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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Roy Gould + Curtis Wong: A preview of the
WorldWide Telescope | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

downstairs

adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building

synonym : below

(1) creep **downstairs**, (2) escort him **downstairs**

Please get the desk **downstairs**.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym : braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story

The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

observatory

n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.

(1) space **observatory**, (2) a meteorological **observatory**

That astronomical **observatory** stands at the top of the mountain.

observable

adj. that can be noticed or seen

synonym : visible, perceptible, detectable

(1) **observable** change, (2) experimentally **observable**

Any theorem relies on both **observable** fact and assumption.

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**.

marvelous

adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

synonym : wonderful, amazing, superb

(1) **marvelous** performance, (2) **marvelous** power

The view from the top of the mountain was **marvelous**.

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.

astronomer

n. a physicist who studies astronomy

synonym : stargazer, cosmologist, astrophysicist

(1) amateur **astronomer**, (2) solar **astronomer**

This question has fascinated solar **astronomers** for decades.

nook

n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

synonym : niche, corner, alcove

(1) every **nook** and cranny, (2) breakfast **nook**

The kitchen **nook** was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.

cranny

n. a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock

synonym : crevice, nook, niche

(1) a **cranny** in the corner, (2) look in every nook and **cranny**

The mouse squeezed into the tiniest **cranny** of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

insignificant

adj. of little importance, influence, or power

synonym: unimportant, trivial, irrelevant

(1) **insignificant** amount, (2) an **insignificant** mistake

He made me feel small and **insignificant**.

curt

adj. rudely brief or abrupt in speech or manner; blunt

synonym: abrupt, brusque, terse

(1) **curt** dismissal, (2) **curt** nod

The receptionist's **curt** reply made me feel unwelcome in the office.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
2. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
3. c__t nod *adj.* rudely brief or abrupt in speech or manner; blunt
4. breakfast n__k *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
5. experimentally obs_____le *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
6. 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
7. amateur ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
8. an ins_____ant mistake *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
9. space obs_____ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
10. escort him dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
11. creep dow_____rs *adv.* on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
12. person of gra_____nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother

ANSWERS: 1. numb, 2. excite, 3. curt, 4. nook, 5. observable, 6. dedicate, 7. astronomer, 8. insignificant, 9. observatory, 10. downstairs, 11. downstairs, 12. grandparent

13. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
14. we__e on a loom *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
15. ma_____us performance *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
16. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
17. a meteorological obs_____ry *n.* a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
18. we__e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
19. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
20. 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
21. a cr___y in the corner *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
22. c__t dismissal *adj.* rudely brief or abrupt in speech or manner; blunt
23. obs_____le change *adj.* that can be noticed or seen

ANSWERS: 13. numb, 14. weave, 15. marvelous, 16. storytelling, 17. observatory, 18. weave, 19. grandparent, 20. dedicate, 21. cranny, 22. curt, 23. observable

24. ins_____ant amount *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
25. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
26. solar ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
27. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
28. look in every nook and cr___y *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
29. ma_____us power *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
30. every n__k and cranny *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

ANSWERS: 24. insignificant, 25. excite, 26. astronomer, 27. storytelling, 28. cranny, 29. marvelous, 30. nook

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Any theorem relies on both _____ fact and assumption.
adj. that can be noticed or seen
2. He made me feel small and _____.
adj. of little importance, influence, or power
3. The view from the top of the mountain was _____.
adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
4. The kitchen _____ was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.
n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
5. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
6. The mouse squeezed into the tiniest _____ of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.
n. a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
7. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
n. a parent of one's father or mother
8. My left arm became _____.
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 1. observable, 2. insignificant, 3. marvelous, 4. nook, 5. excited, 6. cranny, 7. grandparents, 8. numb

9. This question has fascinated solar _____ for decades.
n. a physicist who studies astronomy
10. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.
v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
11. 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
12. Please get the desk _____.
adv. on or to a lower or ground floor of a building
13. That astronomical _____ stands at the top of the mountain.
n. a building designed and equipped to observe the planets, the stars, the weather, etc.
14. The receptionist's _____ reply made me feel unwelcome in the office.
adj. rudely brief or abrupt in speech or manner; blunt
15. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

ANSWERS: 9. astronomers, 10. weaves, 11. dedicated, 12. downstairs, 13. observatory, 14. curt, 15. storytelling