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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Greg Gage: *The cockroach beatbox* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

airbag

n. a safety device designed to inflate rapidly in the event of a collision, protecting the occupants of a vehicle and reducing the risk of injury or death

synonym: air cushion, safety bag, crash bag

(1) defective **airbag**, (2) **airbag** deployment

The **airbag** system in the car saved the driver's life in a severe crash.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym: nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

eavesdrop

v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission

synonym: listen in, spy, overhear

(1) **eavesdrop** conversation, (2) **eavesdrop** on a secret plot
I accidentally **eavesdropped** on a confidential meeting last week.

cockroach

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

synonym: roach

(1) **cockroach** killer, (2) have a **cockroach** phobia

Cockroaches sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

anesthetize

v. to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation

synonym: numb, sedate, drug

(1) **anesthetize** a patient, (2) **anesthetize** a wound

The dentist will **anesthetize** your mouth before removing your wisdom teeth.

prick

v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

synonym: poke, jab, sting

(1) **prick** a balloon, (2) **prick** up her ears

He accidentally **pricked** his finger with the needle.

axon

n. a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell

(1) an **axon** of a nerve cell, (2) the **axon** terminals

We are developing a technology to promote the elongation and regeneration of sensory nerve **axons**.

- fir** *n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
synonym : pine, spruce, cedar
(1) **fir** branch, (2) **fir** forest
The smell of fresh **fir** trees filled the air at the Christmas tree farm.
- neuroscience** *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**
Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.
- 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**.
- earbud** *n.* a small electronic device that fits into the ear canal and is used for listening to music or for communication, especially when attached to a portable audio player or mobile phone
synonym : earphone, headphone
(1) wireless **earbud**, (2) sport **earbuds**
He bought noise-canceling **earbuds** to help him concentrate while working in a noisy environment.
- gasp** *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
synonym : breathe, pant, heave
(1) **gasp** for air, (2) **gasp** in shock
The audience **gasp**ed when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.

audiophile

n. a person who is passionate about high-quality sound reproduction and often invests in and appreciates high-end audio equipment, such as speakers, headphones, or amplifiers

synonym: music lover, sound enthusiast

(1) avid **audiophile**, (2) passionate **audiophile**

The knowledgeable **audiophile** community prides itself on its discerning taste in sound reproduction.

beatbox

n. a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice

synonym: mouth drum, lip-smack percussion

(1) **beatbox** rhythm, (2) **beatbox** battle

His **beatbox** performance at the concert was mind-blowing.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ane_____ze a patient
v. to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation
2. excite the ne___ns
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
3. f_r forest
n. a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
4. sma_____ne app developer
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
5. ne___n cell body
n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
6. defective ai___g
n. a safety device designed to inflate rapidly in the event of a collision, protecting the occupants of a vehicle and reducing the risk of injury or death
7. pr__k up her ears
v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

ANSWERS: 1. anesthetize, 2. neuron, 3. fir, 4. smartphone, 5. neuron, 6. airbag, 7. prick

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 8. el_____fy the audience | <i>v.</i> | to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something |
| 9. the branch of neu_____nce | <i>n.</i> | the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system |
| 10. an a__n of a nerve cell | <i>n.</i> | a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell |
| 11. wireless ea____d | <i>n.</i> | a small electronic device that fits into the ear canal and is used for listening to music or for communication, especially when attached to a portable audio player or mobile phone |
| 12. sma_____ne addict | <i>n.</i> | a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet |
| 13. el_____fy a manufacturing process | <i>v.</i> | to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something |
| 14. the a__n terminals | <i>n.</i> | a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell |
| 15. co_____ch killer | <i>n.</i> | a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home |
| 16. sport ea____ds | <i>n.</i> | a small electronic device that fits into the ear canal and is used for listening to music or for communication, especially when attached to a portable audio player or mobile phone |

ANSWERS: 8. electrify, 9. neuroscience, 10. axon, 11. earbud, 12. smartphone, 13. electrify, 14. axon, 15. cockroach, 16. earbud

17. be____x battle *n.* a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice
18. g__p in shock *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
19. pr__k a balloon *v.* to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication
20. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
21. g__p for air *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
22. f_r branch *n.* a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches
23. ea_____op conversation *v.* to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
24. ane_____ze a wound *v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation

ANSWERS: 17. beatbox, 18. gasp, 19. prick, 20. neuroscience, 21. gasp, 22. fir, 23. eavesdrop, 24. anesthetize

25. have a co_____ch phobia *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
26. avid aud_____le *n.* a person who is passionate about high-quality sound reproduction and often invests in and appreciates high-end audio equipment, such as speakers, headphones, or amplifiers
27. be_____x rhythm *n.* a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice
28. ea_____op on a secret plot *v.* to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
29. ai_____g deployment *n.* a safety device designed to inflate rapidly in the event of a collision, protecting the occupants of a vehicle and reducing the risk of injury or death
30. passionate aud_____le *n.* a person who is passionate about high-quality sound reproduction and often invests in and appreciates high-end audio equipment, such as speakers, headphones, or amplifiers

ANSWERS: 25. cockroach, 26. audiophile, 27. beatbox, 28. eavesdrop, 29. airbag, 30. audiophile

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The dentist will _____ your mouth before removing your wisdom teeth.
 - v. to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation

2. The audience _____ when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.
 - v. to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

3. The smell of fresh _____ trees filled the air at the Christmas tree farm.
 - n. a type of tall evergreen tree that is native to the northern hemisphere, with needle-like leaves and cones that stand upright on the branches

4. _____ sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.
 - n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

5. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
 - v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

6. The _____ system in the car saved the driver's life in a severe crash.
 - n. a safety device designed to inflate rapidly in the event of a collision, protecting the occupants of a vehicle and reducing the risk of injury or death

7. We are developing a technology to promote the elongation and regeneration of sensory nerve _____.
 - n. a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell

ANSWERS: 1. anesthetize, 2. gasped, 3. fir, 4. Cockroaches, 5. electrify, 6. airbag, 7. axons

8. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
- n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
9. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
- n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
10. He bought noise-canceling _____ to help him concentrate while working in a noisy environment.
- n.* a small electronic device that fits into the ear canal and is used for listening to music or for communication, especially when attached to a portable audio player or mobile phone
11. The knowledgeable _____ community prides itself on its discerning taste in sound reproduction.
- n.* a person who is passionate about high-quality sound reproduction and often invests in and appreciates high-end audio equipment, such as speakers, headphones, or amplifiers
12. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
- n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
13. He accidentally _____ his finger with the needle.
- v.* to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

ANSWERS: 8. neuroscience, 9. neuron, 10. earbuds, 11. audiophile, 12. smartphones, 13. pricked

14. His _____ performance at the concert was mind-blowing.

- n.* a style of vocal percussion or vocal mimicry in which a person creates rhythmic sounds and beats using their mouth, lips, tongue, and voice; (verb) to create percussive sounds, rhythms, and beats using the mouth, lips, tongue, and voice

15. I accidentally _____ on a confidential meeting last week.

- v.* to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission

ANSWERS: 14. beatbox, 15. eavesdropped