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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Seth Priebatsch: *The game layer on top of the world* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

ninja

n. a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan

synonym: assassin, spy

(1) **ninja** costume, (2) **ninja** warrior

The skilled **ninja** moved stealthily through the shadows to carry out their mission.

dropout

n. a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it

synonym: noncompleter, quitter, school leaver

(1) the **dropout** rate, (2) **dropout** student

The high school **dropout** rate has decreased significantly in recent years thanks to educational initiatives and support programs.

relocate

v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there

synonym: emigrate, resettle, migrate

(1) **relocate** a company, (2) **relocate** with a new job

The university **relocated** to campuses several miles away.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

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.

crux

n. the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue

synonym : heart, core, essence

(1) main **crux**, (2) the **crux** of the argument

The **crux** of the matter was that the company was not financially stable.

consciously

adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner

synonym : intentionally, deliberately, knowingly

(1) **consciously** aware of a problem, (2) act **consciously**

He **consciously** criticizes her in the publicity.

swath

n. a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something

synonym : strip, band, fodder

(1) a large **swath** of territory, (2) a **swath** of green grass

The charity organization has helped to provide education to a vast **swath** of the population.

frightening

adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym : scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

ration

n. a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems

synonym : quota, allowance, allocation

(1) food **ration**, (2) fuel **ration**

During the war, families were given a monthly **ration** of essential goods to ensure everyone had access to basic necessities.

twit

n. a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating

synonym : fool, idiot, imbecile

(1) celebrity **twit**, (2) neighborhood **twit**

Please ignore that **twit** on social media; their opinions are irrelevant.

wilt

v. to become limp and drooping, often as a result of heat, lack of water, or disease; to lose strength, vitality, or energy; to fade or wither away

synonym : droop, wither, fade

(1) **wilt** in the heat of the day, (2) **wilt** after several setbacks

The young athlete's spirit started to **wilt** after losing multiple competitions.

tweak

v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

synonym : nip, pinch, fine-tune

(1) **tweak** his cheek, (2) **tweak** the economy

He didn't **tweak** the plan, even though he had time.

clockwork

n. a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock

synonym : mechanism, movement, gears

(1) run like **clockwork**, (2) **clockwork** precision

The **clockwork** mechanism in the grandfather clock needed to be wound up every week.

vitality

n. the state of being strong and active; energy

synonym : energy, life, vigor

(1) **vitality** of youth, (2) the **vitality** of the company

The new gym membership has improved his **vitality** and overall health.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym : curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym : Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

valedictorian

n. the student who delivers the farewell address at a graduation ceremony, typically the student with the highest academic ranking in their class

synonym : top student, highest achiever, salutatorian

(1) **valedictorian** speech, (2) high school **valedictorian**

He achieved the honor of being the **valedictorian** of his graduating class.

granular

adj. consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance

synonym : gritty, grainy, sandy

(1) a **granular** medicine, (2) **granular** data

The soil had a **granular** texture, making it easy to plant the seeds.

wholesome

adj. good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being

synonym: healthy, decent, nutrient

(1) **wholesome** ingredients, (2) live a **wholesome** lifestyle
His honesty wielded a **wholesome** influence on those around him.

psyche

n. the human soul, mind, or spirit

synonym: mind, soul, spirit

(1) deep **psyche**, (2) **psyche** healing

The therapist helped her understand the workings of her **psyche** and how to cope with her anxiety.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

cabal

n. a small, secret group of people who work together to achieve a particular goal, especially one that is seen as being against the interests of those who are not part of the group

synonym: clique, faction, plot

(1) a member of a **cabal**, (2) secret **cabal**

The group of politicians formed a **cabal** to try to control the party.

cot

n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out

synonym: bed, bunk, pallet

(1) **cot** in the tent, (2) baby's **cot**

The hospital provides **cots** for patients' families who want to stay overnight.

