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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Chris Anderson: Why can't we see evidence of alien life? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

teem

v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
synonym: brim, swarm, overflow

(1) **teem** with activity, (2) **teem** down

The city **teems** with traffic on holiday.

theorist

n. a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation

synonym: philosopher, academic, scholar

(1) scientific **theorist**, (2) conspiracy **theorist**

The feminist **theorist** criticized traditional models of gender roles and argued for greater equality between the sexes.

riddle

n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

synonym: mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

observatory

n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

(1) space **observatory**, (2) a meteorological **observatory**
That astronomical **observatory** stands at the top of the mountain.

extrapolate

v. to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now

synonym: deduce, reason, infer

(1) **extrapolate** the results, (2) **extrapolate** animal dose
This predictive model mechanically **extrapolates** past trends into the future.

spawn

v. to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop

synonym: beget, breed, generate

(1) **spawn** in spring, (2) **spawn** a new concept
The salmon swims upstream to **spawn** in the place they were released.

artifact

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

synonym: antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**
The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

spaceship

n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space

synonym: starship, rocket, spacecraft

(1) a **spaceship** to survey the moon, (2) alien **spaceship**
They launched a crewless **spaceship** into space.

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**.

superintelligence

n. a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind

(1) digital **superintelligence**, (2) artificial **superintelligence**

He is looking for evidence of the existence of **superintelligence** from cosmic signals.

paranoid

adj. unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you

(1) **paranoid** about issues, (2) **paranoid** disorder

A **paranoid** person may have delusions that people want to harm.

obliterate

v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory

synonym: destroy, eliminate, erase

(1) **obliterate** all traces, (2) **obliterate** data

The accident at that nuclear power plant **obliterated** the local ecosystem.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

pitiful

adj. making people feel sorrow or sympathy; very small or poor

synonym: miserable, contemptible, sorry

(1) a **pitiful** fate, (2) cast **pitiful** eyes

We heard their **pitiful** laments throughout the night.

clunky

adj. heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

synonym: clumsy, bulky, burdensome

(1) **clunky** phrasing, (2) **clunky** robot

Refined character portrayal makes up for **clunky** gameplay.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

microscopic

adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

synonym: infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

outlive

v. to live longer than another person

synonym: continue, outlast, survive

(1) **outlive** its usefulness, (2) **outlive** our child

She **outlived** her husband for many years.

passee

adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym: outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passee** entertainment, (2) **passee** trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passee** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

spectroscope

n. an optical instrument used for spectrographic analysis (= measurement of properties of light over a specific portion of the electromagnetic spectrum)

(1) infrared **spectroscope**, (2) Fourier **spectroscope**

An X-ray **spectroscope** can determine the composition of

the elements in a sample.

extraterrestrial

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

synonym : alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence
Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

awe-inspiring

adj. making you feel great respect or admiration through being impressive or formidable

synonym : magnificent, amazing, astonishing

(1) **awe-inspiring** painting, (2) **awe-inspiring** power
The moment the glacier collapses is an **awe-inspiring** sight.

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**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. solve the ri___e | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |
| 2. artificial sup_____nce | <i>n.</i> a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind |
| 3. conspiracy th____st | <i>n.</i> a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation |
| 4. t__m down | <i>v.</i> to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily |
| 5. ext_____te animal dose | <i>v.</i> to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now |
| 6. sp__n a new concept | <i>v.</i> to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop |
| 7. ri___e me a riddle | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |
| 8. obl_____te data | <i>v.</i> to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory |

ANSWERS: 1. riddle, 2. superintelligence, 3. theorist, 4. teem, 5. extrapolate, 6. spawn, 7. riddle, 8. obliterate

9. ext_____ial planet *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
10. awe_____ing painting *adj.* making you feel great respect or admiration through being impressive or formidable
11. digital sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
12. ou_____e our child *v.* to live longer than another person
13. pa_____id disorder *adj.* unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
14. ext_____ial intelligence *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
15. una_____ed love *adj.* not responded to or explained
16. a pi_____l fate *adj.* making people feel sorrow or sympathy; very small or poor
17. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
18. t__m with activity *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

