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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mark Changizi: Why do we see illusions? | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/mark_changizi_why_do_we_see_illusions

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

warp

v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

synonym : twist, distort, deform

(1) **warp** under pressure, (2) become **warped**

The ship's hull was **warped** from years of use in rough seas.

blur

n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

synonym : smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

retina

n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball

(1) **retinal** cells, (2) **retina** scanner

Damage to the **retina** may play a role in the development of glaucoma.

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.

fixate

v. to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image

synonym: obsess, fix, concentrate

(1) **fixate** on a problem, (2) **fixate** on a picture

She tends to **fixate** on small details, often losing sight of the bigger picture.

centimeter

n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter

(1) **centimeter** measurement, (2) thirty **centimeters** tall

The room was only one **centimeter** wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.

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 no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym: outdated, old-fashioned, antique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.

fancier

n. a person who is interested in or particularly fond of a particular thing

synonym: enthusiast, aficionado, connoisseur

(1) a bird **fancier**, (2) known as a **fancier** of arts

He is a wine **fancier** and can tell the difference between red and white just by smelling it.

swath

n. a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something

synonym: strip, band, fodder

(1) a large **swath** of territory, (2) a **swath** of green grass

The charity organization has helped to provide education to a vast **swath** of the population.

doorway

n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into

synonym: entrance, portal, gateway

(1) a wide **doorway**, (2) **doorway** to success

He leaned against the **doorway**, waiting for her to come home.

cathedral

n. the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area

synonym: church, basilica, temple

(1) **cathedral** school, (2) **cathedral** choir

The **cathedral's** stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym: poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

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.

loom

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym: appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

Session 2: Spelling

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. motion b__r | <i>n.</i> a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision |
| 2. re___a scanner | <i>n.</i> the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball |
| 3. a large sw__h of territory | <i>n.</i> a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something |
| 4. do_____y to success | <i>n.</i> an opening in a wall for a door to fit into |
| 5. the mo__o for safe traffic | <i>n.</i> a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal |
| 6. a wide do_____y | <i>n.</i> an opening in a wall for a door to fit into |
| 7. a bird fa_____r | <i>n.</i> a person who is interested in or particularly fond of a particular thing |
| 8. ca_____al school | <i>n.</i> the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area |
| 9. s__b in the chest | <i>v.</i> to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife |
| 10. known as a fa_____r of arts | <i>n.</i> a person who is interested in or particularly fond of a particular thing |
| 11. fi___e on a problem | <i>v.</i> to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image |

ANSWERS: 1. blur, 2. retina, 3. swath, 4. doorway, 5. motto, 6. doorway, 7. fancier, 8. cathedral, 9. stab, 10. fancier, 11. fixate

21. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
22. thirty cen_____ers tall *n.* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
23. a sw__h of green grass *n.* a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something
24. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
25. l__m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
26. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
27. ca_____al choir *n.* the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
28. w__p under pressure *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

ANSWERS: 21. stab, 22. centimeter, 23. swath, 24. motto, 25. loom, 26. passe, 27. cathedral, 28. warp

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The room was only one _____ wider than the piano, making it a tight fit.
n. a unit of measurement of length in the metric system, equivalent to one-hundredth of a meter
2. He is a wine _____ and can tell the difference between red and white just by smelling it.
n. a person who is interested in or particularly fond of a particular thing
3. The ship's hull was _____ from years of use in rough seas.
v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
4. The charity organization has helped to provide education to a vast _____ of the population.
n. a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something
5. The _____ stained glass windows depicted scenes from the Bible.
n. the main Christian church of a bishop's diocese, which is often the largest and most important church in the area
6. 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
7. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a _____ of colors and shapes.
n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

ANSWERS: 1. centimeter, 2. fancier, 3. warped, 4. swath, 5. cathedral's, 6. motto, 7. blur

8. He was _____ many times with scissors.
v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
9. He leaned against the _____ waiting for her to come home.
n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
10. She tends to _____ on small details, often losing sight of the bigger picture.
v. to focus one's attention or become overly obsessed with someone or something; to become mentally obsessed or preoccupied with a particular idea, thought, or image
11. Damage to the _____ may play a role in the development of glaucoma.
n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
12. 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
13. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
14. 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

ANSWERS: 8. stabbed, 9. doorway, 10. fixate, 11. retina, 12. neuron, 13. loomed, 14. passe