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.

boardwalk

n. a path or walkway, usually raised and made of wood, along or near a beach, boardwalk, or waterfront area, often used for recreation or pedestrian traffic

synonym: promenade, walkway, pier

(1) **boardwalk** trail, (2) oceanfront **boardwalk**

Walking along the seaside **boardwalk**, I enjoyed the sound of the waves crashing on the shore.

Session 2: Spelling

1. w__t in the heat of the day
v. to become limp and drooping, often as a result of heat, lack of water, or disease; to lose strength, vitality, or energy; to fade or wither away
2. run like cl_____rk
n. a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock
3. live a wh_____me lifestyle
adj. good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being
4. fuel ra___n
n. a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems
5. me_____al chemistry
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
6. a gr_____ar medicine
adj. consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance
7. food ra___n
n. a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems

ANSWERS: 1. wilt, 2. clockwork, 3. wholesome, 4. ration, 5. medicinal, 6. granular, 7. ration

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 8. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 9. re_____te with a new job | <i>v.</i> to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there |
| 10. re_____te a company | <i>v.</i> to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there |
| 11. teaching of Ch____t | <i>n.</i> the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity |
| 12. val_____ian speech | <i>n.</i> the student who delivers the farewell address at a graduation ceremony, typically the student with the highest academic ranking in their class |
| 13. company mo__o | <i>n.</i> a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal |
| 14. dr_____t student | <i>n.</i> a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it |
| 15. tw__k his cheek | <i>v.</i> to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely |
| 16. a det_____nt of crop yields | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 17. cast fri_____ng eyes | <i>adj.</i> causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming |
| 18. baby's c_t | <i>n.</i> a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out |

ANSWERS: 8. industrious, 9. relocate, 10. relocate, 11. Christ, 12. valedictorian, 13. motto, 14. dropout, 15. tweak, 16. determinant, 17. frightening, 18. cot

19. ni__a costume *n.* a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan
20. w__t after several setbacks *v.* to become limp and drooping, often as a result of heat, lack of water, or disease; to lose strength, vitality, or energy; to fade or wither away
21. a large sw__h of territory *n.* a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something
22. cl_____rk precision *n.* a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock
23. neighborhood t__t *n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
24. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
25. the c__x of the argument *n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue
26. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
27. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

ANSWERS: 19. ninja, 20. wilt, 21. swath, 22. clockwork, 23. twit, 24. dedicate, 25. crux, 26. dedicate, 27. motto

28. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
29. oceanfront bo_____lk *n.* a path or walkway, usually raised and made of wood, along or near a beach, boardwalk, or waterfront area, often used for recreation or pedestrian traffic
30. deep ps___e *n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
31. ni__a warrior *n.* a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan
32. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
33. gr_____ar data *adj.* consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance
34. c_t in the tent *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
35. con_____ly aware of a problem *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
36. tw__k the economy *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
37. bo_____lk trail *n.* a path or walkway, usually raised and made of wood, along or near a beach, boardwalk, or waterfront area, often used for recreation or pedestrian traffic
38. a member of a ca__l *n.* a small, secret group of people who work together to achieve a particular goal, especially one that is seen as being against the interests of those who are not part of the group

ANSWERS: 28. industrious, 29. boardwalk, 30. psyche, 31. ninja, 32. determinant, 33. granular, 34. cot, 35. consciously, 36. tweak, 37. boardwalk, 38. cabal

39. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
40. main c__x *n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue
41. fri_____ng experience *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
42. act con_____ly *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
43. a sw__h of green grass *n.* a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something
44. wh_____me ingredients *adj.* good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being
45. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
46. the vi____ty of the company *n.* the state of being strong and active; energy
47. secret ca__l *n.* a small, secret group of people who work together to achieve a particular goal, especially one that is seen as being against the interests of those who are not part of the group
48. ps___e healing *n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
49. high school val_____ian *n.* the student who delivers the farewell address at a graduation ceremony, typically the student with the highest academic ranking in their class

ANSWERS: 39. creditor, 40. crux, 41. frightening, 42. consciously, 43. swath, 44. wholesome, 45. creditor, 46. vitality, 47. cabal, 48. psyche, 49. valedictorian

50. vi____ty of youth *n.* the state of being strong and active; energy
51. celebrity t__t *n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating
52. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
53. before Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
54. the dr_____t rate *n.* a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it

ANSWERS: 50. vitality, 51. twit, 52. medicinal, 53. Christ, 54. dropout

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The hospital provides _____ for patients' families who want to stay overnight.
n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
2. The _____ mechanism in the grandfather clock needed to be wound up every week.
n. a mechanism in which a series of gears, springs and other mechanical elements are used to power a device, especially a clock
3. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
4. He _____ criticizes her in the publicity.
adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner
5. Walking along the seaside _____ I enjoyed the sound of the waves crashing on the shore.
n. a path or walkway, usually raised and made of wood, along or near a beach, boardwalk, or waterfront area, often used for recreation or pedestrian traffic
6. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
7. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 1. cots, 2. clockwork, 3. Christmas, 4. consciously, 5. boardwalk, 6. motto, 7. industrious

8. He achieved the honor of being the _____ of his graduating class.
n. the student who delivers the farewell address at a graduation ceremony, typically the student with the highest academic ranking in their class
9. The high school _____ rate has decreased significantly in recent years thanks to educational initiatives and support programs.
n. a person who leaves school, college, or a training program before completing it
10. His honesty wielded a _____ influence on those around him.
adj. good for or likely to improve your health; conducive to or characterized by physical or moral well-being
11. He didn't _____ the plan, even though he had time.
v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
12. The new gym membership has improved his _____ and overall health.
n. the state of being strong and active; energy
13. The university _____ to campuses several miles away.
v. to move or move something or someone to a new place and build a house or a business there
14. The soil had a _____ texture, making it easy to plant the seeds.
adj. consisting of or resembling small grains or particles; having a rough, irregular texture or appearance
15. The skilled _____ moved stealthily through the shadows to carry out their mission.
n. a Japanese warrior or assassin trained in martial arts and stealth tactics, associated with the feudal era of Japan

ANSWERS: 8. valedictorian, 9. dropout, 10. wholesome, 11. tweak, 12. vitality, 13. relocated, 14. granular, 15. ninja

16. He _____ his life to helping others.

- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

17. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

18. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

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

19. The young athlete's spirit started to _____ after losing multiple competitions.

- v.* to become limp and drooping, often as a result of heat, lack of water, or disease; to lose strength, vitality, or energy; to fade or wither away

20. Please ignore that _____ on social media; their opinions are irrelevant.

- n.* a silly or foolish person; someone regarded as annoying or irritating

21. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.

- adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

22. The group of politicians formed a _____ to try to control the party.

- n.* a small, secret group of people who work together to achieve a particular goal, especially one that is seen as being against the interests of those who are not part of the group

23. The charity organization has helped to provide education to a vast _____ of the population.

- n.* a strip of land, especially a long, narrow one; a large amount or quantity of something

ANSWERS: 16. dedicated, 17. determinant, 18. creditor, 19. wilt, 20. twit, 21. frightening, 22. cabal, 23. swath

24. The _____ of the matter was that the company was not financially stable.
- n.* the most important or fundamental part of a matter or situation; the key point or central issue
25. The therapist helped her understand the workings of her _____ and how to cope with her anxiety.
- n.* the human soul, mind, or spirit
26. During the war, families were given a monthly _____ of essential goods to ensure everyone had access to basic necessities.
- n.* a fixed portion or allowance of something, often referring to food, supplies, or resources, that is distributed or allocated to individuals or groups, especially during times of scarcity or in organized systems
27. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
- adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 24. crux, 25. psyche, 26. ration, 27. medicinal