ANSWERS: 9. extraterrestrial, 10. awe-inspiring, 11. superintelligence, 12. outlive, 13. paranoid, 14. extraterrestrial, 15. unanswered, 16. pitiful, 17. aft, 18. teem

19. paleolithic ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
20. scientific th_____st *n.* a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation
21. pa_____id about issues *adj.* unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
22. 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
23. alien sp_____ip *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
24. una_____ed e-mail *adj.* not responded to or explained
25. 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
26. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
27. space obs_____ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

ANSWERS: 19. artifact, 20. theorist, 21. paranoid, 22. rev, 23. spaceship, 24. unanswered, 25. rev, 26. passe, 27. observatory

28. Fourier spe_____ope *n.* an optical instrument used for spectrographic analysis (= measurement of properties of light over a specific portion of the electromagnetic spectrum)
29. awe_____ing power *adj.* making you feel great respect or admiration through being impressive or formidable
30. cast pi_____l eyes *adj.* making people feel sorrow or sympathy; very small or poor
31. a sp_____ip to survey the moon *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
32. sp__n in spring *v.* to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop
33. cl___y robot *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
34. infrared spe_____ope *n.* an optical instrument used for spectrographic analysis (= measurement of properties of light over a specific portion of the electromagnetic spectrum)
35. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
36. mic_____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
37. fo_____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

ANSWERS: 28. spectroscope, 29. awe-inspiring, 30. pitiful, 31. spaceship, 32. spawn, 33. clunky, 34. spectroscope, 35. passe, 36. microscopic, 37. footprint

38. ext_____te the results *v.* to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
39. ou_____e its usefulness *v.* to live longer than another person
40. a meteorological obs_____ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
41. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
42. cl____y phrasing *adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement
43. Peruvian ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
44. obl_____te all traces *v.* to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory
45. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
46. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

ANSWERS: 38. extrapolate, 39. outlive, 40. observatory, 41. microscopic, 42. clunky, 43. artifact, 44. obliterate, 45. footprint, 46. aft

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered _____ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.
adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
2. A _____ person may have delusions that people want to harm.
adj. unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
3. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of _____ life in the universe.
adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
4. She _____ her husband for many years.
v. to live longer than another person
5. The ___ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
6. Pardon me for leaving some of your questions _____.
adj. not responded to or explained
7. The _____ remains mysterious to us.
n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

ANSWERS: 1. passe, 2. paranoid, 3. extraterrestrial, 4. outlived, 5. aft, 6. unanswered, 7. riddle

8. The accident at that nuclear power plant _____ the local ecosystem.
v. to wipe out, destroy, or conceal all signs of something utterly; to remove completely from recognition or memory
9. They launched a crewless _____ into space.
n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
10. We heard their _____ laments throughout the night.
adj. making people feel sorrow or sympathy; very small or poor
11. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
12. An X-ray _____ can determine the composition of the elements in a sample.
n. an optical instrument used for spectrographic analysis (= measurement of properties of light over a specific portion of the electromagnetic spectrum)
13. 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
14. The salmon swims upstream to _____ in the place they were released.
v. to lay eggs or to produce offspring; to cause something to develop
15. The city _____ with traffic on holiday.
v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

ANSWERS: 8. obliterated, 9. spaceship, 10. pitiful, 11. microscopic, 12. spectroscope, 13. rev, 14. spawn, 15. teems

16. The feminist _____ criticized traditional models of gender roles and argued for greater equality between the sexes.
- n.* a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation
17. This predictive model mechanically _____ past trends into the future.
- v.* to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
18. The moment the glacier collapses is an _____ sight.
- adj.* making you feel great respect or admiration through being impressive or formidable
19. That astronomical _____ stands at the top of the mountain.
- n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
20. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
- n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
21. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.
- n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
22. He is looking for evidence of the existence of _____ from cosmic signals.
- n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
23. Refined character portrayal makes up for _____ gameplay.
- adj.* heavy, awkward, and old-fashioned; not graceful and clumsy in style, form, or movement

ANSWERS: 16. theorist, 17. extrapolates, 18. awe-inspiring, 19. observatory, 20. footprint, 21. artifacts, 22. superintelligence, 23. clunky

ANSWERS: