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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Damon Horowitz: We need a "moral operating system" | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

apocalyptic

adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

synonym: fateful, prophetic, ominous

(1) **apocalyptic** event, (2) have **apocalyptic** overtones

The **apocalyptic** landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.

colonel

n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

synonym: officer, military, ranking officer

(1) **colonel** rank, (2) brevet **colonel**

The Army **colonel** led the troops into battle.

poke

v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

synonym: prod, jab, push

(1) **poke** around the desk, (2) **poke** a fire

They **poked** fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

puzzled

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

synonym: confused, perplexed, bewildered

(1) **puzzled** expression, (2) **puzzled** by the question

She was **puzzled** by the strange behavior of her cat.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

fission

n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

synonym: splitting, division, separation

(1) heavy-ion **fission**, (2) atomic **fission**

Nuclear **fission** is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.

crowdsourcing

n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

(1) **crowdsourcing** apps, (2) **crowdsourcing** in climate policy

The company used this **crowdsourcing** platform to gather ideas for its next product.

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**.

android

n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system

synonym: droid, cyborg

(1) household **android**, (2) **Android** tablet

The lab is developing an **android** robot that assists in dangerous construction work.

deontology

n. a moral or ethical theory that focuses on the duty or moral obligation of individuals, emphasizing the adherence to rules, principles, or duties in making

ethical decisions

synonym: moral philosophy, ethics

(1) moral **deontology**, (2) principles of **deontology**

Kantian **deontology** argues that certain actions are intrinsically right or wrong, regardless of their outcomes.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

scold

v. to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily

synonym: reprimand, rebuke, chastise

(1) **scold** him for being late, (2) **scold** in a loud voice

He **scolded** his employees for not meeting their deadlines.

punter

n. a person who places bets, especially on horse racing or other sports; a customer of a certain service; a person who operates a flat-bottomed boat, especially on a river or canal

synonym: gambler, bettor, player

(1) football **punter**, (2) horse racing **punter**

The new restaurant was a hit, drawing in eager **punters** from all over the city.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym: dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

platonic

adj. (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual

synonym: nonphysical, nonsexual, spiritual

(1) **platonic** relationship, (2) **platonic** love

His relationship with her was completely **platonic**.

protrusion

n. something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside

synonym : extrusion, bump, bulge

(1) **protrusion** on skin, (2) **protrusion** of rock

The **protrusion** in the road caused several accidents and had to be repaired immediately.

partake

v. to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink

synonym : consume, share, participate

(1) **partake** in a celebration, (2) **partake** in an activity

Let's all **partake** in the potluck and share our favorite dishes.

amuse

v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

synonym : entertain, delight, divert

(1) **amuse** a baby with a rattle, (2) **amuse** guests

He **amused** himself by playing video games during his free time.

impractical

adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome

synonym : impracticable, unrealizable, unfeasible

(1) **impractical** idea, (2) **impractical** solution

It is **impractical** to expect everyone to work for free.

utilitarian

adj. designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious

synonym : functional, practical, pragmatic

(1) **utilitarian** design, (2) **utilitarian** economics

The kitchen is designed with a **utilitarian** approach, focusing on practicality rather than aesthetics.

utilitarianism

n. the belief that the actions are the right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority

(1) individualistic **utilitarianism**, (2) institutional **utilitarianism**

Utilitarianism focuses on results and consequences rather than rules.

sleeper

n. a person or thing that appears harmless or insignificant but has the potential to succeed or perform well unexpectedly; a railroad car or compartment used for overnight travel, equipped with sleeping accommodations

synonym: dozer, dormitory car, berth

(1) rail **sleeper**, (2) **sleeper** cell

The overnight train had comfortable **sleeper** cabins for passengers to rest during the journey.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

thicket

n. a dense group of trees, shrubs, or other plants, often forming an impenetrable barrier; a tangle or cluster of something that obstructs or impedes progress or movement

synonym: thorn patch, bramble, copse

(1) dense **thicket**, (2) **thicket** of bushes

The hikers had to cut through the **thicket** to descend the mountain.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular

outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

banal

adj. lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar

synonym : trite, mundane, dull

(1) **banal** conversation, (2) **banal** plot

The restaurant's menu had a **banal** selection of generic dishes with no unique or exciting options.

sane

adj. mentally sound or normal; having a rational mind

synonym : rational, sound, normal

(1) for a **sane** reason, (2) **sane** judgment

Despite the difficult circumstances, he remained **sane**.

forbid

v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising

synonym : prohibit, ban, outlaw

(1) **forbid** smoking in public areas, (2) **forbid** the use of chemical weapons

God **forbid** you should regret your marriage.

humanist

n. a person who is concerned with the welfare and rights of all human beings; one who believes in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and stresses the importance of human values and ethical principles

synonym : humanitarian, philanthropist, altruist

(1) **humanist** scholar, (2) **humanist** philosophy

The **humanist** counselor encouraged her clients to focus on their growth and well-being.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

mythical

adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

synonym: mythological, fictitious, legendary

(1) **mythical** heroes, (2) **mythical** world

Many cultures have their **mythical** creatures and legends.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

Session 2: Spelling

1. em_____ss my project
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
2. imp_____al solution
adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
3. brevet co_____l
n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
4. my_____al heroes
adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
5. rail sl_____r
n. a person or thing that appears harmless or insignificant but has the potential to succeed or perform well unexpectedly; a railroad car or compartment used for overnight travel, equipped with sleeping accommodations
6. for a s__e reason
adj. mentally sound or normal; having a rational mind
7. imp_____al idea
adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
8. ter_____ng experience
adj. very frightening or intimidating
9. moral deo_____gy
n. a moral or ethical theory that focuses on the duty or moral obligation of individuals, emphasizing the adherence to rules, principles, or duties in making ethical decisions

ANSWERS: 1. embarrass, 2. impractical, 3. colonel, 4. mythical, 5. sleeper, 6. sane, 7. impractical, 8. terrifying, 9. deontology

10. An____d tablet *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
11. am__e guests *v.* to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
12. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
13. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
14. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
15. am__e a baby with a rattle *v.* to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
16. uti_____an economics *adj.* designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious
17. cro_____ing in climate policy *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
18. atomic fi_____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
19. s__e judgment *adj.* mentally sound or normal; having a rational mind

ANSWERS: 10. android, 11. amuse, 12. smartphone, 13. confer, 14. determinant, 15. amuse, 16. utilitarian, 17. crowdsourcing, 18. fission, 19. sane

20. have apo_____ic overtones *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
21. heavy-ion fi_____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
22. hu_____st scholar *n.* a person who is concerned with the welfare and rights of all human beings; one who believes in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and stresses the importance of human values and ethical principles
23. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
24. co_____l rank *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
25. sl_____r cell *n.* a person or thing that appears harmless or insignificant but has the potential to succeed or perform well unexpectedly; a railroad car or compartment used for overnight travel, equipped with sleeping accommodations
26. football pu____r *n.* a person who places bets, especially on horse racing or other sports; a customer of a certain service; a person who operates a flat-bottomed boat, especially on a river or canal

ANSWERS: 20. apocalyptic, 21. fission, 22. humanist, 23. numb, 24. colonel, 25. sleeper, 26. punter

27. pa____e in a celebration *v.* to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink
28. cro_____ing apps *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
29. pl____ic relationship *adj.* (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
30. p__e around the desk *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
31. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
32. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
33. individualistic uti_____ism *n.* the belief that the actions are the right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority
34. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
35. uti_____an design *adj.* designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious
36. dense th____t *n.* a dense group of trees, shrubs, or other plants, often forming an impenetrable barrier; a tangle or cluster of something that obstructs or impedes progress or movement
37. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command

ANSWERS: 27. partake, 28. crowdsourcing, 29. platonic, 30. poke, 31. humming, 32. smartphone, 33. utilitarianism, 34. humming, 35. utilitarian, 36. thicket, 37. writ

38. sc__d him for being late *v.* to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily
39. principles of deo_____gy *n.* a moral or ethical theory that focuses on the duty or moral obligation of individuals, emphasizing the adherence to rules, principles, or duties in making ethical decisions
40. ba__l conversation *adj.* lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar
41. household an_____d *n.* a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
42. pa_____e in an activity *v.* to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink
43. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
44. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
45. pu_____d expression *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
46. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
47. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
48. th_____t of bushes *n.* a dense group of trees, shrubs, or other plants, often forming an impenetrable barrier; a tangle or cluster of something that obstructs or impedes progress or movement

ANSWERS: 38. scold, 39. deontology, 40. banal, 41. android, 42. partake, 43. numb, 44. overwhelm, 45. puzzled, 46. embarrass, 47. physicist, 48. thicket

49. pro_____on of rock *n.* something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside
50. apo_____ic event *adj.* describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
51. pu_____d by the question *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
52. hu_____st philosophy *n.* a person who is concerned with the welfare and rights of all human beings; one who believes in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and stresses the importance of human values and ethical principles
53. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
54. p__e a fire *v.* to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
55. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
56. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
57. co_____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
58. pro_____on on skin *n.* something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside

ANSWERS: 49. protrusion, 50. apocalyptic, 51. puzzled, 52. humanist, 53. determinant, 54. poke, 55. terrifying, 56. overwhelm, 57. confer, 58. protrusion

59. fo___d the use of chemical weapons
v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
60. theoretical ph_____st
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
61. sc__d in a loud voice
v. to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily
62. a w__t of summons
n. a written legal order or command
63. horse racing pu___r
n. a person who places bets, especially on horse racing or other sports; a customer of a certain service; a person who operates a flat-bottomed boat, especially on a river or canal
64. fo___d smoking in public areas
v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising
65. pl_____ic love
adj. (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
66. institutional uti_____ism
n. the belief that the actions are the right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority
67. my_____al world
adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
68. ba__l plot
adj. lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar

ANSWERS: 59. forbid, 60. physicist, 61. scold, 62. writ, 63. punter, 64. forbid, 65. platonic, 66. utilitarianism, 67. mythical, 68. banal

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
 - v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

2. The _____ counselor encouraged her clients to focus on their growth and well-being.
 - n. a person who is concerned with the welfare and rights of all human beings; one who believes in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and stresses the importance of human values and ethical principles

3. Let's all _____ in the potluck and share our favorite dishes.
 - v. to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink

4. God _____ you should regret your marriage.
 - v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising

5. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
 - n. a written legal order or command

6. _____ focuses on results and consequences rather than rules.
 - n. the belief that the actions are the right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority

7. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
 - adj. very frightening or intimidating

ANSWERS: 1. confer, 2. humanist, 3. partake, 4. forbid, 5. writ, 6. Utilitarianism, 7. terrifying

8. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.
- v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
9. Kantian _____ argues that certain actions are intrinsically right or wrong, regardless of their outcomes.
- n. a moral or ethical theory that focuses on the duty or moral obligation of individuals, emphasizing the adherence to rules, principles, or duties in making ethical decisions
10. They _____ fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.
- v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger
11. The overnight train had comfortable _____ cabins for passengers to rest during the journey.
- n. a person or thing that appears harmless or insignificant but has the potential to succeed or perform well unexpectedly; a railroad car or compartment used for overnight travel, equipped with sleeping accommodations
12. The new restaurant was a hit, drawing in eager _____ from all over the city.
- n. a person who places bets, especially on horse racing or other sports; a customer of a certain service; a person who operates a flat-bottomed boat, especially on a river or canal
13. Despite the difficult circumstances, he remained _____.
- adj. mentally sound or normal; having a rational mind
14. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 8. overwhelm, 9. deontology, 10. poked, 11. sleeper, 12. punters, 13. sane, 14. determinant

15. He _____ himself by playing video games during his free time.
v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
16. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
17. The Army _____ led the troops into battle.
n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
18. The restaurant's menu had a _____ selection of generic dishes with no unique or exciting options.
adj. lacking originality, creativity, or freshness; uninteresting or dull due to being overused or overly familiar
19. The lab is developing an _____ robot that assists in dangerous construction work.
n. a robot with a human appearance; (operating system) Google's mobile operating system
20. The company used this _____ platform to gather ideas for its next product.
n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
21. The _____ landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.
adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

ANSWERS: 15. amused, 16. humming, 17. colonel, 18. banal, 19. android, 20. crowdsourcing, 21. apocalyptic

22. The hikers had to cut through the _____ to descend the mountain.
n. a dense group of trees, shrubs, or other plants, often forming an impenetrable barrier; a tangle or cluster of something that obstructs or impedes progress or movement
23. Nuclear _____ is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.
n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
24. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
25. She was _____ by the strange behavior of her cat.
adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
26. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
27. The _____ in the road caused several accidents and had to be repaired immediately.
n. something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside
28. His relationship with her was completely _____.
adj. (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
29. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

ANSWERS: 22. thicket, 23. fission, 24. smartphones, 25. puzzled, 26. physicist, 27. protrusion, 28. platonic, 29. embarrass

30. Many cultures have their _____ creatures and legends.

adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

31. It is _____ to expect everyone to work for free.

adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome

32. The kitchen is designed with a _____ approach, focusing on practicality rather than aesthetics.

adj. designed to be practical and functional rather than decorative or luxurious

33. My left arm became _____.

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

34. He _____ his employees for not meeting their deadlines.

v. to reprimand or criticize someone severely or angrily

ANSWERS: 30. mythical, 31. impractical, 32. utilitarian, 33. numb, 34. scolded