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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jean-Baptiste Michel + Erez Lieberman Aiden: What we learned from 5 million books | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/jean_baptiste_michel_erez_lieberman_aiden_what_we_learned_from_5_million_books

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

cogitate

v. to think deeply and carefully about something

synonym: ponder, think, contemplate

(1) **cogitate** about the future, (2) **cogitate** over a decision
I need time to **cogitate** on that idea before making a decision.

startling

adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying

synonym: alarming, astonishing, shocking

(1) **startling** earthquake shocks, (2) **startling** discovery
He describes the story with **startling** reality.

immemorial

adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old

synonym: ancient, age-old, time-honored

(1) **immemorial** relationship, (2) from **immemorial** times
The ancient ruins had been there since **immemorial**, and their origin was mysterious.

veritable

adj. authentic or genuine, often used to emphasize the degree or extent of something

synonym: genuine, authentic, bona fide

(1) **veritable** treasure, (2) a **veritable** explosion of colors
She is a **veritable** expert on the subject and has published many papers.

shard

n. a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal

synonym: break, fragment, shatter

(1) broken **shard**, (2) **shard** of pottery

The artist used a **shard** of glass to create intricate designs on her sculptures.

hyperbole

n. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point

synonym: exaggeration, overstatement, embellishment

(1) escalate the **hyperbole**, (2) avoid **hyperbole** in writing

The marketing campaign relied heavily on **hyperbole** to sell the product.

self-respect

n. a feeling of being proud of and confident in yourself

synonym: dignity, pride, self-esteem

(1) lacks a sense of **self-respect**, (2) wound his **self-respect**

Her failure resulted in a loss of her **self-respect**.

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.

gleam

v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

synonym: glitter, shimmer, shine

(1) **gleam** in eyes, (2) **gleam** like honey

The diamond ring **gleamed** in the sunlight, catching

everyone's eye.

statesman

n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs

synonym: solon, politician, legislator

(1) a woman **statesman**, (2) international **statesman**

This statue honors a distinguished **statesman**.

publicize

v. to make information or news publicly known or communicated, to promote or spread awareness of

synonym: advertise, promote, announce

(1) **publicize** event, (2) **publicize** research findings

The company hired a PR firm to **publicize** its new product.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

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.

gratification

n. the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want

synonym: satisfaction, pleasure, contentment

(1) instant **gratification**, (2) aesthetic **gratification**

The **gratification** of completing a difficult task is a great feeling.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

sober

adj. not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises

synonym: calm, lucid, temperate

(1) **sober** discussion, (2) as **sober** as a judge

He led a **sober** life.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym: course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

nadir

n. the lowest point, the point of greatest despair or decline, often used metaphorically

synonym: bottom, lowest point, rock bottom

(1) political **nadir**, (2) **nadir** altitude

After the controversial policy was implemented, the country's reputation hit a new **nadir**.

rebound

v. to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched

synonym: spring back, resile, recover

(1) **rebound** from a setback, (2) **rebound** back into positive growth

The basketball bounced off the rim and **rebounded** to the player.

Jewish

adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

synonym: Judaic

(1) **Jewish** history, (2) **Jewish** culture

My friend is a **Jewish** woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

censor

n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

synonym: suppressor, scrutineer, examiner

(1) **censor** a book, (2) **censor** a TV program

The newspaper editor decided to **censor** the controversial headline to avoid backlash.

hallmark

n. a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing

synonym: symbol, authentication, indication

(1) the **hallmark** of a good scientist, (2) the **hallmark** of modern life

A clear and simple expression is the **hallmark** of good writing.

matte

adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
synonym : dull, flat, lusterless

(1) **matte** coating, (2) photo with a **matte** finish

The body of his car has a **matte** finish.

mediocrity

n. the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal

synonym : averageness, ordinariness, unoriginality

(1) sink into **mediocrity**, (2) escape **mediocrity**

He was content with living a life of **mediocrity**.

annihilate

v. to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist

synonym : destroy, obliterate, eradicate

(1) **annihilate** the enemy, (2) **annihilate** all doubts

The virus had the potential to **annihilate** entire populations if left unchecked.

interstellar

adj. relating to or located in the space between stars

synonym : galactic, cosmic, intergalactic

(1) **interstellar** communication, (2) **interstellar** space

The **interstellar** medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

sizable

adj. large in size or amount

synonym : large, significant, considerable

(1) **sizable** portion, (2) **sizable** audience

He has a **sizable** fortune and is one of the wealthiest people in the city.

Session 2: Spelling

1. so__r discussion *adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
2. the ha____rk of modern life *n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
3. imm_____al relationship *adj.* extending back beyond memory or record; very old
4. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
5. ann_____te all doubts *v.* to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
6. as so__r as a judge *adj.* not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises
7. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
8. the ha____rk of a good scientist *n.* a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing
9. sink into med_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal
10. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
11. from imm_____al times *adj.* extending back beyond memory or record; very old

ANSWERS: 1. sober, 2. hallmark, 3. immemorial, 4. afterward, 5. annihilate, 6. sober, 7. obsess, 8. hallmark, 9. mediocrity, 10. germ, 11. immemorial

12. gl__m like honey *v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
13. instant gra_____ion *n.* the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want
14. Je___h culture *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
15. a ve_____le explosion of colors *adj.* authentic or genuine, often used to emphasize the degree or extent of something
16. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
17. avoid hy_____le in writing *n.* exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
18. co_____te over a decision *v.* to think deeply and carefully about something
19. co_____te about the future *v.* to think deeply and carefully about something
20. gl__m in eyes *v.* to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent
21. ma__e coating *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
22. Je___h history *adj.* of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

