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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Hannah Fry: Is life really that complex? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

chap

n. a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind

synonym: fellow, guy, crack

(1) **chap** stick, (2) nice **chap**

He suffered a painful **chap** on his hand after working with chemicals.

Jovian

adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

synonym: Jupiter, giant planet

(1) **Jovian** satellites, (2) **Jovian** planet

The **Jovian** moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.

erratic

adj. characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality

synonym: unpredictable, irregular, unstable

(1) **erratic** behavior, (2) **erratic** movements

The stock market has been behaving in an **erratic** manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.

quantifiable

adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms

synonym : measurable, calculable

(1) non- **quantifiable** risk, (2) **quantifiable** results

The impact of the new policy will be **quantifiable** through measurable data.

well-behaved

adj. conforming to accepted standards of behavior or conduct; obedient, polite, and considerate

synonym : obedient, well-mannered, disciplined

(1) **well-behaved** student, (2) **well-behaved** dog

The children were **well-behaved** and listened attentively during the museum tour.

droplet

n. a small drop of liquid

synonym : bead, drip, dewdrop

(1) **droplet** size, (2) **droplet** formation

A single **droplet** of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

weaver

n. the craftsman whose job is weaving cloth

(1) the textile **weavers**, (2) tapestry **weavers**

The **weaver** fringed the scarf.

untouched

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

synonym : untarnished, pristine, intact

(1) **untouched** wilderness, (2) **untouched** landscape

The abandoned house was **untouched** for years, with vines growing all over it.

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**.

- 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.
- opportune** *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
synonym: suitable, timely, practical
(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark
The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.
- gravitational** *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
synonym: weighty, heavy, earthbound
(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves
The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
- burglar** *n.* a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime
synonym: thief, robber, intruder
(1) ex-convict **burglar**, (2) caught the **burglar**
The skilled **burglar** bypassed the alarm system and entered the house without making a sound.
- rout** *n.* a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat
synonym: defeat, debacle, disaster
(1) **rout** march, (2) cricket team's **rout**
The football team suffered a humiliating **rout** in the championship game.
- leopard** *n.* a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia
(1) snow **leopard**, (2) **leopard** print

Leopards lurked in the grass to catch their prey.

morphogenesis

n. the biological process of growth, development, and differentiation of cells, tissues, and organs to give rise to the complex three-dimensional structures of living organisms

synonym: development, growth, formation

(1) **morphogenesis** process, (2) cellular **morphogenesis**

Defects in **morphogenesis** can lead to developmental abnormalities and congenital disabilities.

riot

n. a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals

synonym: disturbance, unrest, upheaval

(1) **riot** police, (2) **riot** control gas

The **riots** in the city have left many buildings damaged and several people injured.

loot

v. steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

synonym: plunder, pillage, rob

(1) **loot** the ship, (2) war **loot**

The bandits **looted** the small town, leaving it in ruins.

arson

n. the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings

synonym: fire-setting, incendiarism, pyromania

(1) **arson** attack, (2) deliberate **arson**

The police are investigating the **arson** that destroyed the abandoned building.

sociologist

n. a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

(1) religious **sociologist**, (2) French **sociologist**

Sociologist studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.

infect

v. to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

synonym: pollute, contaminate, affect

(1) **infect** other animal species, (2) **infect** a computer with a virus

Children often **infect** parents with this head cold.

tabloid

adj. relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

synonym: gossipy, sensationalistic, scandalous

(1) **tabloid** journalism, (2) political **tabloid**

The **tabloid** newspaper always covers sensational stories.

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**.

deterrent

n. something that prevents or discourages someone from doing something or taking a particular action; a hindrance or obstacle

synonym: hindrance, obstacle, impediment

(1) criminal **deterrent**, (2) nuclear **deterrent**

The threat of punishment serves as a **deterrent** for many people who might consider committing a crime.

predator

n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

synonym: vulture, bloodsucker

(1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**

The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

replicate

v. to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

synonym: duplicate, imitate, reproduce

(1) **replicate** the cell, (2) **replicate** data

The experiment was **replicated** several times to ensure accuracy.

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.

unheard

adj. not heard, listened to, or noticed; not having been brought to public attention

synonym: unknown, obscure

(1) an **unheard** story, (2) previously **unheard-of** economic development

The **unheard** melody was beautiful and touched everyone's hearts.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. le____d print *n.* a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia
2. un_____ed wilderness *adj.* not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way
3. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
4. nice c__p *n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
5. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
6. apex pr_____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
7. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
8. ar__n attack *n.* the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings
9. nuclear de_____nt *n.* something that prevents or discourages someone from doing something or taking a particular action; a hindrance or obstacle

ANSWERS: 1. leopard, 2. untouched, 3. writ, 4. chap, 5. opportune, 6. predator, 7. predator, 8. arson, 9. deterrent

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 10. in___t other animal species | <i>v.</i> to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism |
| 11. gra_____nal waves | <i>adj.</i> relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another) |
| 12. Jo___n planet | <i>adj.</i> relating to Jupiter or its characteristics |
| 13. issue a w__t | <i>n.</i> a written legal order or command |
| 14. deliberate ar__n | <i>n.</i> the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings |
| 15. caught the bu_____r | <i>n.</i> a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime |
| 16. dr_____t formation | <i>n.</i> a small drop of liquid |
| 17. cricket team's r__t | <i>n.</i> a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat |
| 18. criminal de_____nt | <i>n.</i> something that prevents or discourages someone from doing something or taking a particular action; a hindrance or obstacle |
| 19. pe__i dish test | <i>n.</i> (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria |
| 20. French soc_____st | <i>n.</i> a person who studies the institutions and development of human society |
| 21. imp_____ion on stage | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation |

ANSWERS: 10. infect, 11. gravitational, 12. Jovian, 13. writ, 14. arson, 15. burglar, 16. droplet, 17. rout, 18. deterrent, 19. petri, 20. sociologist, 21. improvisation

22. wel_____ved student *adj.* conforming to accepted standards of behavior or conduct; obedient, polite, and considerate
23. an un_____d story *adj.* not heard, listened to, or noticed; not having been brought to public attention
24. wel_____ved dog *adj.* conforming to accepted standards of behavior or conduct; obedient, polite, and considerate
25. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
26. dr_____t size *n.* a small drop of liquid
27. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
28. r__t control gas *n.* a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals
29. r__t police *n.* a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals
30. war l__t *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
31. previously un_____d-of economic development *adj.* not heard, listened to, or noticed; not having been brought to public attention

ANSWERS: 22. well-behaved, 23. unheard, 24. well-behaved, 25. numb, 26. droplet, 27. smartphone, 28. riot, 29. riot, 30. loot, 31. unheard

32. religious soc_____st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
33. c__p stick *n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
34. the textile we___rs *n.* the craftsman whose job is weaving cloth
35. cellular mor_____sis *n.* the biological process of growth, development, and differentiation of cells, tissues, and organs to give rise to the complex three-dimensional structures of living organisms
36. er_____c movements *adj.* characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality
37. er_____c behavior *adj.* characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality
38. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
39. qua_____ble results *adj.* able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
40. gra_____nal energy *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

ANSWERS: 32. sociologist, 33. chap, 34. weaver, 35. morphogenesis, 36. erratic, 37. erratic, 38. smartphone, 39. quantifiable, 40. gravitational

41. r__t march *n.* a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat
42. re_____te the cell *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
43. ta_____d journalism *adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news
44. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
45. in___t a computer with a virus *v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
46. bacteria on pe__i dishes *n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
47. un_____ed landscape *adj.* not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way
48. l__t the ship *v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder

ANSWERS: 41. rout, 42. replicate, 43. tabloid, 44. opportune, 45. infect, 46. petri, 47. untouched, 48. loot

