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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tom Chatfield: 7 ways games reward the brain | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_chatfield_7_ways_games_reward_the_brain

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

compel

v. to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

synonym: force, oblige, coerce

(1) **compel** a person to submission, (2) **compel** attention

The strict deadlines will **compel** the team to work efficiently.

transfix

v. to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object

synonym: pierce, impale, stab

(1) **transfix** with horror, (2) **transfix** me with its vibrant colors

The athlete's incredible skill on the field **transfixed** the spectators, who were amazed by his talent.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

glob

n. a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance

synonym : ball, lump, sphere

(1) **glob** of paint, (2) **glob** of honey

She squeezed a **glob** of toothpaste onto her toothbrush.

amaze

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym : astound, surprise, stagger

(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

screenshot

n. a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem

synonym : capture, screen dump

(1) **screenshot** function, (2) send a **screenshot**

I took a **screenshot** of the error message to show the tech support team.

asteroid

n. (also "planetoid") a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

synonym : minor planet, planetoid, rocky planetesimal

(1) **asteroid** mining, (2) **asteroid** explorer

Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the **asteroid** belt to understand the early solar system better.

titanic

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

synonym : colossal, massive, immense

(1) **titanic** battle, (2) **titanic** compound

The **titanic** ship sank on its maiden voyage.

alarming

adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

synonym : forbidding, concerning, disturbing

(1) **alarming** news, (2) **alarming** statistics

The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite **alarming**.

orc *n.* a mythical creature often portrayed as a monstrous humanoid typically depicted in fantasy literature and film
synonym: goblin, troll, ogre

(1) **orc** horde, (2) **orc** leader

In the fantasy novel, the heroes battled against an army of **orcs**.

calibrate *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
synonym: adjust, fine-tune

(1) **calibrate** machinery, (2) **calibrate** measurements

It's important to **calibrate** the equipment regularly to ensure accurate results.

staggering *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
synonym: astounding, astonishing, stunning

(1) **staggering** number, (2) a **staggering** defeat

The amount of money required was **staggering**.

probabilistic *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
synonym: probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

testy *adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; prone to outbursts of impatience or temper
synonym: irritable, grumpy, short-tempered

(1) **testy** temperament, (2) **testy** mood

The teacher's **testy** response shocked the students, who had only asked a simple question.

stimming

n. a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

synonym : self-stimulation, repetitive behaviors

(1) autistic **stimming**, (2) **stimming** therapy

Autistic children may engage in **stimming** behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.

brilliantly

adv. in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively

synonym : brightly, radiantly, excellently

(1) **brilliantly** executed, (2) **brilliantly** lit

He played the piano **brilliantly** at the concert.

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym : crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Aging **creeps** up slowly with time.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym : joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

dazzling

adj. shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting

synonym : astonishing, breathtaking, flashy

(1) **dazzling** debut, (2) **dazzling** views

Last night, the team delivered a **dazzling** performance.

intractable

adj. difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate

synonym : obstinate, stubborn, unyielding

(1) **intractable** pain, (2) **intractable** situation

The **intractable** problem defied a solution.

neurological

adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

synonym : nervous, neural, brain-related

(1) fever with **neurological** signs, (2) **neurological** symptoms

The patient was diagnosed with a **neurological** disorder affecting their motor skills.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

neurotransmitter

n. a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles

(1) **neurotransmitter** receptor, (2) **neurotransmitters** released from the brain

Endorphins are a type of **neurotransmitter** that gives a sense of well-being.

dopamine

n. a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension

(1) **dopamine-inhibiting** agent, (2) antagonism of **dopamine**

The drug controls the level of **dopamine** in the brain.

nugget

n. a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food

synonym : chunk, clod, clump

(1) a gold **nugget**, (2) **nugget** of truth

It took a few weeks to extract the **nugget** of information from those complicated sources.

discourage

v. to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something

synonym : dishearten, depress, demoralize

(1) **discourage** customers, (2) **discourage** bacterial growth

His parents tried to **discourage** him from becoming an artist.

