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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Martin Hanczyc: The line between life and not-life | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- 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.
- simplistic** *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
synonym : basic, uncomplicated, elementary
(1) **simplistic** approach, (2) **simplistic** design
The politician's solution to the problem was too **simplistic** to solve the underlying issue.
- parasite** *n.* an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
synonym : hitchhiker, leech, saprophyte
(1) blood-sucking **parasite**, (2) **parasite** disease
Tapeworms are **parasites** that live in the intestines of humans and animals.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym: obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

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.

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.

lifelike

adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

synonym: realistic, naturalistic, vivid

(1) **lifelike** painting, (2) **lifelike** animation

The artist created a **lifelike** sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym: extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

sensational

adj. extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement

synonym : amazing, incredible, phenomenal

(1) **sensational** crime, (2) **sensational** news

The performance was **sensational**, with standing ovations throughout.

inorganic

adj. being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon

(1) **inorganic** acid, (2) **inorganic** nutrition

Inorganic substances include rocks and minerals.

rudimentary

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

synonym : essential, fundamental, elementary

(1) a **rudimentary** plant, (2) **rudimentary** understanding

He has only a **rudimentary** knowledge of this topic.

morphology

n. the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another

synonym : structure, form, anatomy

(1) **morphology** of a language, (2) cellular **morphology**

The **morphology** of rocks can reveal clues about their geological history.

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.

montmorillonite

n. a soft clay mineral belonging to the group of smectite minerals, named after the town of Montmorillon in France, where it was first discovered, known for its ability to swell and retain water, as well as its use in ceramics and the oil drilling industry

synonym : clay, bentonite, smectite

(1) **montmorillonite** clay, (2) sodium **montmorillonite**

The **montmorillonite** content in the soil sample was analyzed to assess its suitability for agricultural use.

micrograph

n. a photograph or image that has been taken through a microscope or magnifying lens, typically used for scientific or medical purposes

synonym : microphotograph

(1) **micrograph** image, (2) high-resolution **micrograph**

The **micrograph** of the cell shows detailed structures that the naked eye cannot see.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

lifeless

adj. without life; dead

synonym : inanimate, inert, motionless

(1) fall **lifeless**, (2) a **lifeless** corpse

The plant had a **lifeless** appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.

remodel

v. to change the structure or form of something

synonym : refurbish, remake, revamp

(1) **remodel** the car, (2) **remodel** portfolio

We are **remodeling** these rooms now.

reconfigure

v. to change the configuration or arrangement of something, often to improve its performance or functionality

synonym : reshape, restructure, realign

(1) **reconfigure** the network, (2) **reconfigure** the operating system

We need to **reconfigure** the office layout to use the space

better.

sack

v. to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place;
(*noun*) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things

synonym: discharge, remove, (*noun*) bag

(1) **sack** an employee, (2) a sleep **sack**

He was **sacked** from his job for stealing company property.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym: oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

fuse

n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (*verb*) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

synonym: (*verb*) melt, (*verb*) blend

(1) **fuse** blows, (2) **fuse** with one another

He has a short **fuse**.

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym: chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

fused

adj. joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity

synonym: merged, blended, united

(1) **fused** glass, (2) **fused** bones

The **fused** wires in the electrical circuit caused a power outage.

controllable

adj. able to be controlled or directed

synonym: manageable, governable, submissive

(1) computer- **controllable**, (2) **controllable** aircraft

The new software is much more **controllable** and user-friendly.

primordial

adj. existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe

synonym: ancient, original, primary

(1) **primordial** forms of life, (2) **primordial** gas

The discovery of the **primordial** soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.

ooze

v. to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily

synonym: flow, seep, drip

(1) **ooze** from the speakers, (2) **ooze** with confidence

The wound on his leg continued to **ooze** blood even after he applied pressure.

caramel

n. a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly

synonym: toffee, dulce de leche, butterscotch

(1) **caramel** candy, (2) **caramel** topping

The **caramel** sauce on the ice cream was the perfect finishing touch.

unregulated

adj. not subject to official rules, procedures, or oversight; not controlled or supervised by a governing authority or system

synonym: uncontrolled, unmonitored, unbridled

(1) **unregulated** market, (2) **unregulated** off-shore fishing

Without regulations, the industry is **unregulated** and potentially dangerous.

