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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Graham Hawkes: A flight through the ocean | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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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.

endgame

n. the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition

synonym : outcome, finale, conclusion

(1) **endgame** strategies, (2) chess **endgame**

The athlete's **endgame** was to win an Olympic gold medal before retiring from the sport

inquisition

n. a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy

synonym : investigation, examination, probe

(1) propose an **inquisition**, (2) submit him to an **inquisition**

The **inquisition** was a period of religious persecution in Europe.

gutsy

adj. displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges

synonym : courageous, brave, daring

(1) **gutsy** move, (2) **gutsy** performance

It was **gutsy** to quit her job and start her own business.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**

His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

plank

n. a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes

synonym : board, timber, beam

(1) oak **plank**, (2) **plank** exercise

He was ordered to walk the **plank** by the pirate captain.

heft

v. to lift or hold something heavy to determine its weight or to test its heaviness or density; to assess or evaluate the significance or importance of something

synonym : lift, hoist, weigh

(1) **heft** a weight, (2) **heft** the cost

She **hefted** the hammer, ready to start the home renovation project.

rover

n. a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon

synonym : vehicle, robot, explorer

(1) **rover** mission, (2) lunar **rover**

The **rover** on Mars is gathering data on the planet's surface and sending it back to Earth.

submersible

adj. able to be operated or used underwater; capable of being submerged in water or other liquid

synonym: submarine, underwater, submerged

(1) **submersible** pump, (2) **submersible** cable

The **submersible** vehicle can explore the depths of the ocean.

buoyancy

n. the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid

synonym: flotation, levitation, airiness

(1) **buoyancy** principle, (2) **buoyancy** compensator

The object's **buoyancy** helped it float on the water's surface.

envelop

v. to surround and cover completely; to encase

synonym: wrap, cover, surround

(1) **envelop** the whole world, (2) **envelop** her in a bear hug

The fog **enveloped** the city, making it difficult to see.

gondola

n. a long, narrow, flat-bottomed boat or a cabin suspended from an overhead cable, typically used for transportation or recreation purposes, especially in Venice, Italy; a type of lift that transports skiers up the mountain

(1) **gondola** lift, (2) Venetian **gondola**

Tourists enjoyed a scenic ride in the **gondola**, taking in the breathtaking views of the snowy mountains.

constrain

v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

synonym: restrict, limit, confine

(1) **constrain** his freedom, (2) **constrain** information flow

The political situation **constrained** the country's economic growth and foreign relations.

moth

n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

gaseous

adj. pertaining to the state or quality of being in the form of gas or having the characteristics of gas; consisting of or containing gas

synonym : vaporous, airy, ethereal

(1) **gaseous** mixture, (2) **gaseous** state

The **gaseous** emissions from the factory were causing air pollution in the surrounding area.

manta

n. a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world

synonym : stingray, devilfish, mobula

(1) **manta** conservation, (2) **manta** dive

The marine biologist observed a graceful **manta** ray gliding through the ocean.

wingspan

n. the distance between the tips of a bird's wings when fully extended and in flight; often used to describe the size or scope of something, particularly about physical objects or structures

synonym : reach, spread, extent

(1) bird **wingspan**, (2) airplane **wingspan**

The bald eagle has an impressive **wingspan** of over 7 feet.

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.

buoyant

adj. lighthearted and cheerful; tending to float; having a positive attitude or outlook

synonym : optimistic, lighthearted, floating

(1) **buoyant** force, (2) **buoyant** market

His **buoyant** personality helped lift the spirits of everyone in the room.

distort

v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

synonym: fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

speechless

adj. unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings

synonym: wordless, mute, speech-impaired

(1) **speechless** reaction, (2) **speechless** with shock

The breathtaking view left me **speechless** for a minute.

maneuver

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

synonym: gimmick, trick, action

(1) political **maneuvers**, (2) made a great **maneuver**

In this class, we learn the basic **maneuver** of the plane.

coastline

n. the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea

synonym: shoreline, seashore, beach

(1) **coastline** erosion, (2) deeply indented **coastline**

The new resort was built along the **coastline**, offering stunning ocean views from every room.

goofy

adj. silly or foolish

synonym: silly, crazy, dopey

(1) wore a **goofy** hat, (2) with a **goofy** expression

He made a **goofy** face as he recalled this morning's events.

spherical

adj. having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance

synonym: round, orbicular, globular

(1) **spherical** shape, (2) **spherical** object

The Earth is a nearly **spherical** planet.

beard

n. hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin

synonym : facial hair, whiskers, stubble

(1) a black **beard**, (2) shave my **beard**

He grew a thick **beard** to change his appearance.

sprout

v. to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly; (noun) a young shoot or plant that emerges from a seed and starts to grow

synonym : germinate, grow, bud

(1) **sprout** seeds, (2) **sprout** wings

The flowers in the garden began to **sprout** after the first rain of the season.

stink

v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

synonym : reek, smell, odor

(1) **stink** up the place, (2) **stink** badly

The garbage in the alley began to **stink** after a few hot days.

aviator

n. a pilot or person who is licensed to fly an aircraft

synonym : pilot, flyer, airman

(1) **aviator** goggles, (2) experienced **aviator**

The **aviator's** daring flight across the Atlantic was a historic achievement.

unmanned

adj. not having a human crew or operator, as in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned spacecraft

synonym : uncrewed, automated, robotized

(1) an **unmanned** stop, (2) **unmanned** drone

The **unmanned** spacecraft landed on the asteroid.

