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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Torsten Reil: Animate characters by evolving them |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

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.

animate

v. to make something full of interest and energy

synonym: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

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.

recombine

v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)

(1) **recombine** at the surface, (2) ability to **recombine**

Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially **recombined**.

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.

biped

n. an animal with two feet

synonym : hominoid

(1) **biped** robot, (2) a featherless **biped**

Biped walking encouraged the further evolution of humankind.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

rag

n. a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning

synonym : cloth, fragment

(1) a **rag** of cloud, (2) **rag** doll

He used an old **rag** to clean the grease off the car's engine.

counterbalance

v. to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something;
(noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force

synonym : offset, counteract, neutralize

(1) **counterbalance** the seriousness of the topic,

(2) **counterbalance** the effects

The heavyweights on one end of the scale **counterbalanced** the lighter weights on the other end.

stealth

n. the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety

synonym : sneakiness, secrecy, furtiveness

(1) **stealth** technology, (2) **stealth** bomber

The thief moved with **stealth**, careful not to make any noise and alert anyone to his presence.

slippery

adj. difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted

synonym : smooth, glistening, furtive

(1) a **slippery** customer, (2) **slippery** ice

How extraordinarily **slippery** a liar the camera is.

stuntman

n. a professional performer who performs dangerous and often physically demanding tasks or stunts in place of an actor in a film or television show

synonym : stunt double, body double, stand-in

(1) **stuntman** performance, (2) skilled **stuntman**

The professional **stuntman** jumped from the burning building and landed safely on the airbag below.

stunt

n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense

synonym :

feat, accomplishment, (verb) hinder

(1) skydiving **stunt**, (2) **stunt** brain growth

The daredevil attempted a dangerous **stunt** by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

bungee

n. a strong, elastic cord or rope used to leap or dive from a height, typically while attached to a harness or other safety equipment, providing a thrilling experience or a means of controlled descent

synonym: elastic cord, safety harness, cord with hooks

(1) **bungee** harness, (2) **bungee** cord

They set up a **bungee** jump attraction at the amusement park to attract thrill-seekers.

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**.

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship

He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

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.

palsy

n. a condition characterized by the loss or impairment of movement or sensation due to damage or disease affecting the nervous system; paralysis or weakness

synonym : paralysis, tremor, twitch

(1) muscle **palsy**, (2) cerebral **palsy**

Some people with Parkinson's disease may experience tremors and **palsy** in their limbs.

gait

n. a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion

synonym : pace, stride, step

(1) awkward **gait**, (2) brisk **gait**

The older woman's **gait** was slow and unsteady.

unintentional

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

synonym : accidental, unforeseen, spontaneous

(1) avoid **unintentional** harm, (2) **unintentional** insult

The mistake was **unintentional** and made in good faith.

climax

n. the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance

synonym : finale, pinnacle, apex

(1) emotional **climax**, (2) reach a **climax**

The **climax** of the movie had everyone on the edge of their seats.

Session 2: Spelling

1. st__t brain growth
n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
2. cerebral pa__y
n. a condition characterized by the loss or impairment of movement or sensation due to damage or disease affecting the nervous system; paralysis or weakness
3. a mi___r collision
n. some point in the air; above ground level
4. talented ph_____st
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
5. ability to re_____ne
v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
6. uni_____nal insult
adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental
7. 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. stunt, 2. palsy, 3. midair, 4. physicist, 5. recombine, 6. unintentional, 7. stimming

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|---------------------------|--|
| 8. theoretical ph_____st | <i>n.</i> a scientist who specializes in the field of physics |
| 9. a featherless bi__d | <i>n.</i> an animal with two feet |
| 10. se__r a rope | <i>v.</i> to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly |
| 11. a sl_____ry customer | <i>adj.</i> difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted |
| 12. bu___e harness | <i>n.</i> a strong, elastic cord or rope used to leap or dive from a height, typically while attached to a harness or other safety equipment, providing a thrilling experience or a means of controlled descent |
| 13. st_____an performance | <i>n.</i> a professional performer who performs dangerous and often physically demanding tasks or stunts in place of an actor in a film or television show |
| 14. bi__d robot | <i>n.</i> an animal with two feet |
| 15. tw__k his cheek | <i>v.</i> to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely |
| 16. an_____e his soul | <i>v.</i> to make something full of interest and energy |
| 17. skydiving st__t | <i>n.</i> a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense |

ANSWERS: 8. physicist, 9. biped, 10. sever, 11. slippery, 12. bungee, 13. stuntman, 14. biped, 15. tweak, 16. animate, 17. stunt

18. se__r a positive relationship *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
19. vi_____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
20. st_____h bomber *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
21. bu___e cord *n.* a strong, elastic cord or rope used to leap or dive from a height, typically while attached to a harness or other safety equipment, providing a thrilling experience or a means of controlled descent
22. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
23. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
24. hu_____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
25. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
26. r_g doll *n.* a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
27. skilled st_____an *n.* a professional performer who performs dangerous and often physically demanding tasks or stunts in place of an actor in a film or television show
28. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned

ANSWERS: 18. sever, 19. visualize, 20. stealth, 21. bungee, 22. humming, 23. visualize, 24. humming, 25. afterward, 26. rag, 27. stuntman, 28. afterward

38. cou_____nce the effects *v.* to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force
39. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
40. avoid uni_____nal harm *adj.* not done or made on purpose; accidental
41. st_____h technology *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
42. brisk g__t *n.* a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion
43. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
44. cou_____nce the seriousness of the topic *v.* to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force
45. a r_g of cloud *n.* a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
46. emotional cl___x *n.* the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance

ANSWERS: 38. counterbalance, 39. excite, 40. unintentional, 41. stealth, 42. gait, 43. excite, 44. counterbalance, 45. rag, 46. climax

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. They set up a _____ jump attraction at the amusement park to attract thrill-seekers.
 - n.* a strong, elastic cord or rope used to leap or dive from a height, typically while attached to a harness or other safety equipment, providing a thrilling experience or a means of controlled descent
2. He used an old ____ to clean the grease off the car's engine.
 - n.* a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
3. 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
4. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.
 - v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
5. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
 - n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
6. _____ walking encouraged the further evolution of humankind.
 - n.* an animal with two feet
7. The daredevil attempted a dangerous _____ by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.
 - n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense

ANSWERS: 1. bungee, 2. rag, 3. humming, 4. severed, 5. physicist, 6. Biped, 7. stunt

8. The professional _____ jumped from the burning building and landed safely on the airbag below.
- n.* a professional performer who performs dangerous and often physically demanding tasks or stunts in place of an actor in a film or television show
9. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
10. How extraordinarily _____ a liar the camera is.
- adj.* difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted
11. The _____ of the movie had everyone on the edge of their seats.
- n.* the most intense or exciting moment of an event or experience; the point of highest dramatic tension or emotional intensity in a story, plot, or performance
12. The positive attitude of the supervisor _____ the discussion.
- v.* to make something full of interest and energy
13. The heavyweights on one end of the scale _____ the lighter weights on the other end.
- v.* to offset or balance the effect of something by applying an equal or opposite force or effect; to provide a counteracting or balancing influence for something; (noun) a weight or force that is used to balance or offset another weight or force
14. Some people with Parkinson's disease may experience tremors and _____ in their limbs.
- n.* a condition characterized by the loss or impairment of movement or sensation due to damage or disease affecting the nervous system; paralysis or weakness

ANSWERS: 8. stuntman, 9. excited, 10. slippery, 11. climax, 12. animated, 13. counterbalanced, 14. palsy

15. Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially _____.
- v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
16. He didn't _____ the plan, even though he had time.
- v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
17. 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
18. The older woman's _____ was slow and unsteady.
- n. a person's manner of walking, running, or moving on foot; a particular pattern or style of movement or locomotion
19. 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
20. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
- adv. after the time mentioned
21. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.
- n. some point in the air; above ground level
22. The mistake was _____ and made in good faith.
- adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

ANSWERS: 15. recombined, 16. tweak, 17. visualize, 18. gait, 19. stimming, 20. afterward, 21. midair, 22. unintentional

23. The thief moved with _____ careful not to make any noise and alert anyone to his presence.
- n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety

ANSWERS: 23. stealth,