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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nicholas Christakis: How social networks predict epidemics | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

savannah

n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

synonym : grassland, plain

(1) **savannah** region, (2) tropical **savannah**

The birds live in tropical forests, **savannahs**, and arid semi-desert environments.

coworker

n. a person who works with another in the same company or organization

synonym : colleague, peer, associate

(1) **coworker** relationship, (2) argue with a **coworker**

My ex- **coworker** and I had different working styles but managed to get along.

sibling

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

synonym : brother, sister, relative

(1) have a **sibling** quarrel, (2) play with my **siblings**

Children often copy their parents or elder **siblings**.

endlessly

adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

synonym : ceaselessly, interminably, unceasingly

(1) repeat **endlessly**, (2) worry **endlessly** about our future
The procession of demonstrators was **endlessly** continuing.

fowl

n. birds that are kept for their meat or eggs, particularly domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys

synonym: poultry, bird, chicken

(1) chicken **fowl**, (2) **fowl** farm

We had roasted **fowl** for dinner, and it was delicious.

promulgate

v. to make known or announce officially; to publicly declare or communicate a law, rule, belief, or idea

synonym: announce, proclaim, declare

(1) **promulgate** guidelines, (2) **promulgate** new regulations

The government issued a decree to **promulgate** new laws regarding environmental conservation.

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.

contagion

n. the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another

synonym: infection, disease, transmission

(1) a **contagion** of fear, (2) **contagion** effect

The government has implemented measures to prevent the **contagion** of COVID-19, such as social distancing and mandatory mask-wearing.

patriotism

n. love and loyalty to one's country

synonym: nationalism, loyalty, devotion

(1) the spirit of **patriotism**, (2) fanatic **patriotism**

His actions were a testament to his deep love and **patriotism** for his country.

altruism

n. the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity

synonym: selflessness, philanthropy, generosity

(1) acts of **altruism**, (2) **altruism** in society

His act of volunteering at the homeless shelter was a clear example of practical **altruism**.

sigmoid

adj. relating to or shaped like the letter "S"

synonym: curved, bent, twisted

(1) **sigmoid** curve, (2) **sigmoid** artery

The doctor examined the **sigmoid** colon to check for any abnormalities.

infect

v. to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

synonym: pollute, contaminate, affect

(1) **infect** other animal species, (2) **infect** a computer with a virus

Children often **infect** parents with this head cold.

saturate

v. to completely fill or soak something with a substance; to completely permeate or imbue something with a particular quality or element; to make something thoroughly absorbed

synonym: drench, soak, immerse

(1) **saturate** the market, (2) **saturate** the cloth with water

To enhance the flavor, the chef decided to **saturate** the meat with a flavorful marinade.

plateau

n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth,

development, or progress

synonym : mesa, tableland, plain

(1) **plateau** region, (2) **plateau** in performance

The hikers finally reached the **plateau** after a long climb up the mountain.

diffuse

adj. spread out widely; not concentrated in one place

synonym : spread, scatter

(1) **diffuse** bleeding, (2) **diffuse** cloud

Direct lighting is preferable to **diffuse** lighting when reading.

altruistic

adj. showing a selfless and disinterested concern for the happiness and well-being of other people

synonym : selfless, benevolent, philanthropic

(1) **altruistic** behavior, (2) **altruistic** instincts in social animals

The company tried to build an **altruistic** image.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym : assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym : dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

nod

v. to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation

synonym : respond, acknowledge, greet

(1) **nod** at each other, (2) **nod** courteously

She **nodded** quietly in response to the question.

cultivate

v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants

synonym: boost, foster, nurture

(1) **cultivate** a field, (2) **cultivate** relationships

University is a great place to **cultivate** our minds and expertise.

intuition

n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

synonym: instinct, gut feeling, sixth sense

(1) creative **intuition**, (2) **intuition** research

Some studies suggest that people's **intuitions** can be influenced by their experiences and biases.