ANSWERS: 12. gleam, 13. gratification, 14. Jewish, 15. veritable, 16. passe, 17. hyperbole, 18. cogitate, 19. cogitate, 20. gleam, 21. matte, 22. Jewish

23. pu_____ze event
v. to make information or news publicly known or communicated, to promote or spread awareness of
24. imp_____al solution
adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
25. international st_____an
n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
26. a woman st_____an
n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
27. imp_____al idea
adj. not sensible or useful for practical purposes; not likely to be effective in achieving an intended outcome
28. si_____e audience
adj. large in size or amount
29. career tra_____ry
n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space
30. ce___r a TV program
n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information
31. escape med_____ty
n. the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal
32. antibiotic-resistant g__m
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 23. publicize, 24. impractical, 25. statesman, 26. statesman, 27. impractical, 28. sizable, 29. trajectory, 30. censor, 31. mediocrity, 32. germ

33. sh__d of pottery *n.* a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal
34. pl_____ting sales *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
35. ann_____te the enemy *v.* to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
36. si_____e portion *adj.* large in size or amount
37. ve_____le treasure *adj.* authentic or genuine, often used to emphasize the degree or extent of something
38. st_____ng discovery *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
39. ob____s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
40. int_____lar communication *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
41. wound his sel_____ect *n.* a feeling of being proud of and confident in yourself
42. re_____d from a setback *v.* to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched
43. political na__r *n.* the lowest point, the point of greatest despair or decline, often used metaphorically
44. st_____ng earthquake shocks *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
45. ce____r a book *n.* a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

ANSWERS: 33. shard, 34. plummet, 35. annihilate, 36. sizable, 37. veritable, 38. startling, 39. obsess, 40. interstellar, 41. self-respect, 42. rebound, 43. nadir, 44. startling, 45. censor

46. photo with a ma__e finish *adj.* having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy
47. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
48. pu_____ze research findings *v.* to make information or news publicly known or communicated, to promote or spread awareness of
49. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
50. int_____lar space *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
51. escalate the hy_____le *n.* exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
52. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
53. re_____d back into positive growth *v.* to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched
54. aesthetic gra_____ion *n.* the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want
55. pl_____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
56. na__r altitude *n.* the lowest point, the point of greatest despair or decline, often used metaphorically
57. broken sh__d *n.* a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal

ANSWERS: 46. matte, 47. passe, 48. publicize, 49. afterward, 50. interstellar, 51. hyperbole, 52. trajectory, 53. rebound, 54. gratification, 55. plummet, 56. nadir, 57. shard

58. lacks a sense of sel_____ect

n. a feeling of being proud of and confident in yourself

ANSWERS: 58. self-respect

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She is a _____ expert on the subject and has published many papers.
adj. authentic or genuine, often used to emphasize the degree or extent of something
2. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
3. This statue honors a distinguished _____.
n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
4. The virus had the potential to _____ entire populations if left unchecked.
v. to destroy completely; to cause something to cease to exist
5. The basketball bounced off the rim and _____ to the player.
v. to spring back into a former shape or position after being compressed or stretched
6. The artist used a _____ of glass to create intricate designs on her sculptures.
n. a small, sharp piece of something that has been broken, especially a material like glass, pottery, or metal
7. 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
8. The body of his car has a _____ finish.
adj. having a surface without a shine, luster; non-glossy

ANSWERS: 1. veritable, 2. obsessed, 3. statesman, 4. annihilate, 5. rebounded, 6. shard, 7. passe, 8. matte

9. The ancient ruins had been there since _____ and their origin was mysterious.

adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old

10. The diamond ring _____ in the sunlight, catching everyone's eye.

v. to reflect light in a way that creates a shining or bright and attractive appearance; to become visible or apparent

11. The _____ of completing a difficult task is a great feeling.

n. the feeling of being pleased or satisfied as a result of achieving something or having something you want

12. The marketing campaign relied heavily on _____ to sell the product.

n. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point

13. The _____ medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

adj. relating to or located in the space between stars

14. My friend is a _____ woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

15. The company hired a PR firm to _____ its new product.

v. to make information or news publicly known or communicated, to promote or spread awareness of

16. Her failure resulted in a loss of her _____.

n. a feeling of being proud of and confident in yourself

ANSWERS: 9. immemorial, 10. gleamed, 11. gratification, 12. hyperbole, 13. interstellar, 14. Jewish, 15. publicize, 16. self-respect

17. After the controversial policy was implemented, the country's reputation hit a new _____.

n. the lowest point, the point of greatest despair or decline, often used metaphorically

18. He has a _____ fortune and is one of the wealthiest people in the city.

adj. large in size or amount

19. A clear and simple expression is the _____ of good writing.

n. a distinctive characteristic or attribute of a person or thing

20. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

21. The newspaper editor decided to _____ the controversial headline to avoid backlash.

n. a person or institution responsible for examining books, movies, and other forms of media to determine if they are harmful or offensive and should be banned or altered; an official in charge of banning or suppressing information

22. 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

23. He describes the story with _____ reality.

adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying

24. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.

adv. after the time mentioned

ANSWERS: 17. nadir, 18. sizable, 19. hallmark, 20. germ, 21. censor, 22. impractical, 23. startling, 24. afterward

25. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

26. He led a _____ life.

adj. not drunk or affected by alcohol; dignified in manner or character and committed to keeping promises

27. He was content with living a life of _____.

n. the state or quality of being average or of having only moderate ability, success, or value; the state or quality of being uninspired or unoriginal

28. I need time to _____ on that idea before making a decision.

v. to think deeply and carefully about something

29. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

ANSWERS: 25. plummeted, 26. sober, 27. mediocrity, 28. cogitate, 29. trajectory