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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dan Dennett: Cute, sexy, sweet, funny | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

inversion

n. the action or fact of inverting something, or the state of being inverted; the reversal of the normal order or arrangement of things

synonym: reversal, upside-down, turnaround

(1) temperature **inversion**, (2) **inversion** layer

The **inversion** of the mortgage market led to a decrease in home values.

enunciate

v. to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly

synonym: articulate, pronounce, say

(1) **enunciate** a new strategy, (2) **enunciate** each word

The doctrine of the country was **enunciated** by its first king.

condense

v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated

synonym: compress, compact, shorten

(1) **condense** the text, (2) **condense** water vapor

I need to **condense** all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.

purport

v. to claim or suggest that something is true or has a particular character or quality; (noun) the intended meaning of a communication

synonym : claim, allege, assert

(1) **purport** to answer the question, (2) the main **purport** of his speech

The document **purports** to have been signed by the president, but the signature is a forgery.

creationist

n. a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes

(1) **creationist** claim, (2) **creationist** theory

The old-earth **creationist** believed God created the universe and all life on earth.

pamphlet

n. a small booklet that contains information or arguments about a particular subject

synonym : brochure, leaflet, booklet

(1) propaganda **pamphlet**, (2) **pamphlet** in English

The political organization handed out **pamphlets** to raise awareness about their cause.

puzzling

adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

synonym : baffling, confusing, enigmatic

(1) **puzzling** behavior, (2) **puzzling** questions

The detective found the clues **puzzling** and couldn't solve the case immediately.

adore

v. to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence

synonym : cherish, worship, idolize

(1) truly **adore** him, (2) **adore** the way she styles her hair

Children seem to **adore** chocolate ice cream no matter where they're from.

amuse

v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

synonym : entertain, delight, divert

(1) **amuse** a baby with a rattle, (2) **amuse** guests
He **amused** himself by playing video games during his free time.

chimpanzee

n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

synonym: ape, chimp, pan troglodytes

(1) **chimpanzee** behavior, (2) **chimpanzee** society

Many zoos have **chimpanzee** exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

hallucinate

v. to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use

(1) start to **hallucinate**, (2) **hallucinate** with drug

Sleep-deprived people gradually lose their concentration and may **hallucinate**.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym: intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**

When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

gull

n. a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers

synonym: seagull

(1) a white sea **gull**, (2) **gull** family

Because **gulls** are gliding birds, their wings are long and slender.

beak

n. the hard and pointed or curved mouth of a bird

synonym: nib, pecker, snout

(1) sharp **beak**, (2) a tip of the **beak**

The bird's **beak** evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.

orangutan

n. a large long-armed ape with red-brown hair that lives in Borneo and Sumatra and has arboreal habits

(1) **orangutan** arm, (2) female **orangutan**

The researcher found new species of **orangutan** on the island.

peck

v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

synonym: beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

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.

nurture

v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing

synonym: boost, cultivate, enable

(1) **nurture** love, (2) **nurture** his talents

Schools should **nurture** children's mutual interest spirit.

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.

adorable

adj. inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable

synonym: cute, lovely, charming

(1) **adorable** baby, (2) **adorable** puppy

My friend's daughter is **adorable**, with curly hair and big brown eyes.

grub

n. the larval stage of an insect, particularly beetles, butterflies, or flies; food, especially in the form of unappetizing or unappealing cooked dishes; (verb) to dig or search diligently and laboriously

synonym : larva, food, chow

(1) cook up some **grubs**, (2) **grub** for potatoes

The garden was infested with beetle **grubs**, causing damage to the plant roots.

clerical

adj. relating to the clergy (= the official leaders of the religious activities) or the work of a clerk; of or relating to the clergy

synonym : priestly, ecclesiastical, religious

(1) **clerical** power, (2) **clerical** duties

The **clerical** collar indicated that he was a member of the clergy.

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

knob

n. a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet

synonym : handle, lever

(1) handy **knob**, (2) **knob** closure

The **knob** on the drawer was loose and needed to be tightened.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cl____al power *adj.* relating to the clergy (= the official leaders of the religious activities) or the work of a clerk; of or relating to the clergy
2. in____ct for self-preservation *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
3. the branch of neu____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
4. cre____st theory *n.* a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes
5. tw__k his cheek *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
6. co____se the text *v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
7. temperature in____on *n.* the action or fact of inverting something, or the state of being inverted; the reversal of the normal order or arrangement of things

ANSWERS: 1. clerical, 2. instinct, 3. neuroscience, 4. creationist, 5. tweak, 6. condense, 7. inversion

8. g__b for potatoes *n.* the larval stage of an insect, particularly beetles, butterflies, or flies; food, especially in the form of unappetizing or unappealing cooked dishes; (verb) to dig or search diligently and laboriously
9. nu_____e love *v.* to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing
10. am__e a baby with a rattle *v.* to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
11. p__k on the cheek *v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
12. truly ad__e him *v.* to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence
13. in_____on layer *n.* the action or fact of inverting something, or the state of being inverted; the reversal of the normal order or arrangement of things
14. pu_____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
15. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
16. am__e guests *v.* to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
17. a tip of the b__k *n.* the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird

ANSWERS: 8. grub, 9. nurture, 10. amuse, 11. peck, 12. adore, 13. inversion, 14. puzzling, 15. moth, 16. amuse, 17. beak

18. ad____le baby *adj.* inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable
19. cook up some g__bs *n.* the larval stage of an insect, particularly beetles, butterflies, or flies; food, especially in the form of unappetizing or unappealing cooked dishes; (verb) to dig or search diligently and laboriously
20. the main pu____t of his speech *v.* to claim or suggest that something is true or has a particular character or quality; (noun) the intended meaning of a communication
21. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
22. handy k__b *n.* a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet
23. female or____an *n.* a large long-armed ape with red-brown hair that lives in Borneo and Sumatra and has arboreal habits
24. sharp b__k *n.* the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
25. pa____et in English *n.* a small booklet that contains information or arguments about a particular subject
26. hal____te with drug *v.* to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use

ANSWERS: 18. adorable, 19. grub, 20. purport, 21. moth, 22. knob, 23. orangutan, 24. beak, 25. pamphlet, 26. hallucinate

27. aggressive in_____ct *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
28. g__l family *n.* a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers
29. cre_____st claim *n.* a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes
30. chi_____ee behavior *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
31. nu_____e his talents *v.* to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing
32. ad_____le puppy *adj.* inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable
33. pu_____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
34. pu_____t to answer the question *v.* to claim or suggest that something is true or has a particular character or quality; (noun) the intended meaning of a communication
35. a white sea g__l *n.* a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers

ANSWERS: 27. instinct, 28. gull, 29. creationist, 30. chimpanzee, 31. nurture, 32. adorable, 33. puzzling, 34. purport, 35. gull

36. a theoretical concept in
neu_____nce
37. or_____an arm
38. en_____te each word
39. k__b closure
40. cl_____al duties
41. p__k at feed
42. ad__e the way she styles her hair
43. co_____se water vapor
44. tw__k the economy
45. chi_____ee society
- n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
- n.* a large long-armed ape with red-brown hair that lives in Borneo and Sumatra and has arboreal habits
- v.* to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly
- n.* a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet
- adj.* relating to the clergy (= the official leaders of the religious activities) or the work of a clerk; of or relating to the clergy
- v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
- v.* to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence
- v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
- v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
- n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

ANSWERS: 36. neuroscience, 37. orangutan, 38. enunciate, 39. knob, 40. clerical, 41. peck, 42. adore, 43. condense, 44. tweak, 45. chimpanzee

46. en_____te a new strategy *v.* to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly
47. propaganda pa_____et *n.* a small booklet that contains information or arguments about a particular subject
48. start to hal_____te *v.* to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use

ANSWERS: 46. enunciate, 47. pamphlet, 48. hallucinate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He didn't _____ the plan, even though he had time.
 - v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

2. The old-earth _____ believed God created the universe and all life on earth.
 - n. a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes

3. The garden was infested with beetle _____ causing damage to the plant roots.
 - n. the larval stage of an insect, particularly beetles, butterflies, or flies; food, especially in the form of unappetizing or unappealing cooked dishes; (verb) to dig or search diligently and laboriously

4. The doctrine of the country was _____ by its first king.
 - v. to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly

5. The wood _____ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.
 - v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

6. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
 - n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

7. Many zoos have _____ exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.
 - n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

ANSWERS: 1. tweak, 2. creationist, 3. grubs, 4. enunciated, 5. pecker, 6. neuroscience, 7. chimpanzee

8. Because _____ are gliding birds, their wings are long and slender.
n. a seabird with long wings, short legs, and usually black and white or grey and white feathers
9. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.
adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
10. The bird's _____ evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.
n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
11. The _____ of the mortgage market led to a decrease in home values.
n. the action or fact of inverting something, or the state of being inverted; the reversal of the normal order or arrangement of things
12. My friend's daughter is _____ with curly hair and big brown eyes.
adj. inspiring love, affection, or fondness; charming or delightful; cute, lovable
13. Schools should _____ children's mutual interest spirit.
v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing
14. The _____ on the drawer was loose and needed to be tightened.
n. a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet
15. I need to _____ all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.
v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated

ANSWERS: 8. gulls, 9. puzzling, 10. beak, 11. inversion, 12. adorable, 13. nurture, 14. knob, 15. condense

16. The document _____ to have been signed by the president, but the signature is a forgery.
- v.* to claim or suggest that something is true or has a particular character or quality; (noun) the intended meaning of a communication
17. The _____ collar indicated that he was a member of the clergy.
- adj.* relating to the clergy (= the official leaders of the religious activities) or the work of a clerk; of or relating to the clergy
18. 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
19. The researcher found new species of _____ on the island.
- n.* a large long-armed ape with red-brown hair that lives in Borneo and Sumatra and has arboreal habits
20. The political organization handed out _____ to raise awareness about their cause.
- n.* a small booklet that contains information or arguments about a particular subject
21. Children seem to _____ chocolate ice cream no matter where they're from.
- v.* to have a deep love and admiration for someone or something; to regard with great affection and reverence
22. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
- n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

ANSWERS: 16. purports, 17. clerical, 18. moth, 19. orangutan, 20. pamphlets, 21. adore, 22. instinct

23. Sleep-deprived people gradually lose their concentration and may _____.
- v. to experience a seemingly real perception of something that does not actually exist, usually as a result of a mental illness or drug use
24. He _____ himself by playing video games during his free time.
- v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

ANSWERS: 23. hallucinate, 24. amused