impending

adj. about to happen or occur; close in time; imminent

synonym: imminent, upcoming, approaching

(1) **impending** doom, (2) **impending** crisis

We must prepare for the **impending** storm expected to hit our area.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap

There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

misanthrope

n. a person who dislikes or distrusts humankind, typically showing a general hatred or disdain for human society or social interaction

synonym: cynic, hermit, recluse

(1) cynical **misanthrope**, (2) reclusive **misanthrope**

The novel paints the protagonist as a maladjusted **misanthrope**, unable to fit into society or connect

meaningfully with others.

nominate

v. to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

synonym: appoint, designate, elect

(1) **nominate** him for an award, (2) **nominate** government representatives

The organization **nominated** her to be the next president.

blip

n. a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend

(1) temporary **blip**, (2) minor **blip**

The stock market had one bad **blip** today.

diverge

v. to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course

synonym: separate, split, part

(1) **diverge** from tradition, (2) **diverge** from the main topic

As tectonic plates **diverge**, new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.

pathogen

n. a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

synonym: germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) plant **pathogen**, (2) the **pathogen** in the air

mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated **pathogens**.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym: imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

vaccinate

v. to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease

synonym : immunize, inject, inoculate

(1) **vaccinate** against scarlet fever, (2) **vaccinate** every year

The nurse **vaccinated** the children in the school.

immunization

n. the process of making a person or animal immune to a specific disease by administering a vaccine or other preventative measure

synonym : vaccination, shot, inoculation

(1) **immunization** program, (2) childhood **immunization**

Due to the success of **immunization** programs, certain diseases, such as smallpox, have been eradicated.

recession

n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

synonym : downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**

The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

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.

Wikipedia

n. an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

synonym : online encyclopedia, webpedia

(1) **Wikipedia** entry, (2) **Wikipedia** article

Not all teachers accept citing **Wikipedia** as a valid source for academic papers.

herald

v. to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare

synonym : announce, proclaim, declare

(1) **herald** the news, (2) **herald** a new era

The sound of the trumpet **heralded** the arrival of the king.

well-being

n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

synonym : health, welfare, happiness

(1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being**

We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. the pa____en in the air | <i>n.</i> a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease |
| 2. reclusive mis____pe | <i>n.</i> a person who dislikes or distrusts humankind, typically showing a general hatred or disdain for human society or social interaction |
| 3. va____te every year | <i>v.</i> to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease |
| 4. childhood imm____ion | <i>n.</i> the process of making a person or animal immune to a specific disease by administering a vaccine or other preventative measure |
| 5. a g__m-free environment | <i>n.</i> 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 |
| 6. cynical mis____pe | <i>n.</i> a person who dislikes or distrusts humankind, typically showing a general hatred or disdain for human society or social interaction |
| 7. plant pa____en | <i>n.</i> a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease |
| 8. g__b of honey | <i>n.</i> a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance |
| 9. he____d a new era | <i>v.</i> to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare |

ANSWERS: 1. pathogen, 2. misanthrope, 3. vaccinate, 4. immunization, 5. germ, 6. misanthrope, 7. pathogen, 8. glob, 9. herald

10. French pa____x *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
11. di____e from tradition *v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
12. the pa____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
13. cu____te relationships *v.* to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
14. di____e from the main topic *v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
15. vi____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
16. 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
17. co____er relationship *n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization
18. temporary b__p *n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend
19. im____ng doom *adj.* about to happen or occur; close in time; imminent

ANSWERS: 10. paradox, 11. diverge, 12. paradox, 13. cultivate, 14. diverge, 15. visualize, 16. germ, 17. coworker, 18. blip, 19. impending

20. di____e bleeding *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
21. he____d the news *v.* to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare
22. creative in____on *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
23. no____te government representatives *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
24. po__t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
25. the wel____ng of a nation *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
26. g__b of paint *n.* a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance
27. po__t the premise *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
28. di____e cloud *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
29. pro____te guidelines *v.* to make known or announce officially; to publicly declare or communicate a law, rule, belief, or idea