Session 2: Spelling

1. propose an inq_____on
n. a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy
2. Venetian go_____a
n. a long, narrow, flat-bottomed boat or a cabin suspended from an overhead cable, typically used for transportation or recreation purposes, especially in Venice, Italy; a type of lift that transports skiers up the mountain
3. made a great ma_____er
n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
4. pl__k exercise
n. a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes
5. ro__r mission
n. a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon
6. pre_____on to authority
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
7. ga_____s state
adj. pertaining to the state or quality of being in the form of gas or having the characteristics of gas; consisting of or containing gas

ANSWERS: 1. inquisition, 2. gondola, 3. maneuver, 4. plank, 5. rover, 6. pretension, 7. gaseous

8. airplane wi____an *n.* the distance between the tips of a bird's wings when fully extended and in flight; often used to describe the size or scope of something, particularly about physical objects or structures
9. ware a go__y hat *adj.* silly or foolish
10. political ma____ers *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
11. shave my be__d *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
12. en____e strategies *n.* the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition
13. h__t a weight *v.* to lift or hold something heavy to determine its weight or to test its heaviness or density; to assess or evaluate the significance or importance of something
14. chess en____e *n.* the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition
15. bu____t market *adj.* lighthearted and cheerful; tending to float; having a positive attitude or outlook
16. sp__t wings *v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly; (noun) a young shoot or plant that emerges from a seed and starts to grow

ANSWERS: 8. wingspan, 9. goofy, 10. maneuver, 11. beard, 12. endgame, 13. heft, 14. endgame, 15. buoyant, 16. sprout

17. experienced av____r
n. a pilot or person who is licensed to fly an aircraft
18. sub_____le pump
adj. able to be operated or used underwater; capable of being submerged in water or other liquid
19. sp_____al object
adj. having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance
20. sub_____le cable
adj. able to be operated or used underwater; capable of being submerged in water or other liquid
21. en____p her in a bear hug
v. to surround and cover completely; to encase
22. hu____g bird
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
23. lunar ro__r
n. a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon
24. oak pl__k
n. a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes
25. ga_____s mixture
adj. pertaining to the state or quality of being in the form of gas or having the characteristics of gas; consisting of or containing gas
26. baseless pre_____on
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

ANSWERS: 17. aviator, 18. submersible, 19. spherical, 20. submersible, 21. envelop, 22. humming, 23. rover, 24. plank, 25. gaseous, 26. pretension

27. bu____cy compensator *n.* the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid
28. gu__y move *adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
29. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
30. spe_____ss reaction *adj.* unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings
31. po__t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
32. gu__y performance *adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
33. co_____ne erosion *n.* the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea
34. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
35. bu____cy principle *n.* the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid
36. co_____in information flow *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

ANSWERS: 27. buoyancy, 28. gutsy, 29. humming, 30. speechless, 31. posit, 32. gutsy, 33. coastline, 34. moth, 35. buoyancy, 36. constrain

37. with a go__y expression *adj.* silly or foolish
38. di____t the facts *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
39. bird wi____an *n.* the distance between the tips of a bird's wings when fully extended and in flight; often used to describe the size or scope of something, particularly about physical objects or structures
40. h__t the cost *v.* to lift or hold something heavy to determine its weight or to test its heaviness or density; to assess or evaluate the significance or importance of something
41. un____ed drone *adj.* not having a human crew or operator, as in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned spacecraft
42. di____t the economy *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
43. co_____in his freedom *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
44. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
45. deeply indented co_____ne *n.* the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea

ANSWERS: 37. goofy, 38. distort, 39. wingspan, 40. heft, 41. unmanned, 42. distort, 43. constrain, 44. moth, 45. coastline

46. submit him to an inq_____on *n.* a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy
47. go_____a lift *n.* a long, narrow, flat-bottomed boat or a cabin suspended from an overhead cable, typically used for transportation or recreation purposes, especially in Venice, Italy; a type of lift that transports skiers up the mountain
48. po__t the premise *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
49. a black be__d *n.* hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
50. bu_____t force *adj.* lighthearted and cheerful; tending to float; having a positive attitude or outlook
51. sp_____al shape *adj.* having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance
52. st__k up the place *v.* to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
53. ma__a dive *n.* a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world
54. av_____r goggles *n.* a pilot or person who is licensed to fly an aircraft
55. spe_____ss with shock *adj.* unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings

ANSWERS: 46. inquisition, 47. gondola, 48. posit, 49. beard, 50. buoyant, 51. spherical, 52. stink, 53. manta, 54. aviator, 55. speechless

56. sp__t seeds
- v. to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly; (noun) a young shoot or plant that emerges from a seed and starts to grow
57. en____p the whole world
- v. to surround and cover completely; to encase
58. ma__a conservation
- n. a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world
59. an un____ed stop
- adj. not having a human crew or operator, as in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned spacecraft
60. st__k badly
- v. to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical

ANSWERS: 56. sprout, 57. envelop, 58. manta, 59. unmanned, 60. stink

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
2. The _____ emissions from the factory were causing air pollution in the surrounding area.
adj. pertaining to the state or quality of being in the form of gas or having the characteristics of gas; consisting of or containing gas
3. In this class, we learn the basic _____ of the plane.
n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
4. 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
5. The Earth is a nearly _____ planet.
adj. having the shape of a sphere; round, spherical, or ball-shaped in appearance
6. The new resort was built along the _____ offering stunning ocean views from every room.
n. the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea
7. His _____ personality helped lift the spirits of everyone in the room.
adj. lighthearted and cheerful; tending to float; having a positive attitude or outlook

ANSWERS: 1. pretensions, 2. gaseous, 3. maneuver, 4. humming, 5. spherical, 6. coastline, 7. buoyant

8. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
9. He grew a thick _____ to change his appearance.
n. hair that grows on a man's face, often around the mouth and chin
10. She _____ the hammer, ready to start the home renovation project.
v. to lift or hold something heavy to determine its weight or to test its heaviness or density; to assess or evaluate the significance or importance of something
11. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
12. The breathtaking view left me _____ for a minute.
adj. unable to speak because of shock, fear, surprise, or other strong emotion; so impressive or awe-inspiring that one cannot find adequate words to express one's thoughts or feelings
13. He made a _____ face as he recalled this morning's events.
adj. silly or foolish
14. The political situation _____ the country's economic growth and foreign relations.
v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
15. Tourists enjoyed a scenic ride in the _____ taking in the breathtaking views of the snowy mountains.
n. a long, narrow, flat-bottomed boat or a cabin suspended from an overhead cable, typically used for transportation or recreation purposes, especially in Venice, Italy; a type of lift that transports skiers up the mountain

ANSWERS: 8. posit, 9. beard, 10. hefted, 11. moth, 12. speechless, 13. goofy, 14. constrained, 15. gondola,

16. The flowers in the garden began to _____ after the first rain of the season.
- v.* to grow or develop new parts typically leaves or shoots, from a plant; to emerge, develop, or arise gradually or suddenly; (noun) a young shoot or plant that emerges from a seed and starts to grow
17. The object's _____ helped it float on the water's surface.
- n.* the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid
18. The bald eagle has an impressive _____ of over 7 feet.
- n.* the distance between the tips of a bird's wings when fully extended and in flight; often used to describe the size or scope of something, particularly about physical objects or structures
19. The _____ vehicle can explore the depths of the ocean.
- adj.* able to be operated or used underwater; capable of being submerged in water or other liquid
20. It was _____ to quit her job and start her own business.
- adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
21. The marine biologist observed a graceful _____ ray gliding through the ocean.
- n.* a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world
22. He was ordered to walk the _____ by the pirate captain.
- n.* a long, flat piece of wood or other material that is used for construction or as a platform; an exercise in which a person holds their body in a straight line supported by their hands and toes

ANSWERS: 16. sprout, 17. buoyancy, 18. wingspan, 19. submersible, 20. gutsy, 21. manta, 22. plank

23. The _____ on Mars is gathering data on the planet's surface and sending it back to Earth.
- n.* a vehicle designed to travel over rough terrain, especially on the surface of a planet or moon
24. The athlete's _____ was to win an Olympic gold medal before retiring from the sport
- n.* the final stage or outcome of a long and complex process or sequence of events, especially one that involves a struggle or competition
25. The fog _____ the city, making it difficult to see.
- v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
26. The garbage in the alley began to _____ after a few hot days.
- v.* to emit a strong, unpleasant odor; to have a strong offensive smell; to be corrupt or unethical
27. The _____ daring flight across the Atlantic was a historic achievement.
- n.* a pilot or person who is licensed to fly an aircraft
28. The _____ was a period of religious persecution in Europe.
- n.* a judicial or official inquiry, especially one aimed at suppressing dissent or heresy
29. Economists contend that taxes _____ consumer behavior in general.
- v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
30. The _____ spacecraft landed on the asteroid.
- adj.* not having a human crew or operator, as in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned spacecraft

ANSWERS: 23. rover, 24. endgame, 25. enveloped, 26. stink, 27. aviator's, 28. inquisition, 29. distort, 30. unmanned

ANSWERS: