muscle weakness, and potentially lifelong disability
21. The project is still in its _____ stage.
adj. of or relating to an embryo (= an animal organism in the early stages of growth); in an early stage of development
22. 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
23. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

ANSWERS: 17. neuron, 18. petri, 19. siege, 20. polio, 21. embryonic, 22. robotic, 23. smartphones

24. My grandmother has _____ disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.
- n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
25. The researchers divided the study participants into two _____.
- n.* a smaller group within a larger group

ANSWERS: 24. Alzheimer's, 25. subgroups