ANSWERS: 20. diffuse, 21. herald, 22. intuition, 23. nominate, 24. posit, 25. well-being, 26. glob, 27. posit, 28. diffuse, 29. promulgate

30. Wi_____ia article *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
31. repeat en_____ly *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
32. in____t other animal species *v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
33. pl_____u in performance *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
34. the spirit of pat_____sm *n.* love and loyalty to one's country
35. a sense of wel_____ng *n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
36. argue with a co_____er *n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization
37. al_____sm in society *n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
38. chicken f__l *n.* birds that are kept for their meat or eggs, particularly domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys
39. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 30. Wikipedia, 31. endlessly, 32. infect, 33. plateau, 34. patriotism, 35. well-being, 36. coworker, 37. altruism, 38. fowl, 39. numb

40. n_d at each other *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
41. alt_____ic behavior *adj.* showing a selfless and disinterested concern for the happiness and well-being of other people
42. in_____on research *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
43. co_____on effect *n.* the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another
44. va_____te against scarlet fever *v.* to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease
45. si_____d curve *adj.* relating to or shaped like the letter "S"
46. f__l farm *n.* birds that are kept for their meat or eggs, particularly domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys
47. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
48. sa_____te the cloth with water *v.* to completely fill or soak something with a substance; to completely permeate or imbue something with a particular quality or element; to make something thoroughly absorbed

ANSWERS: 40. nod, 41. altruistic, 42. intuition, 43. contagion, 44. vaccinate, 45. sigmoid, 46. fowl, 47. numb, 48. saturate

49. re_____on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
50. recover from a re_____on *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
51. n_d courteously *v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
52. sa_____te the market *v.* to completely fill or soak something with a substance; to completely permeate or imbue something with a particular quality or element; to make something thoroughly absorbed
53. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
54. pro_____te new regulations *v.* to make known or announce officially; to publicly declare or communicate a law, rule, belief, or idea
55. sa_____ah region *n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
56. Wi_____ia entry *n.* an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics

ANSWERS: 49. recession, 50. recession, 51. nod, 52. saturate, 53. visualize, 54. promulgate, 55. savannah, 56. Wikipedia

57. im_____ng crisis *adj.* about to happen or occur; close in time; imminent
58. alt_____ic instincts in social animals *adj.* showing a selfless and disinterested concern for the happiness and well-being of other people
59. acts of al_____sm *n.* the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity
60. tropical sa_____ah *n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
61. worry en_____ly about our future *adv.* in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
62. pl_____u region *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
63. a co_____on of fear *n.* the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another
64. fanatic pat_____sm *n.* love and loyalty to one's country
65. minor b__p *n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend
66. in___t a computer with a virus *v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

ANSWERS: 57. impending, 58. altruistic, 59. altruism, 60. savannah, 61. endlessly, 62. plateau, 63. contagion, 64. patriotism, 65. blip, 66. infect

67. have a si____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
68. si____d artery *adj.* relating to or shaped like the letter "S"
69. cu_____te a field *v.* to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
70. play with my si____gs *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
71. imm_____ion program *n.* the process of making a person or animal immune to a specific disease by administering a vaccine or other preventative measure
72. no____te him for an award *v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor

ANSWERS: 67. sibling, 68. sigmoid, 69. cultivate, 70. sibling, 71. immunization, 72. nominate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The nurse _____ the children in the school.
 - v.* to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease

2. The novel paints the protagonist as a maladjusted _____ unable to fit into society or connect meaningfully with others.
 - n.* a person who dislikes or distrusts humankind, typically showing a general hatred or disdain for human society or social interaction

3. We are responsible for the care and _____ of all our employees.
 - n.* the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous

4. The sound of the trumpet _____ the arrival of the king.
 - v.* to be a sign or indication of something to come; to proclaim or announce something publicly, often with great enthusiasm or fanfare

5. The stock market had one bad _____ today.
 - n.* a sudden and small, and typically temporary, change or deviation from a general trend

6. Children often _____ parents with this head cold.
 - v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

7. The hikers finally reached the _____ after a long climb up the mountain.
 - n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

ANSWERS: 1. vaccinated, 2. misanthrope, 3. well-being, 4. heralded, 5. blip, 6. infect, 7. plateau

8. She squeezed a _____ of toothpaste onto her toothbrush.
- n.* a small, round mass or lump; a drop or blob of liquid or viscous substance
9. Due to the success of _____ programs, certain diseases, such as smallpox, have been eradicated.
- n.* the process of making a person or animal immune to a specific disease by administering a vaccine or other preventative measure
10. 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
11. There are many theories to explain this _____.
- n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
12. The organization _____ her to be the next president.
- v.* to propose someone for a position, especially in politics or an organization, or some honor
13. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
- v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
14. mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated _____.
- n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
15. We had roasted _____ for dinner, and it was delicious.
- n.* birds that are kept for their meat or eggs, particularly domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys

ANSWERS: 8. glob, 9. immunization, 10. germ, 11. paradox, 12. nominated, 13. posit, 14. pathogens, 15. fowl

16. Not all teachers accept citing _____ as a valid source for academic papers.
n. an online encyclopedia that allows users to contribute and edit articles collaboratively; a vast and frequently updated repository of information on a wide range of topics
17. University is a great place to _____ our minds and expertise.
v. to prepare and foster land for growing crops or plants
18. Direct lighting is preferable to _____ lighting when reading.
adj. spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
19. To enhance the flavor, the chef decided to _____ the meat with a flavorful marinade.
v. to completely fill or soak something with a substance; to completely permeate or imbue something with a particular quality or element; to make something thoroughly absorbed
20. His actions were a testament to his deep love and _____ for his country.
n. love and loyalty to one's country
21. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.
v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
22. We must prepare for the _____ storm expected to hit our area.
adj. about to happen or occur; close in time; imminent
23. The procession of demonstrators was _____ continuing.
adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

ANSWERS: 16. Wikipedia, 17. cultivate, 18. diffuse, 19. saturate, 20. patriotism, 21. visualize, 22. impending, 23. endlessly

24. As tectonic plates _____ new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.
- v.* to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course
25. The government has implemented measures to prevent the _____ of COVID-19, such as social distancing and mandatory mask-wearing.
- n.* the spread of a disease or harmful influence from one person or thing to another
26. She _____ quietly in response to the question.
- v.* to lower and raise one's head, sometimes several times, as to show approval, agreement, greeting, or confirmation
27. My ex-_____ and I had different working styles but managed to get along.
- n.* a person who works with another in the same company or organization
28. My left arm became _____.
- adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
29. Some studies suggest that people's _____ can be influenced by their experiences and biases.
- n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
30. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
- n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

ANSWERS: 24. diverge, 25. contagion, 26. nodded, 27. coworker, 28. numb, 29. intuitions, 30. siblings

31. The doctor examined the _____ colon to check for any abnormalities.

adj. relating to or shaped like the letter "S"

32. The government issued a decree to _____ new laws regarding environmental conservation.

v. to make known or announce officially; to publicly declare or communicate a law, rule, belief, or idea

33. The birds live in tropical forests, _____ and arid semi-desert environments.

n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

34. The company tried to build an _____ image.

adj. showing a selfless and disinterested concern for the happiness and well-being of other people

35. The country is facing a _____ with high unemployment and low GDP.

n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

36. His act of volunteering at the homeless shelter was a clear example of practical _____.

n. the belief or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish devotion to the welfare of others often expressed as acts of kindness or charity

ANSWERS: 31. sigmoid, 32. promulgate, 33. savannahs, 34. altruistic, 35. recession, 36. altruism