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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Peter Norvig: The 100,000-student classroom | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_norvig_the_100_000_student_classroom

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

sage

n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

synonym: philosopher, scholar, thinker

(1) a **sage** of long ago, (2) a **sage** counselor

He was famous for his **sage** advice to younger entrepreneurs.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym: unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

emulate

v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else

synonym: impersonate, mimic, imitate

(1) **emulate** a successful business model, (2) **emulate** his watercolors

They intend to **emulate** the footsteps of successful software companies.

grapple

v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons

synonym: brawl, scuffle, wrestle

(1) **grapple** with problem, (2) **grapple** with each other

He needed to **grapple** with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.

ambiguity

n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

synonym: uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing

The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

synthesize

v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

synonym: incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information

The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

open-ended

adj. without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response

synonym: unlimited, unrestricted, flexible

(1) an **open-ended** discussion, (2) **open-ended** agreements

Most people who saw the film were dissatisfied with the **open-ended** ending.

memorize

v. to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly

synonym: learn, remember, remind

(1) **memorize** musical scores, (2) try hard to **memorize** the lines

Lawyers need to **memorize** even the most minor provisions of the law.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym : sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym : slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

nurture

v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing

synonym : boost, cultivate, enable

(1) **nurture** love, (2) **nurture** his talents

Schools should **nurture** children's mutual interest spirit.

Session 2: Spelling

1. syn_____ze molecules v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
2. a s__e of long ago n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
3. gr_____e with each other v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
4. nu_____e love v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing
5. company mo__o n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
6. di_____t sleep v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
7. the mo__o for safe traffic n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
8. te_____y people v. to frighten someone very much
9. em_____e his watercolors v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else
10. di_____t a well-ordered condition v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 1. synthesize, 2. sage, 3. grapple, 4. nurture, 5. motto, 6. disrupt, 7. motto, 8. terrify, 9. emulate, 10. disrupt

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| 11. an ir___c turn of events | <i>adj.</i> using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect |
| 12. free from am_____ty | <i>n.</i> the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning |
| 13. syn_____ze information | <i>v.</i> to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound |
| 14. ope_____ed agreements | <i>adj.</i> without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response |
| 15. em_____e a successful business model | <i>v.</i> to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else |
| 16. nu_____e his talents | <i>v.</i> to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing |
| 17. gr_____e with problem | <i>v.</i> to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons |
| 18. an ope_____ed discussion | <i>adj.</i> without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response |
| 19. me_____ze musical scores | <i>v.</i> to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly |
| 20. the threats te_____y him | <i>v.</i> to frighten someone very much |
| 21. a s__e counselor | <i>n.</i> a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb |

ANSWERS: 11. ironic, 12. ambiguity, 13. synthesize, 14. open-ended, 15. emulate, 16. nurture, 17. grapple, 18. open-ended, 19. memorize, 20. terrify, 21. sage

22. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
23. try hard to me_____ze the lines *v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
24. avoid am_____ty in writing *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

ANSWERS: 22. ironic, 23. memorize, 24. ambiguity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. They intend to _____ the footsteps of successful software companies.
 - v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else

2. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
 - v. to frighten someone very much

3. Schools should _____ children's mutual interest spirit.
 - v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing

4. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
 - v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

5. The spider can _____ multiple different silk proteins.
 - v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

6. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.
 - adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

7. He was famous for his _____ advice to younger entrepreneurs.
 - n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

ANSWERS: 1. emulate, 2. terrify, 3. nurture, 4. disrupt, 5. synthesize, 6. ironic, 7. sage

8. He needed to _____ with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.
- v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
9. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
- n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
10. The _____ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
- n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
11. Lawyers need to _____ even the most minor provisions of the law.
- v.* to learn something carefully so that you will remember it exactly
12. Most people who saw the film were dissatisfied with the _____ ending.
- adj.* without any limits or restrictions; allowing for a spontaneous response

ANSWERS: 8. grapple, 9. motto, 10. ambiguity, 11. memorize, 12. open-ended