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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Caroline Phillips: Hurdy-gurdy for beginners | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

span

n. the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers

synonym: interval, period, length

(1) the **span** of a bird's wings, (2) the average life **span**

He slightly modified the **span** of training because it was just before a match.

fiddle

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

synonym: tinker, diddle, play

(1) **fiddle** with a PC, (2) **fiddle** away the whole afternoon

She was able to **fiddle** a free trip to the United States.

instrument

n. an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work

synonym: apparatus, tool, device

(1) musical **instruments**, (2) surgical **instruments**

This electronic **instrument** is required to undergo periodic

inspections to ensure precision.

crank

n. a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person

synonym: eccentric, oddball, kook

(1) **crank** handle, (2) **crank** caller

The fishing reel had a **crank** that made it easy to reel in the catch.

rub

v. to move one's hand or an object over the surface of something with pressure

synonym: scrub, massage, stroke

(1) **rub** shoulders, (2) **rub** a glass window

She **rubbed** the sore spot on her leg to ease the pain.

string

n. long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads

synonym: line, wire, rope

(1) retie the **string** and make it strong, (2) tense piano **strings**

She wore a **string** of pearls around her neck.

bow

v. to bend your knee or body, or lower your head; (noun) a weapon made of a curved piece of wood or other flexible material, strung with a cord and used to shoot arrows

synonym: bend, curve, arch

(1) **bow** and greet, (2) a **bow** wave

She **bowed** to the audience after her performance.

violin

n. a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings

synonym: fiddle

(1) **violin** soloist, (2) play the **violin**

The cello is a member of the **violin** family.

drone

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

synonym : hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

continuous

adj. occurring or existing without a pause or interruption

synonym : ceaseless, regular, repeated

(1) **continuous** improvement, (2) a **continuous** row of warehouses

The heavy snow has been **continuous** since last morning.

bagpipe

adj. relating to or characteristic of the musical instrument known as bagpipes, typically associated with Celtic or Scottish traditions

(1) **bagpipe** music, (2) **bagpipe** player

The **bagpipe's** distinct melody echoed through the castle courtyard.

melody

n. a succession of musical tones forming part of a larger piece of music

synonym : tune, song, piece

(1) a simple **melody**, (2) the **melody** of a tune

This harmonious **melody** immortalized its composer.

keyboard

n. device consisting of a set of keys on a piano, typewriter, computer, etc., that you press to make it work

synonym : console, piano

(1) numeric **keyboard**, (2) **keyboard** instruments

Please strike the "enter" on the **keyboard**.

tune

n. a musical composition or set of musical notes that are played or sung; (verb) to adjust or set something to a specific condition or standard

synonym : melody, harmony, (verb) adjust

(1) the **tune** of a song, (2) **tune** a piano

The band played a beautiful **tune** on their instruments.

innovative

adj. introducing or using new methods, ideas, etc.

synonym : creative, ingenious, inventive

(1) use of **innovative** technology, (2) stylistically **innovative** works

The Prime Minister stressed the need to create **innovative** industries.

technique

n. a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill

synonym : approach, procedure, strategy

(1) a **technique** in martial arts, (2) the **technique** applied to construction

Jockey's superior **technique** brought him victory.

activate

v. make something start working, more active or dynamic

synonym : mobilize, stimulate, initiate

(1) **activate** a receptor, (2) **activate** a motor

You must **activate** the software with a 16-digit key before you can use it.

buzz

v. to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere

synonym : hum, murmur, whisper

(1) the **buzz** of a cicada, (2) **buzz** marketing

I heard the **buzz** of conversation from the next room.

bark

n. the hard outer layer of a tree; a sound made by dogs or some other animals

synonym : skin, husk, crust

(1) trees with rough **bark**, (2) **bark** at the moon

He removed the **bark** from the tree.

physically

adv. in a way related to a person's body or appearance rather than their mind

(1) **physically** and mentally, (2) stay **physically** fit
Having a **physically** healthy physique is essential for a great life.

peg *n.* a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object
synonym: pin, dowel, spike

(1) **peg** in the ground, (2) **peg** an exchange rate
The sheep were tagged with numbered plastic **pegs** in their ears.

historic *adj.* famous or significant in history, or potentially so
synonym: memorable, momentous, historical

(1) **historic** accomplishment, (2) achieve the **historic** feat
The Chinese people have accomplished several **historic** feats.

unique *adj.* being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else
synonym: one-of-a-kind, unparalleled, incomparable

(1) a **unique** teacher, (2) **unique** design
The painting is **unique**, and there is no other like it.

combine *v.* to join or merge to form a single thing or group
synonym: coalesce, cohere, blend

(1) **combine** chemically with another substance,
(2) **combine** augmented reality
Hydrogen and oxygen **combine** to form water.

acoustic *adj.* relating to sound or the sense of hearing
synonym: aural, hearing, acoustical

(1) **acoustic** properties of a hall, (2) **acoustic** guitar
The ground acts as an **acoustic** barrier against outside sounds.

boombox

n. a portable radio or music player that often includes speakers and a cassette or CD player, used for playing music loudly

(1) portable **boombox**, (2) classic **boombox**

The party was lit thanks to the loud **boombox** blasting music all night.

tradition

n. a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society

synonym: custom, practice, ritual

(1) a **tradition** of a culture, (2) against **tradition**

It is a **tradition** in many families to have a big Thanksgiving dinner with all their relatives.

folk

n. people in general, especially those of a particular group or type

synonym: community, family, person

(1) **folk** art, (2) the **folk** songs of a particular district

Some seaweed was used as **folk** medicine in ancient times.

contemporary

adj. belonging to the same or present time

synonym: modern, stylish, coetaneous

(1) field of **contemporary** art, (2) **contemporary** leaders

Contemporary music has gained different followers from existing music.

specialized

adj. possessing or relating to specific knowledge or skills that are unique to a particular field or task; designed or intended for a particular purpose or function

synonym: technical, expert, skilled

(1) **specialized** knowledge, (2) **specialized** equipment

The hospital has many **specialized** departments, including cardiology and oncology.

luthier

n. a person who makes or repairs stringed instruments such as violins, guitars, and cellos

synonym : lute maker, stringed instrument maker

(1) boutique **luthier**, (2) **luthier** craftsmanship

I took my broken ukulele to the skilled **luthier**, and he could fix it in no time.

ado

n. an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort

synonym : commotion, fuss, bother

(1) much **ado**, (2) kick up **ado**

We need to resolve this issue without any further **ado**.

rhythm

n. a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing

synonym : beat, cadence, tempo

(1) in samba **rhythm**, (2) irregular heart **rhythm**

He beat out a jazz **rhythm** on the cajones.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|--|
| 1. the f__k songs of a particular district | <i>n.</i> people in general, especially those of a particular group or type |
| 2. p_g in the ground | <i>n.</i> a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object |
| 3. the speaker's dr__e | <i>n.</i> a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control |
| 4. numeric ke____rd | <i>n.</i> device consisting of a set of keys on a piano, typewriter, computer, etc., that you press to make it work |
| 5. ac____ic guitar | <i>adj.</i> relating to sound or the sense of hearing |
| 6. a te_____ue in martial arts | <i>n.</i> a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill |
| 7. ac____te a motor | <i>v.</i> make something start working, more active or dynamic |
| 8. tense piano st____gs | <i>n.</i> long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads |
| 9. much a_o | <i>n.</i> an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort |

ANSWERS: 1. folk, 2. peg, 3. drone, 4. keyboard, 5. acoustic, 6. technique, 7. activate, 8. string, 9. ado

10. phy_____ly and mentally *adv.* in a way related to a person's body or appearance rather than their mind
11. a un___e teacher *adj.* being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else
12. p_g an exchange rate *n.* a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object
13. r_b shoulders *v.* to move one's hand or an object over the surface of something with pressure
14. r_b a glass window *v.* to move one's hand or an object over the surface of something with pressure
15. achieve the hi_____ic feat *adj.* famous or significant in history, or potentially so
16. the me___y of a tune *n.* a succession of musical tones forming part of a larger piece of music
17. surgical ins_____nts *n.* an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work
18. kick up a_o *n.* an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort
19. the t__e of a song *n.* a musical composition or set of musical notes that are played or sung; (verb) to adjust or set something to a specific condition or standard

ANSWERS: 10. physically, 11. unique, 12. peg, 13. rub, 14. rub, 15. historic, 16. melody, 17. instrument, 18. ado, 19. tune