sinister

adj. giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen

synonym : ominous, foreboding, evil

(1) **sinister** look, (2) in **sinister** terms

The dark clouds in the sky gave off a **sinister** feeling.

addict

n. a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

synonym : devotee, buff, freak

(1) a drug **addict**, (2) Internet **addict**

We have become TV **addicts** due to video streaming services.

spontaneously

adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

synonym : impromptu, automatically, immediately

(1) recover **spontaneously** after five days, (2) this shift occurs **spontaneously**

The electrical cord **spontaneously** combusted.

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**.

recycle

v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

synonym : reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

plow

n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

synonym : plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. da____ng views *adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
2. a drug ad____t *n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
3. te__y mood *adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; prone to outbursts of impatience or temper
4. dis_____ge bacterial growth *v.* to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
5. am__e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
6. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
7. ex____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
8. co____l attention *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
9. ca_____te machinery *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
10. st____ng therapy *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

ANSWERS: 1. dazzling, 2. addict, 3. testy, 4. discourage, 5. amaze, 6. afterward, 7. excite, 8. compel, 9. calibrate, 10. stimming

11. neu_____ters released from the brain *n.* a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles
12. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
13. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
14. tr_____ix with horror *v.* to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object
15. in si_____er terms *adj.* giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen
16. this shift occurs spo_____sly *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
17. al_____ng statistics *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
18. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
19. p__w equipment *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
20. pro_____tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
21. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

ANSWERS: 11. neurotransmitter, 12. excite, 13. afterward, 14. transfix, 15. sinister, 16. spontaneously, 17. alarming, 18. industrious, 19. plow, 20. probabilistic, 21. pun

22. as____id explorer *n.* (also "planetoid") a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter
23. ind____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
24. g__b of paint *n.* a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance
25. bri____ly executed *adv.* in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively
26. int____le pain *adj.* difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate
27. te__y temperament *adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; prone to outbursts of impatience or temper
28. ca____te measurements *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
29. Internet ad____t *n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
30. am__e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
31. a gold nu____t *n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
32. neu____ter receptor *n.* a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles

ANSWERS: 22. asteroid, 23. industrious, 24. glob, 25. brilliantly, 26. intractable, 27. testy, 28. calibrate, 29. addict, 30. amaze, 31. nugget, 32. neurotransmitter

33. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
34. re____e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
35. sta_____ng number *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
36. o_c leader *n.* a mythical creature often portrayed as a monstrous humanoid typically depicted in fantasy literature and film
37. bri_____ly lit *adv.* in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively
38. as____id mining *n.* (also "planetoid") a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter
39. recover spo_____sly after five days *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
40. nu____t of truth *n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
41. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
42. antagonism of do_____ne *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
43. int_____le situation *adj.* difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate

ANSWERS: 33. creditor, 34. recycle, 35. staggering, 36. orc, 37. brilliantly, 38. asteroid, 39. spontaneously, 40. nugget, 41. creep, 42. dopamine, 43. intractable

44. fever with neu_____cal signs *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
45. g__b of honey *n.* a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance
46. autistic st_____ng *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
47. silly p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
48. scr_____ot function *n.* a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem
49. deeply p__w the soil *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
50. ti_____c battle *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
51. neu_____cal symptoms *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

ANSWERS: 44. neurological, 45. glob, 46. stimming, 47. pun, 48. screenshot, 49. plow, 50. titanic, 51. neurological

52. send a scr_____ot *n.* a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem
53. pro_____tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
54. cr__p along the leaf *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
55. re_____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
56. si_____er look *adj.* giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen
57. do_____ne-inhibiting agent *n.* a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
58. da_____ng debut *adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
59. al_____ng news *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
60. tr_____ix me with its vibrant colors *v.* to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object

ANSWERS: 52. screenshot, 53. probabilistic, 54. creep, 55. recycle, 56. sinister, 57. dopamine, 58. dazzling, 59. alarming, 60. transfix

