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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Laurie Santos: A monkey economy as irrational as ours | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

sage

n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

synonym: philosopher, scholar, thinker

(1) a **sage** of long ago, (2) a **sage** counselor

He was famous for his **sage** advice to younger entrepreneurs.

smirk

v. to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner

synonym: grin, sneer, simper

(1) **smirk** confidently, (2) **smirk** after playing a prank

He couldn't help but **smirk** when he heard her absurd excuse.

inept

adj. lacking skill or aptitude; clumsy

synonym: incompetent, unskilled, clumsy

(1) **inept** government, (2) socially **inept**

He was **inept** at handling the situation.

foolproof

adj. designed to prevent mistakes or errors; infallible; incapable of going wrong

synonym : infallible, fail-safe, unerring

(1) **foolproof** method, (2) **foolproof** plan

This recipe is **foolproof** and easy to follow, even for inexperienced cooks.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym : disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

primate

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

synonym : ape, monkey, lemur

(1) **primate** species, (2) **primate** sanctuary

Many scientists study **primate** behavior and intelligence.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym : rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

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.

salesperson

n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers

synonym: dealer, seller, vendor

(1) a **salesperson** in a store, (2) a drapery **salesperson**

He received the title of the best **salesperson** in all our branches worldwide.

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.

hanker

v. to crave, desire, or long for something, typically something that is hard to obtain or attain; to have a strong and persistent desire for something

synonym: yearn, long, crave

(1) **hanker** at the chance, (2) **hanker** for adventure

I **hanker** for a warm cup of tea on a cold, rainy day.

impatience

n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

synonym: restlessness, irritability, agitation

(1) **impatience** with delays, (2) business **impatience**

The doctor advised him to manage his **impatience** as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.

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**.

anecdotal

adj. based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population;

characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence

synonym: hearsay, informal, unreliable

(1) **anecdotal** evidence, (2) **anecdotal** example

My friend shared an **anecdotal** story about her experience in customer service.

larceny

n. the unlawful or unauthorized taking and carrying away of someone else's personal property with the intent to deprive them of it permanently; theft

synonym: theft, robbery, stealing

(1) grand **larceny**, (2) commit **larceny**

The suspect was charged with **larceny** for stealing valuable artwork.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

bailout

n. the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy

synonym: help, aid, support

(1) **bailout** bill, (2) **bailout** bottle

Many countries provided a **bailout** to the private sector to minimize the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

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.

irrational

adj. not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking;
(mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed
as the ratio of two integers

synonym : illogical, ludicrous, senseless

(1) an **irrational** request, (2) **irrational** numbers

They continued to endure **irrational** treatment by the dictatorship.

averse

adj. feeling strong dislike, opposition, or reluctance towards something; having a strong inclination against or avoidance of something

synonym : reluctant, disinclined, unwilling

(1) **averse** to change, (2) **averse** to risk

I am **averse** to making hasty decisions without carefully considering the consequences.

furrow

n. a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face

synonym : groove, trench, rut

(1) ploughed **furrow**, (2) narrow **furrow**

The farmer plowed deep **furrows** in the field before planting his crops.

brow

n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead

synonym : forehead, hilltop, eyebrow

(1) the **brow** of a hill, (2) furrowed **brow**

She wiped the sweat from her **brow** after finishing the marathon.

situ

adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

synonym : situational, contextual, circumstantial

(1) ex- **situ** conservation, (2) in- **situ** control

Melanoma in **situ** is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.

aversion

n. a strong dislike or reluctance towards something or someone; a feeling of extreme distaste or aversion towards something or someone unpleasant

synonym : dislike, loathing, repulsion

(1) **aversion** therapy, (2) strong **aversion**

Her **aversion** to snakes made her avoid the reptile exhibit at the zoo.

mindset

n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

synonym : attitude, ethos, mentality

(1) flexible **mindset**, (2) the **mindset** in an education system

Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial **mindset** in each individual.

