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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Arthur Benjamin: A performance of "Mathemagic" |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

aisle

n. a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure

synonym: corridor, passageway, gangway

(1) **aisle** seat, (2) the center **aisle** of a church

She walked down the **aisle** to the front of the church.

applause

n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together

synonym: clapping, cheering, acclaim

(1) round of **applause**, (2) earn **applause**

The **applause** burst from the audience.

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**.

yell

v. to shout in a sudden and loud way

synonym: shout, scream, cry

(1) **yell** for help, (2) **yell** as loud as we can

When I asked my father for more money, he became furious

and **yelled** at me.

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

improbable

adj. not likely to happen or be true; unlikely; having a low probability or chance of occurring

synonym : unlikely, doubtful, implausible

(1) **improbable** story, (2) **improbable** event

It is **improbable** that we will find a solution to this problem overnight.

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.

scramble

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

synonym : jumble, disarrange

(1) **scramble** my mind, (2) **scramble** for support

Local business owners **scrambled** to find skilled workers.

recharge

v. to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep

synonym : renew, refresh, replenish

(1) **recharge** brain and body, (2) **recharge** energy

He needed to **recharge** his phone before the meeting.

allude

v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
synonym : imply, indicate, hint

(1) **allude** to his low origin, (2) **allude** to the planning
He **alluded** to the problem but did not mention it directly.

magician

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

synonym : illusionist, conjurer, wizard

(1) **magician's** hat, (2) street **magician**

The children were delighted with the **magician's** clever tricks.

recap

v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.

synonym : outline, summarize, abstract

(1) **recap** key points, (2) **recap** briefly

Let me quickly **recap** these results.

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.

phonetic

adj. of or relating to speech sounds or scientific study of speech sound

synonym : vocal, spoken, phonic

(1) **phonetic** spelling, (2) **phonetic** sounds

A **phonetic** symbol for each word is listed before the definition.

mnemonic

adj. aiding or designed to aid memory; relating to the use of memory techniques

synonym : memorable, unforgettable, mnemotechnical

(1) **mnemonic** technique, (2) **mnemonic** alphabet

We were taught a variety of **mnemonic** devices to help us

remember important facts for the exam.

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**.

fission

n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

synonym : splitting, division, separation

(1) heavy-ion **fission**, (2) atomic **fission**

Nuclear **fission** is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. re____ge brain and body
v. to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep
2. heavy-ion fi____n
n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
3. Ar____an romances
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
4. ai__e seat
n. a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure
5. re__p key points
v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.
6. street ma____an
n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
7. mn____ic alphabet
adj. aiding or designed to aid memory; relating to the use of memory techniques
8. mn____ic technique
adj. aiding or designed to aid memory; relating to the use of memory techniques

ANSWERS: 1. recharge, 2. fission, 3. Arthurian, 4. aisle, 5. recap, 6. magician, 7. mnemonic, 8. mnemonic

9. al___e to the planning *v.* to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
10. y__l for help *v.* to shout in a sudden and loud way
11. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
12. ma_____an's hat *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
13. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
14. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
15. sc_____le for support *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
16. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
17. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
18. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
19. re_____ge energy *v.* to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep

ANSWERS: 9. allude, 10. yell, 11. creep, 12. magician, 13. determinant, 14. afterward, 15. scramble, 16. afterward, 17. Arthurian, 18. numb, 19. recharge

20. cr__p along the leaf
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
21. al___e to his low origin
v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
22. environmental det____nt
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
23. imp_____le story
adj. not likely to happen or be true; unlikely; having a low probability or chance of occurring
24. ph_____ic spelling
adj. of or relating to speech sounds or scientific study of speech sound
25. sc_____le my mind
v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
26. a n__b mind
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
27. r_v up the crowd
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
28. earn ap_____se
n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
29. re__p briefly
v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.
30. round of ap_____se
n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together

ANSWERS: 20. creep, 21. allude, 22. determinant, 23. improbable, 24. phonetic, 25. scramble, 26. numb, 27. rev, 28. applause, 29. recap, 30. applause

31. imp_____le event *adj.* not likely to happen or be true; unlikely; having a low probability or chance of occurring
32. the center ai__e of a church *n.* a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure
33. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
34. ph_____ic sounds *adj.* of or relating to speech sounds or scientific study of speech sound
35. atomic fi_____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
36. y__l as loud as we can *v.* to shout in a sudden and loud way

ANSWERS: 31. improbable, 32. aisle, 33. rev, 34. phonetic, 35. fission, 36. yell

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. It is _____ that we will find a solution to this problem overnight.
adj. not likely to happen or be true; unlikely; having a low probability or chance of occurring

2. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

3. He needed to _____ his phone before the meeting.
v. to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep

4. We were taught a variety of _____ devices to help us remember important facts for the exam.
adj. aiding or designed to aid memory; relating to the use of memory techniques

5. Nuclear _____ is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.
n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

6. Let me quickly _____ these results.
v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.

7. 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

ANSWERS: 1. improbable, 2. rev, 3. recharge, 4. mnemonic, 5. fission, 6. recap, 7. determinant

8. When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and _____ at me.
v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
9. He _____ to the problem but did not mention it directly.
v. to suggest or make reference to something indirectly
10. A _____ symbol for each word is listed before the definition.
adj. of or relating to speech sounds or scientific study of speech sound
11. The children were delighted with the _____ clever tricks.
n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
12. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
13. The _____ burst from the audience.
n. a demonstration of approval or praise by clapping the hands together
14. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
adv. after the time mentioned
15. Local business owners _____ to find skilled workers.
v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
16. My left arm became _____.
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 8. yelled, 9. alluded, 10. phonetic, 11. magician's, 12. Arthurian, 13. applause, 14. afterward, 15. scrambled, 16. numb

17. Aging _____ up slowly with time.

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

18. She walked down the _____ to the front of the church.

n. a passage between rows of seats in a theater, airplane, or other public building, typically one of two or more running parallel with the main body of the structure

ANSWERS: 17. creeps, 18. aisle