61. a sta_____ng defeat *adj.* so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
62. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
63. o_c horde *n.* a mythical creature often portrayed as a monstrous humanoid typically depicted in fantasy literature and film
64. co___l a person to submission *v.* to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way
65. ti_____c compound *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
66. dis_____ge customers *v.* to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something

ANSWERS: 61. staggering, 62. creditor, 63. orc, 64. compel, 65. titanic, 66. discourage

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. It took a few weeks to extract the _____ of information from those complicated sources.
 - n.* a small piece of gold or other precious metal or mineral found ready-formed in the earth; a small round piece of some food
2. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.
 - v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
3. The patient was diagnosed with a _____ disorder affecting their motor skills.
 - adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
4. We have become TV _____ due to video streaming services.
 - n.* a person who cannot stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful
5. The _____ ship sank on its maiden voyage.
 - adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
6. I took a _____ of the error message to show the tech support team.
 - n.* a digital photograph or image of what is displayed on a computer or electronic screen, often used for capturing and sharing information or documenting an issue or problem
7. Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the _____ belt to understand the early solar system better.
 - n.* (also "planetoid") a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

ANSWERS: 1. nugget, 2. amazed, 3. neurological, 4. addicts, 5. titanic, 6. screenshot, 7. asteroid

8. Autistic children may engage in _____ behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.
- n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
9. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
10. In a _____ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.
- adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
11. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
12. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
- n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
13. The teacher's _____ response shocked the students, who had only asked a simple question.
- adj.* easily irritated or annoyed; prone to outbursts of impatience or temper
14. Last night, the team delivered a _____ performance.
- adj.* shining brightly; highly attractive or exciting
15. It's important to _____ the equipment regularly to ensure accurate results.
- v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance

ANSWERS: 8. stimming, 9. excited, 10. probabilistic, 11. industrious, 12. pun, 13. testy, 14. dazzling, 15. calibrate

16. His parents tried to _____ him from becoming an artist.
v. to make someone lose confidence, enthusiasm, or less willing to do something
17. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
18. The electrical cord _____ combusted.
adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
19. The _____ problem defied a solution.
adj. difficult to manage or control; stubborn or obstinate
20. He played the piano _____ at the concert.
adv. in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively
21. The athlete's incredible skill on the field _____ the spectators, who were amazed by his talent.
v. to cause someone to become motionless or spellbound, often through shock or amazement; to pierce or impale with a pointed object
22. The drug controls the level of _____ in the brain.
n. a chemical substance produced by nerve cells as a neurotransmitter; as a drug, it is used to treat shock and hypotension
23. The amount of money required was _____.
adj. so shocking as to stun or overwhelm
24. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the _____.
n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

ANSWERS: 16. discourage, 17. creditor, 18. spontaneously, 19. intractable, 20. brilliantly, 21. transfixed, 22. dopamine, 23. staggering, 24. plow

25. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
adv. after the time mentioned
26. The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite _____.
adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
27. Endorphins are a type of _____ that gives a sense of well-being.
n. a chemical that carries nerve impulses between neurons or between neurons and muscles
28. The dark clouds in the sky gave off a _____ feeling.
adj. giving the impression that something bad or evil is happening or will happen
29. In the fantasy novel, the heroes battled against an army of _____.
n. a mythical creature often portrayed as a monstrous humanoid typically depicted in fantasy literature and film
30. Aging _____ up slowly with time.
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
31. We largely _____ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.
v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
32. She squeezed a _____ of toothpaste onto her toothbrush.
n. a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance

ANSWERS: 25. afterward, 26. alarming, 27. neurotransmitter, 28. sinister, 29. orcs, 30. creeps, 31. recycle, 32. glob

33. The strict deadlines will _____ the team to work efficiently.

- v. to force or require someone to do something; to exert a strong, irresistible force or pressure that makes someone act in a certain way

ANSWERS: 33. compel