tarry

- v. to delay or linger in a place; to stay or remain longer than necessary; to procrastinate or be slow in leaving; to wait or wait for something; (adjective) referring to something that is like tar in consistency or color, or is smeared or covered with tar

synonym: delay, linger, loiter

(1) **tarry** road surface, (2) **tarry** over a decision

I decided to **tarry** a little longer at the beach and enjoy the sunset before heading home.

defuse

- v. to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved

synonym: calm, reduce, deactivate

(1) **defuse** a crisis, (2) **defuse** a bomb

The negotiator skillfully **defused** the tense situation with calm words and gestures.

sterile

- adj.* free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

synonym: clean, germ-free, hygienic

(1) **sterile** environment, (2) a **sterile** man

Surgeons must use **sterile** instruments to prevent infection during an operation.

broaden

- v. to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal.

synonym: expand, widen, enlarge

(1) **broaden** students' knowledge, (2) **broaden** their horizon

The company **broadened** its product line to include more customer options.

wherein

- adv.* in or during which; in the place, time, or situation that

(1) progress to a level **wherein**, (2) **wherein** he is mistaken

The court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, **wherein** they were awarded damages for the defendant's negligence.

photosynthesis

n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

(1) oxygenic **photosynthesis**, (2) process of **photosynthesis**

In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym: in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over the schedule.

Session 2: Spelling

1. se____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
2. pri_____al gas *adj.* existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe
3. fu__d bones *adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
4. vi_____e at a regular frequency *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
5. process of pho_____sis *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
6. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
7. cellular mor_____gy *n.* the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another
8. oxygenic pho_____sis *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

ANSWERS: 1. secondly, 2. primordial, 3. fused, 4. vibrate, 5. photosynthesis, 6. humming, 7. morphology, 8. photosynthesis

9. ca_____l topping *n.* a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly
10. in_____t estate *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
11. rec_____re the operating system *v.* to change the configuration or arrangement of something, often to improve its performance or functionality
12. se_____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
13. f__e blows *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat
14. de___e a bomb *v.* to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved
15. re_____te the cell *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
16. br_____n their horizon *v.* to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal.
17. mic_____ph image *n.* a photograph or image that has been taken through a microscope or magnifying lens, typically used for scientific or medical purposes

ANSWERS: 9. caramel, 10. inherit, 11. reconfigure, 12. secondly, 13. fuse, 14. defuse, 15. replicate, 16. broaden, 17. micrograph

28. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
29. make dr_____c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
30. vi_____e with anger *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
31. fu__d glass *adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
32. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
33. sen_____al news *adj.* extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement
34. dr_____c measures *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
35. ta__y over a decision *v.* to delay or linger in a place; to stay or remain longer than necessary; to procrastinate or be slow in leaving; to wait or wait for something; (adjective) referring to something that is like tar in consistency or color, or is smeared or covered with tar
36. rec_____re the network *v.* to change the configuration or arrangement of something, often to improve its performance or functionality
37. a st_____e man *adj.* free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

ANSWERS: 28. blob, 29. drastic, 30. vibrate, 31. fused, 32. blob, 33. sensational, 34. drastic, 35. tarry, 36. reconfigure, 37. sterile

48. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
49. sodium mon_____ite *n.* a soft clay mineral belonging to the group of smectite minerals, named after the town of Montmorillon in France, where it was first discovered, known for its ability to swell and retain water, as well as its use in ceramics and the oil drilling industry
50. co____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
51. computer-con_____ble *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
52. mon_____ite clay *n.* a soft clay mineral belonging to the group of smectite minerals, named after the town of Montmorillon in France, where it was first discovered, known for its ability to swell and retain water, as well as its use in ceramics and the oil drilling industry
53. s__k an employee *v.* to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things
54. unr_____ed off-shore fishing *adj.* not subject to official rules, procedures, or oversight; not controlled or supervised by a governing authority or system
55. o__e from the speakers *v.* to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily

ANSWERS: 48. humming, 49. montmorillonite, 50. confuse, 51. controllable, 52. montmorillonite, 53. sack, 54. unregulated, 55. ooze

56. motion b__r *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
57. in_____ic acid *adj.* being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon
58. ta__y road surface *v.* to delay or linger in a place; to stay or remain longer than necessary; to procrastinate or be slow in leaving; to wait or wait for something; (adjective) referring to something that is like tar in consistency or color, or is smeared or covered with tar
59. sim_____ic design *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
60. high-resolution mic_____ph *n.* a photograph or image that has been taken through a microscope or magnifying lens, typically used for scientific or medical purposes
61. wh_____n he is mistaken *adv.* in or during which; in the place, time, or situation that
62. dr_____t formation *n.* a small drop of liquid
63. li_____ke animation *adj.* resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

ANSWERS: 56. blur, 57. inorganic, 58. tarry, 59. simplistic, 60. micrograph, 61. wherein, 62. droplet, 63. lifelike

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He has only a _____ knowledge of this topic.