20. a simple me___y *n.* a succession of musical tones forming part of a larger piece of music
21. a con_____us row of warehouses *adj.* occurring or existing without a pause or interruption
22. stylistically inn_____ve works *adj.* introducing or using new methods, ideas, etc.
23. b__z marketing *v.* to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere
24. con_____ary leaders *adj.* belonging to the same or present time
25. spe_____ed equipment *adj.* possessing or relating to specific knowledge or skills that are unique to a particular field or task; designed or intended for a particular purpose or function
26. co_____e chemically with another substance *v.* to join or merge to form a single thing or group
27. ac_____te a receptor *v.* make something start working, more active or dynamic
28. dr__e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
29. un___e design *adj.* being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else
30. the average life s__n *n.* the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers

ANSWERS: 20. melody, 21. continuous, 22. innovative, 23. buzz, 24. contemporary, 25. specialized, 26. combine, 27. activate, 28. drone, 29. unique, 30. span

31. fi___e away the whole afternoon *v.* to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage
32. boutique lu____r *n.* a person who makes or repairs stringed instruments such as violins, guitars, and cellos
33. against tr____on *n.* a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society
34. spe____ed knowledge *adj.* possessing or relating to specific knowledge or skills that are unique to a particular field or task; designed or intended for a particular purpose or function
35. b__k at the moon *n.* the hard outer layer of a tree; a sound made by dogs or some other animals
36. classic bo____x *n.* a portable radio or music player that often includes speakers and a cassette or CD player, used for playing music loudly
37. use of inn____ve technology *adj.* introducing or using new methods, ideas, etc.
38. a tr____on of a culture *n.* a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society
39. co____e augmented reality *v.* to join or merge to form a single thing or group

ANSWERS: 31. fiddle, 32. luthier, 33. tradition, 34. specialized, 35. bark, 36. boombox, 37. innovative, 38. tradition, 39. combine

40. t__e a piano *n.* a musical composition or set of musical notes that are played or sung; (verb) to adjust or set something to a specific condition or standard
41. cr__k handle *n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
42. ac____ic properties of a hall *adj.* relating to sound or the sense of hearing
43. in samba rh___m *n.* a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing
44. con_____us improvement *adj.* occurring or existing without a pause or interruption
45. play the vi___n *n.* a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings
46. irregular heart rh___m *n.* a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing
47. fi___e with a PC *v.* to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage
48. portable bo_____x *n.* a portable radio or music player that often includes speakers and a cassette or CD player, used for playing music loudly

ANSWERS: 40. tune, 41. crank, 42. acoustic, 43. rhythm, 44. continuous, 45. violin, 46. rhythm, 47. fiddle, 48. boombox

49. b_w and greet *v.* to bend your knee or body, or lower your head; (noun) a weapon made of a curved piece of wood or other flexible material, strung with a cord and used to shoot arrows
50. trees with rough b__k *n.* the hard outer layer of a tree; a sound made by dogs or some other animals
51. hi____ic accomplishment *adj.* famous or significant in history, or potentially so
52. ba____e player *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the musical instrument known as bagpipes, typically associated with Celtic or Scottish traditions
53. retie the st___g and make it strong *n.* long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads
54. field of con_____ary art *adj.* belonging to the same or present time
55. a b_w wave *v.* to bend your knee or body, or lower your head; (noun) a weapon made of a curved piece of wood or other flexible material, strung with a cord and used to shoot arrows
56. ke____rd instruments *n.* device consisting of a set of keys on a piano, typewriter, computer, etc., that you press to make it work
57. stay phy_____ly fit *adv.* in a way related to a person's body or appearance rather than their mind
58. the te_____ue applied to construction *n.* a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill

ANSWERS: 49. bow, 50. bark, 51. historic, 52. bagpipe, 53. string, 54. contemporary, 55. bow, 56. keyboard, 57. physically, 58. technique

59. cr__k caller *n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
60. lu____r craftsmanship *n.* a person who makes or repairs stringed instruments such as violins, guitars, and cellos
61. the b__z of a cicada *v.* to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one a bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere
62. musical ins_____nts *n.* an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work
63. the s__n of a bird's wings *n.* the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers
64. ba_____e music *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the musical instrument known as bagpipes, typically associated with Celtic or Scottish traditions
65. vi___n soloist *n.* a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings
66. f__k art *n.* people in general, especially those of a particular group or type

ANSWERS: 59. crank, 60. luthier, 61. buzz, 62. instrument, 63. span, 64. bagpipe, 65. violin, 66. folk

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The sheep were tagged with numbered plastic _____ in their ears.
n. a small cylindrical or tapered pin used to fasten or secure something, such as clothing, on a line, or in carpentry and woodworking; (verb) to fasten or secure something using a peg or similar object; to mark or indicate a level or position using a peg or similar object

2. The ground acts as an _____ barrier against outside sounds.
adj. relating to sound or the sense of hearing

3. I heard the _____ of conversation from the next room.
v. to make a continuous, low humming sound such as the one bee makes; an exciting and active atmosphere

4. Hydrogen and oxygen _____ to form water.
v. to join or merge to form a single thing or group

5. The hospital has many _____ departments, including cardiology and oncology.
adj. possessing or relating to specific knowledge or skills that are unique to a particular field or task; designed or intended for a particular purpose or function

6. The party was lit thanks to the loud _____ blasting music all night.
n. a portable radio or music player that often includes speakers and a cassette or CD player, used for playing music loudly

7. The cello is a member of the _____ family.
n. a four-stringed wooden musical instrument held against the neck and played by passing a bow across the strings

ANSWERS: 1. pegs, 2. acoustic, 3. buzz, 4. combine, 5. specialized, 6. boombox, 7. violin

8. The heavy snow has been _____ since last morning.

adj. occurring or existing without a pause or interruption

9. The Chinese people have accomplished several _____ feats.

adj. famous or significant in history, or potentially so

10. The painting is _____ and there is no other like it.

adj. being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else

11. The Prime Minister stressed the need to create _____ industries.

adj. introducing or using new methods, ideas, etc.

12. This electronic _____ is required to undergo periodic inspections to ensure precision.

n. an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work

13. He heard a _____ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

14. He beat out a jazz _____ on the cajones.

n. a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing

15. The band played a beautiful _____ on their instruments.

n. a musical composition or set of musical notes that are played or sung; (verb) to adjust or set something to a specific condition or standard

ANSWERS: 8. continuous, 9. historic, 10. unique, 11. innovative, 12. instrument, 13. drone, 14. rhythm, 15. tune

16. This harmonious _____ immortalized its composer.

n. a succession of musical tones forming part of a larger piece of music

17. She wore a _____ of pearls around her neck.

n. long, thin material used for tying things together, composed of several twisted threads

18. She _____ the sore spot on her leg to ease the pain.

v. to move one's hand or an object over the surface of something with pressure

19. Some seaweed was used as _____ medicine in ancient times.

n. people in general, especially those of a particular group or type

20. Jockey's superior _____ brought him victory.

n. a particular way or art of doing something that needs skill

21. I took my broken ukulele to the skilled _____ and he could fix it in no time.

n. a person who makes or repairs stringed instruments such as violins, guitars, and cellos

22. Please strike the "enter" on the _____.

n. device consisting of a set of keys on a piano, typewriter, computer, etc., that you press to make it work

23. It is a _____ in many families to have a big Thanksgiving dinner with all their relatives.

n. a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has been passed down from generation to generation within a group or society

ANSWERS: 16. melody, 17. string, 18. rubbed, 19. folk, 20. technique, 21. luthier, 22. keyboard, 23. tradition

24. He removed the _____ from the tree.

n. the hard outer layer of a tree; a sound made by dogs or some other animals

25. He slightly modified the _____ of training because it was just before a match.

n. the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers

26. She was able to _____ a free trip to the United States.

v. to continuously touch or manipulate something with someone's hands, mainly when bored or nervous; to act dishonestly to try to get money, information, etc., or gain an advantage

27. You must _____ the software with a 16-digit key before you can use it.

v. make something start working, more active or dynamic

28. We need to resolve this issue without any further _____.

n. an action, fuss, or commotion, often over a trivial or unimportant matter; unnecessary activity or effort

29. Having a _____ healthy physique is essential for a great life.

adv. in a way related to a person's body or appearance rather than their mind

30. The _____ distinct melody echoed through the castle courtyard.

adj. relating to or characteristic of the musical instrument known as bagpipes, typically associated with Celtic or Scottish traditions

31. _____ music has gained different followers from existing music.

adj. belonging to the same or present time

ANSWERS: 24. bark, 25. span, 26. fiddle, 27. activate, 28. ado, 29. physically, 30. bagpipe's, 31. Contemporary

32. The fishing reel had a _____ that made it easy to reel in the catch.

- n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person

33. She _____ to the audience after her performance.

- v.* to bend your knee or body, or lower your head; (noun) a weapon made of a curved piece of wood or other flexible material, strung with a cord and used to shoot arrows

ANSWERS: 32. crank, 33. bowed