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.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym : formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

dunce

n. a person who is considered stupid or slow-witted; a person who lacks intelligence or common sense

synonym : dullard, idiot, ignoramus

(1) **dunce** cap, (2) the technology **dunce**

The teacher referred to the struggling student as a **dunce** in front of the class.

predilection

n. a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something

synonym: inclination, leaning, preference

(1) **predilection** for chocolate, (2) a strong **predilection** for dogs

Her **predilection** for spicy food made her the go-to person for restaurant recommendations.

disgust

n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

synonym: nauseate, hate, dislike

(1) public **disgust**, (2) show **disgust** at his actions

He was filled with **disgust** and fear for the threat of war.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

Session 2: Spelling

1. narrow fu___w
n. a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face
2. an op_____ne remark
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
3. the b__w of a hill
n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
4. n__b with cold
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
5. imp_____ce with delays
n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
6. ex-s__u conservation
adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
7. sm__k after playing a prank
v. to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner
8. d_e rabbit
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
9. a sal_____on in a store
n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers

ANSWERS: 1. furrow, 2. opportune, 3. brow, 4. numb, 5. impatience, 6. situ, 7. smirk, 8. doe, 9. salesperson

10. an irr_____al request *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
11. the mi_____t in an education system *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
12. du__e cap *n.* a person who is considered stupid or slow-witted; a person who lacks intelligence or common sense
13. grand la_____y *n.* the unlawful or unauthorized taking and carrying away of someone else's personal property with the intent to deprive them of it permanently; theft
14. commit la_____y *n.* the unlawful or unauthorized taking and carrying away of someone else's personal property with the intent to deprive them of it permanently; theft
15. av___e to risk *adj.* feeling strong dislike, opposition, or reluctance towards something; having a strong inclination against or avoidance of something
16. this shift occurs spo_____sly *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
17. fo_____of method *adj.* designed to prevent mistakes or errors; infallible; incapable of going wrong
18. an_____al example *adj.* based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence

ANSWERS: 10. irrational, 11. mindset, 12. dunce, 13. larceny, 14. larceny, 15. averse, 16. spontaneously, 17. foolproof, 18. anecdotal

19. pl____t against other major currencies
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
20. sm__k confidently
v. to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner
21. ins_____ize a system
v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
22. ha__r for adventure
v. to crave, desire, or long for something, typically something that is hard to obtain or attain; to have a strong and persistent desire for something
23. 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
24. a strong pre_____ion for dogs
n. a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something
25. pl____ting sales
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
26. in-s__u control
adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
27. hu____g sound
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
28. a drapery sal_____on
n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers

ANSWERS: 19. plummet, 20. smirk, 21. institutionalize, 22. hanker, 23. intuition, 24. predilection, 25. plummet, 26. situ, 27. humming, 28. salesperson

29. show di_____t at his actions *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
30. in__t government *adj.* lacking skill or aptitude; clumsy
31. tw__k the economy *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
32. socially in__t *adj.* lacking skill or aptitude; clumsy
33. pr_____e sanctuary *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
34. an_____al evidence *adj.* based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence
35. av_____on therapy *n.* a strong dislike or reluctance towards something or someone; a feeling of extreme distaste or aversion towards something or someone unpleasant
36. ba_____t bottle *n.* the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy
37. the technology du__e *n.* a person who is considered stupid or slow-witted; a person who lacks intelligence or common sense
38. ha___r at the chance *v.* to crave, desire, or long for something, typically something that is hard to obtain or attain; to have a strong and persistent desire for something

ANSWERS: 29. disgust, 30. inept, 31. tweak, 32. inept, 33. primate, 34. anecdotal, 35. aversion, 36. bailout, 37. dunce, 38. hanker

39. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
40. ba_____t bill *n.* the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy
41. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
42. business imp_____ce *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
43. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
44. public di_____t *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
45. ploughed fu___w *n.* a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face
46. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
47. pr_____e species *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
48. furrowed b__w *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
49. av___e to change *adj.* feeling strong dislike, opposition, or reluctance towards something; having a strong inclination against or avoidance of something

ANSWERS: 39. embarrass, 40. bailout, 41. excite, 42. impatience, 43. opportune, 44. disgust, 45. furrow, 46. embarrass, 47. primate, 48. brow, 49. averse

50. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
51. 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
52. flexible mi_____t *n.* the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone
53. strong av_____on *n.* a strong dislike or reluctance towards something or someone; a feeling of extreme distaste or aversion towards something or someone unpleasant
54. fo_____of plan *adj.* designed to prevent mistakes or errors; infallible; incapable of going wrong
55. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
56. recover spo_____sly after five days *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
57. pre_____ion for chocolate *n.* a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something
58. a s__e of long ago *n.* a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
59. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

ANSWERS: 50. excite, 51. intuition, 52. mindset, 53. aversion, 54. foolproof, 55. institutionalize, 56. spontaneously, 57. predilection, 58. sage, 59. humming

60. a s__e counselor *n.* a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
61. irr_____al numbers *adj.* not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers
62. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
63. tw__k his cheek *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
64. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 60. sage, 61. irrational, 62. doe, 63. tweak, 64. numb

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The teacher referred to the struggling student as a _____ in front of the class.
n. a person who is considered stupid or slow-witted; a person who lacks intelligence or common sense

2. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

3. They continued to endure _____ treatment by the dictatorship.
adj. not based on, or not using reason or clear thinking; (mathematics) a real number that cannot be expressed as the ratio of two integers

4. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

5. Melanoma in _____ is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.
adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

6. The farmer plowed deep _____ in the field before planting his crops.
n. a long and narrow groove or trench, typically made in the ground by a plow or a person's fingers; a wrinkle or groove on a person's face

7. The electrical cord _____ combusted.
adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

ANSWERS: 1. dunce, 2. plummeted, 3. irrational, 4. institutionalize, 5. situ, 6. furrows, 7. spontaneously

8. The doctor advised him to manage his _____ as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.
- n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
9. He received the title of the best _____ in all our branches worldwide.
- n.* a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers
10. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
- n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
11. He couldn't help but _____ when he heard her absurd excuse.
- v.* to smile in a way that suggests one is pleased or amused by someone or something, often in a smug or self-satisfied manner
12. Many countries provided a _____ to the private sector to minimize the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- n.* the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which is on the brink of bankruptcy
13. He was filled with _____ and fear for the threat of war.
- n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
14. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
15. Her _____ for spicy food made her the go-to person for restaurant recommendations.
- n.* a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something

ANSWERS: 8. impatience, 9. salesperson, 10. doe, 11. smirk, 12. bailout, 13. disgust, 14. embarrass, 15. predilection

16. My left arm became _____.

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

17. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

18. I am _____ to making hasty decisions without carefully considering the consequences.

adj. feeling strong dislike, opposition, or reluctance towards something; having a strong inclination against or avoidance of something

19. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

20. She wiped the sweat from her _____ after finishing the marathon.

n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead

21. Her _____ to snakes made her avoid the reptile exhibit at the zoo.

n. a strong dislike or reluctance towards something or someone; a feeling of extreme distaste or aversion towards something or someone unpleasant

22. Countries whose goal is economic development often focus on fostering an entrepreneurial _____ in each individual.

n. the established set of attitudes or fixed ideas held by someone

23. The suspect was charged with _____ for stealing valuable artwork.

n. the unlawful or unauthorized taking and carrying away of someone else's personal property with the intent to deprive them of it permanently; theft

ANSWERS: 16. numb, 17. humming, 18. averse, 19. primate, 20. brow, 21. aversion, 22. mindset, 23. larceny

24. He was _____ at handling the situation.

adj. lacking skill or aptitude; clumsy

25. He was famous for his _____ advice to younger entrepreneurs.

n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

26. I _____ for a warm cup of tea on a cold, rainy day.

v. to crave, desire, or long for something, typically something that is hard to obtain or attain; to have a strong and persistent desire for something

27. 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

28. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

29. The news of her promotion _____ her.

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

30. He didn't _____ the plan, even though he had time.

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

31. My friend shared an _____ story about her experience in customer service.

adj. based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence

ANSWERS: 24. inept, 25. sage, 26. hanker, 27. intuitions, 28. opportune, 29. excited, 30. tweak, 31. anecdotal

32. This recipe is _____ and easy to follow, even for inexperienced cooks.

adj. designed to prevent mistakes or errors; infallible; incapable of going wrong

ANSWERS: 32. foolproof