49. ex-convict bu____r *n.* a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime
50. snow le____d *n.* a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia
51. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
52. tapestry we____rs *n.* the craftsman whose job is weaving cloth
53. political ta____d *adj.* relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news
54. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
55. re_____te data *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
56. Jo____n satellites *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
57. mor_____sis process *n.* the biological process of growth, development, and differentiation of cells, tissues, and organs to give rise to the complex three-dimensional structures of living organisms

ANSWERS: 49. burglar, 50. leopard, 51. numb, 52. weaver, 53. tabloid, 54. improvisation, 55. replicate, 56. Jovian, 57. morphogenesis

58. non-qua_____ble risk

adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms

ANSWERS: 58. quantifiable

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The impact of the new policy will be _____ through measurable data.
adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
2. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
3. My left arm became _____.
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
4. The stock market has been behaving in an _____ manner, making it difficult for investors to predict future trends.
adj. characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or predictable behavior; unpredictable or inconsistent in movement, behavior, or quality
5. Defects in _____ can lead to developmental abnormalities and congenital disabilities.
n. the biological process of growth, development, and differentiation of cells, tissues, and organs to give rise to the complex three-dimensional structures of living organisms
6. The _____ melody was beautiful and touched everyone's hearts.
adj. not heard, listened to, or noticed; not having been brought to public attention
7. The _____ newspaper always covers sensational stories.
adj. relating to a type of newspaper or journalism that focuses on sensational and often trivial stories and headlines; (noun) a type of newspaper or magazine that typically features sensational or scandalous stories and headlines, often with a focus on celebrity gossip or other entertainment news

ANSWERS: 1. quantifiable, 2. predator's, 3. numb, 4. erratic, 5. morphogenesis, 6. unheard, 7. tabloid

8. The experiment was _____ several times to ensure accuracy.
- v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
9. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
10. A single _____ of water can reflect the entire world upside down.
- n.* a small drop of liquid
11. He suffered a painful _____ on his hand after working with chemicals.
- n.* a crack in the skin, especially on the lips or hands, caused by dryness or cold weather; a man or boy; (verb) to crack, split, or roughen the skin, especially as a result of exposure to cold weather or wind
12. The bandits _____ the small town, leaving it in ruins.
- v.* steal goods from a place or person, typically during a war or riot; (noun) steal goods from a place or person, typically using force, especially in times of war or civil disorder
13. The _____ fringed the scarf.
- n.* the craftsman whose job is weaving cloth
14. The children were _____ and listened attentively during the museum tour.
- adj.* conforming to accepted standards of behavior or conduct; obedient, polite, and considerate
15. The skilled _____ bypassed the alarm system and entered the house without making a sound.
- n.* a person who unlawfully enters a building or other property to steal or commit another crime

ANSWERS: 8. replicated, 9. opportune, 10. droplet, 11. chap, 12. looted, 13. weaver, 14. well-behaved, 15. burglar

16. The threat of punishment serves as a _____ for many people who might consider committing a crime.
- n.* something that prevents or discourages someone from doing something or taking a particular action; a hindrance or obstacle
17. _____ studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.
- n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
18. The football team suffered a humiliating _____ in the championship game.
- n.* a disorderly retreat or defeat of an army or group; a decisive defeat
19. Children often _____ parents with this head cold.
- v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
20. The _____ in the city have left many buildings damaged and several people injured.
- n.* a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd, characterized by destruction of property, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals
21. 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
22. The police are investigating the _____ that destroyed the abandoned building.
- n.* the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property or buildings
23. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
- adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

ANSWERS: 16. deterrent, 17. Sociologist, 18. rout, 19. infect, 20. riots, 21. petri, 22. arson, 23. Jovian

24. _____ lurked in the grass to catch their prey.
n. a large wild cat that has yellow-brown fur with black spots and lives in Africa and southern Asia
25. The abandoned house was _____ for years, with vines growing all over it.
adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way
26. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
27. The _____ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
28. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command
29. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

ANSWERS: 24. Leopards, 25. untouched, 26. smartphones, 27. gravitational, 28. writ, 29. improvisation