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

2. The _____ content in the soil sample was analyzed to assess its suitability for agricultural use.

n. a soft clay mineral belonging to the group of smectite minerals, named after the town of Montmorillon in France, where it was first discovered, known for its ability to swell and retain water, as well as its use in ceramics and the oil drilling industry

3. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

4. The artist created a _____ sculpture of a famous politician for the town square.

adj. resembling or appearing similar to something alive or real, often realistically or vividly; convincing or authentic in appearance or behavior

5. I decided to _____ a little longer at the beach and enjoy the sunset before heading home.

v. to delay or linger in a place; to stay or remain longer than necessary; to procrastinate or be slow in leaving; to wait or wait for something; (adjective) referring to something that is like tar in consistency or color, or is smeared or covered with tar

6. We are _____ these rooms now.

v. to change the structure or form of something

ANSWERS: 1. rudimentary, 2. montmorillonite, 3. secondly, 4. lifelike, 5. tarry, 6. remodeling

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
8. We need to _____ the office layout to use the space better.
v. to change the configuration or arrangement of something, often to improve its performance or functionality
9. 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
10. Without regulations, the industry is _____ and potentially dangerous.
adj. not subject to official rules, procedures, or oversight; not controlled or supervised by a governing authority or system
11. The _____ of the cell shows detailed structures that the naked eye cannot see.
n. a photograph or image that has been taken through a microscope or magnifying lens, typically used for scientific or medical purposes
12. The _____ sauce on the ice cream was the perfect finishing touch.
n. a sweet, dark brown, sticky substance made by heating sugar or syrup until it melts and then cooling it quickly
13. The global community is undergoing _____ changes at present.
adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
14. The company _____ its product line to include more customer options.
v. to make or become wider or more extensive; to make or become more tolerant or liberal.

ANSWERS: 7. blur, 8. reconfigure, 9. replicated, 10. unregulated, 11. micrograph, 12. caramel, 13. drastic, 14. broadened

15. 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

16. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

17. Surgeons must use _____ instruments to prevent infection during an operation.

adj. free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

18. He has a short _____.

n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

19. The politician's solution to the problem was too _____ to solve the underlying issue.

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

20. The court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, _____ they were awarded damages for the defendant's negligence.

adv. in or during which; in the place, time, or situation that

21. _____ substances include rocks and minerals.

adj. being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon

ANSWERS: 15. humming, 16. vibrate, 17. sterile, 18. fuse, 19. simplistic, 20. wherein, 21. Inorganic

22. Her remarks _____ the debate.

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

23. The wound on his leg continued to _____ blood even after he applied pressure.

v. to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily

24. After his death, his sons _____ his business.

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

25. He was _____ from his job for stealing company property.

v. to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things

26. A single _____ of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

n. a small drop of liquid

27. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

28. The performance was _____ with standing ovations throughout.

adj. extremely or remarkably good; causing great public interest or excitement

29. The _____ of rocks can reveal clues about their geological history.

n. the study of the form and structure of plants, animals, and other organisms; the study of the alteration of word forms as they change from one part of speech to another

ANSWERS: 22. confused, 23. ooze, 24. inherited, 25. sacked, 26. droplet, 27. blob, 28. sensational, 29. morphology

30. The new software is much more _____ and user-friendly.

adj. able to be controlled or directed

31. The plant had a _____ appearance, indicating that it was not getting enough water.

adj. without life; dead

32. The negotiator skillfully _____ the tense situation with calm words and gestures.

v. to reduce or eliminate the tension, anger, or hostility in a situation, especially a potentially explosive one, by calming, soothing, or pacifying those involved

33. The _____ wires in the electrical circuit caused a power outage.

adj. joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity

34. The discovery of the _____ soup was a crucial step in understanding the origins of life on Earth.

adj. existing from the beginning of time or the start of a particular process; relating to the earliest stage of the universe

35. In _____ plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

36. Tapeworms are _____ that live in the intestines of humans and animals.

n. an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense

ANSWERS: 30. controllable, 31. lifeless, 32. defused, 33. fused, 34. primordial, 35. photosynthesis, 36. parasites

ANSWERS: