

Word&Context

accent

Why doesn't the modern American accent sound similar to a British accent?

The accent that we identify as British today was developed around the time of the American Revolution by people of low birth rank who had become wealthy during the Industrial Revolution.

In the 19th century, this distinctive accent was standardized as Received Pronunciation and taught widely by pronunciation tutors to people who wanted to learn to speak fashionably.

accomplish

It's hard enough to stick with goals you want to accomplish, but sometimes we make goals we're not even thrilled about in the first place.

achievement

He went to his father and shared his achievement.

actions

It is easy to judge people based on their actions.

We are often taught to put more value in actions than words, and for good reason.

The actions of others often speak volumes louder than their words.

adulthood

Natural consequences prepare children for adulthood by helping them think about the potential consequences of their choices.

advisor

So they are imagination engines," explains Jack Horner, a technical advisor for the Jurassic Park films.

anthropologist

About fifty years ago, a Pygmy named Kenge took his first trip out of the forests of Africa and onto the open plains with an anthropologist.

Finally, he turned to the anthropologist and asked what kind of insects they were.

"The anthropologist wasn't stupid, and he hadn't lied.

appear

Furthermore, the longer the close friends had known each other, the less steep the hill appeared to the participants involved in the study.

This shrinking exposes the parts of the nails and hair that were once under the skin, causing them to appear longer than before.

Buffalo appeared in the distance, and the Pygmy watched them curiously.

arousing

We remember the arousing aspects of an episode and forget the boring bits.

arrival

It took about a minute to get from the arrival gate to baggage claim, so the passengers spent seven more minutes waiting for their bags.

The solution was to move the arrival gates away from the baggage claim so it took passengers about seven minutes to walk there.

aspects

We remember the arousing aspects of an episode and forget the boring bits.

atmosphere

Static electricity is also found in the atmosphere.

attempting

The researchers at the U.S. Army conducted a study of motorcycle accidents, attempting to correlate the number of accidents with other variables such as socioeconomic level and age.

awkward

When done by a beginner, both are awkward, frustrating, and slow.

baggage

Houston Airport executives faced plenty of complaints regarding baggage claim time, so they increased the number of baggage handlers.

It took about a minute to get from the arrival gate to baggage claim, so the passengers spent seven more minutes waiting for their bags.

The solution was to move the arrival gates away from the baggage claim so it took passengers about seven minutes to walk there.

base

Social psychologists at the University of Virginia asked college students to stand at the base of a hill while carrying a weighted backpack and estimate the steepness of the hill.

We set resolutions based on what we're supposed to do, or what others think we're supposed to do, rather than what really matters to us.

Instead, make goals based on your own values.

Some people, however, found the traditional religious explanations inadequate, and they began to search for answers based on reason.

It is easy to judge people based on their actions.

You may find a great co-worker or best friend in someone, so don't eliminate a person from your life based on a brief observation.

basis

The following example will illustrate why it is difficult to make causal statements on the basis of correlational observation.

behavior

But neither behavior could be directly causing the other even though there is a relationship.

However, when someone exhibits some difficult behavior, you might want to reserve judgement for later.

People are not always defined by their behavior.

It is common to think, "He is so bossy," or "She is so mean," after observing less-than-desirable behavior in someone.

belief

"At that moment, the cameras outside took over and out there in the yard there was a scene of joy almost beyond belief.

biased

Having extremely vivid memories of past emotional experiences and only weak memories of past everyday events means we maintain a biased perception of the past.

brief

You may find a great co-worker or best friend in someone, so don't eliminate a person from

your life based on a brief observation.

casual

The short answer is no, though it may not seem that way to the casual observer.

causal

The following example will illustrate why it is difficult to make causal statements on the basis of correlational observation.

chemistry

Her interest in chemistry started when she was just ten years old.

Her work on vitamin B12 was published in 1954, which led to her being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1964.

claim

Houston Airport executives faced plenty of complaints regarding baggage claim time, so they increased the number of baggage handlers.

It took about a minute to get from the arrival gate to baggage claim, so the passengers spent seven more minutes waiting for their bags.

The solution was to move the arrival gates away from the baggage claim so it took passengers about seven minutes to walk there.

cling

You will find that the bits of paper or chalk dust cling to the pen.

colleagues

In 1949, she worked on the structure of penicillin with her colleagues.

collection

Even if you end up spending money making things yourself, you're at least building a skill rather than a collection of stuff that's quickly decreasing in value.

commoners

To distinguish themselves from other commoners, these people developed new ways of speaking to set themselves apart and demonstrate their new, elevated social status.

complaints

Houston Airport executives faced plenty of complaints regarding baggage claim time, so they increased the number of baggage handlers.

Although it reduced the average wait time to eight minutes, complaints didn't stop.

It resulted in complaints reducing to almost zero.

complex

That's because they are the people who know and understand the past and can explain its complex interrelationships with the present.

Moreover, a complex hormonal regulation directs the growth of hair and nails, none of which is possible once a person dies.

concern

The boy's parents were concerned about his bad temper.

Hodgkin showed great concern for social inequalities and resolving conflicts.

conclude

From a correlational observation, we conclude that one variable is related to a second variable.

It would be a ridiculous error to conclude that tattoos cause motorcycle accidents or that motorcycle accidents cause tattoos.

Rather than learning, "I should wear a jacket because it's cold outside," a child may conclude, "I have to wear a jacket because my mom makes me."

conducted

The researchers at the U.S. Army conducted a study of motorcycle accidents, attempting to correlate the number of accidents with other variables such as socioeconomic level and age.

conferences

As a result, she was president of the Pugwash Conferences from 1976 to 1988.

conflicts

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consequences

Overprotective parents spare kids from all natural consequences.

"Without an opportunity to experience real-world consequences, kids don't always understand why their parents make certain rules.

Natural consequences prepare children for adulthood by helping them think about the potential consequences of their choices.

considered

He passed on to his followers not only his answers but also the process of thinking rationally, together with an idea of what kind of explanations could be considered satisfactory.

correlate

The researchers at the U.S. Army conducted a study of motorcycle accidents, attempting to correlate the number of accidents with other variables such as socioeconomic level and age.

correlational

From a correlational observation, we conclude that one variable is related to a second variable.

The following example will illustrate why it is difficult to make causal statements on the basis of correlational observation.

cracked

The paths are cracked and littered with rocks and debris that make it impossible to roll her chair from place to place.

creative

Dinosaurs are studied in classrooms each year, not only for the science behind the topic, but also because of the creative thinking it seems to foster in students.

debris

The paths are cracked and littered with rocks and debris that make it impossible to roll her chair from place to place.

decreased

The number of nails the boy drove into the fence each day gradually decreased.

defined

People are not always defined by their behavior.

demonstrate

To distinguish themselves from other commoners, these people developed new ways of speaking to set themselves apart and demonstrate their new, elevated social status.

dense

Rather, because Kenge had lived his entire life in a dense jungle that offered no views of the horizon, he had failed to learn what most of us take for granted, namely, that things look different when they are far away.

devote

We hope you will devote resources to restoring the walking paths in Freer Park for all visitors.

directly

But neither behavior could be directly causing the other even though there is a relationship.

directs

Moreover, a complex hormonal regulation directs the growth of hair and nails, none of which is possible once a person dies.

discipline

Every political leader who had an impact on history practiced the discipline of being alone to think and plan.

I strongly encourage you to find a place to think and to discipline yourself to pause and use it because it has the potential to change your life.

discover

When the vote was announced, my brain just would not work out the right percentages to discover whether we had the necessary two-thirds majority.

distinguish

To distinguish themselves from other commoners, these people developed new ways of speaking to set themselves apart and demonstrate their new, elevated social status.

dust

Use a plastic pen and rub it on your hair about ten times and then hold the pen close to small pieces of tissue paper or chalk dust.

You will find that the bits of paper or chalk dust cling to the pen.

The accent that we identify as British today was developed around the time of the American Revolution by people of low birth rank who had become wealthy during the Industrial

Revolution.

economist

If you want to know why something is happening in the present, you might ask a sociologist or an economist.

electrically

This kind of electricity is produced by friction, and the pen becomes electrically charged.

elevated

To distinguish themselves from other commoners, these people developed new ways of speaking to set themselves apart and demonstrate their new, elevated social status.

eliminate

You may find a great co-worker or best friend in someone, so don't eliminate a person from your life based on a brief observation.

emotional

Having extremely vivid memories of past emotional experiences and only weak memories of past everyday events means we maintain a biased perception of the past.

We tend to view the past as a concentrated time line of emotionally exciting events.

encourage

He used reason to inquire into the nature of the universe, and encouraged others to do likewise.

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entire

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horizon, he had failed to learn what most of us take for granted, namely, that things look different when they are far away.

episode

We remember the arousing aspects of an episode and forget the boring bits.

estimate

Social psychologists at the University of Virginia asked college students to stand at the base of a hill while carrying a weighted backpack and estimate the steepness of the hill.

The participants who stood with close friends gave significantly lower estimates of the steepness of the hill than those who stood alone, next to strangers, or next to newly formed friends.

As a result, when we estimate how our next summer vacation will make us feel, we overestimate the positive.

We should not "put the telescope backward" when we look into the past and underestimate the old and overestimate the new.

executives

Houston Airport executives faced plenty of complaints regarding baggage claim time, so they increased the number of baggage handlers.

experience

Learning to ski is one of the most embarrassing experiences an adult can undergo.

Having extremely vivid memories of past emotional experiences and only weak memories of past everyday events means we maintain a biased perception of the past.

"Without an opportunity to experience real-world consequences, kids don't always understand why their parents make certain rules.

Great artists spend countless hours in their studios or with their instruments not just doing, but exploring their ideas and experiences.

Time alone allows people to sort through their experiences, put them into perspective, and plan for the future.

explanations

Some people, however, found the traditional religious explanations inadequate, and they began to search for answers based on reason.

He passed on to his followers not only his answers but also the process of thinking rationally, together with an idea of what kind of explanations could be considered satisfactory.

exposes

This shrinking exposes the parts of the nails and hair that were once under the skin, causing them to appear longer than before.

extended

Now we are seniors, and my wife must use a wheelchair for extended walks.

extinct

Something about these extinct creatures from long ago seems to hold almost everyone's attention, young or old, boy or girl.

"I think the reason kids like dinosaurs so much is that dinosaurs were big, were different from anything alive today, and are extinct.

extremely

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fascinating

Though we don't know a lot about dinosaurs, what we do know is fascinating to children of all ages.

figure

The idea is to first consider what matters to you, then figure out what you need to do to get there.

It can help you to figure out what's really important and what isn't.

fingernails

Do hair and fingernails continue to grow after a person dies?

Typically, fingernails grow about 0.1 millimeters a day, but in order to grow, they need glucose—a simple sugar that helps to power the body.

followers

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following

The following example will illustrate why it is difficult to make causal statements on the basis of correlational observation.

friction

This kind of electricity is produced by friction, and the pen becomes electrically charged.

frustrating

When done by a beginner, both are awkward, frustrating, and slow.

furious

Nevertheless, he was so furious that during the very first day he drove in 37 nails.

gadget

Shopping for new gadgets, clothes, or just random junk can turn into a hobby in itself.

Buying a new gadget might give you a similar rush, but it's also probably more temporary.

glucose

Typically, fingernails grow about 0.1 millimeters a day, but in order to grow, they need glucose—a simple sugar that helps to power the body.

Once the body dies, there's no more glucose.

granted

Rather, because Kenge had lived his entire life in a dense jungle that offered no views of the horizon, he had failed to learn what most of us take for granted, namely, that things look different when they are far away.

growth

Moreover, a complex hormonal regulation directs the growth of hair and nails, none of which is possible once a person dies.

handlers

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horizon

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hormonal

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humanity

But even more importantly, studying history helps us ask and answer humanity's Big Questions.

humiliating

Probably you have been reading for a long time, too, and starting to learn all over again would be humiliating.

hurtful

Often, he got angry and said hurtful things to people around him.

The same happens when you say hurtful things to people.

identify

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illustrate

The following example will illustrate why it is difficult to make causal statements on the basis of correlational observation.

imagination

So they are imagination engines," explains Jack Horner, a technical advisor for the Jurassic Park films.

Since no one knows what colors dinosaurs actually were, a child can use what information he has—and his imagination—to draw a dinosaur as he sees it.

impassable

We find that the beautiful walking paths through the park are all but impassable to her.

importantly

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inadequate

Some people, however, found the traditional religious explanations inadequate, and they began to search for answers based on reason.

inconsistent

This is often inconsistent with the facts.

industrial

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inequalities

Hodgkin showed great concern for social inequalities and resolving conflicts.

judge

It is easy to judge people based on their actions.

However, when someone exhibits some difficult behavior, you might want to reserve judgement for later.

laughter

"When I told Kenge that the insects were buffalo, he roared with laughter and told me not to tell such stupid lies.

least

Even if you end up spending money making things yourself, you're at least building a skill

rather than a collection of stuff that's quickly decreasing in value.

lie

Experts believe that British residents and the colonists who settled America all sounded the same back in the 18th century, and they probably all sounded more like modern Americans than modern Brits.

"When I told Kenge that the insects were buffalo, he roared with laughter and told me not to tell such stupid lies.

"The anthropologist wasn't stupid, and he hadn't lied.

"At that moment, the cameras outside took over and out there in the yard there was a scene of joy almost beyond belief.

littered

The paths are cracked and littered with rocks and debris that make it impossible to roll her chair from place to place.

louder

The actions of others often speak volumes louder than their words.

maintain

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majority

When the vote was announced, my brain just would not work out the right percentages to discover whether we had the necessary two-thirds majority.

nails

He called his son and gave him a hammer and a bag of nails.

Nevertheless, he was so furious that during the very first day he drove in 37 nails.

The number of nails the boy drove into the fence each day gradually decreased.

Eventually, the boy started to understand that holding his temper was easier than driving nails into the fence.

He didn't need the hammer and nails anymore when he learned to hold his temper.

At last, the boy was proud of himself as all the nails were gone.

Together, they went to the fence, and he said, "You did a good job, my son, but pay attention to the holes left from the nails.

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Moreover, a complex hormonal regulation directs the growth of hair and nails, none of which is possible once a person dies.

namely

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observation

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observer

The short answer is no, though it may not seem that way to the casual observer.

obviously

Obviously, a third variable is related to both—perhaps preference for risk.

occupied

Research shows occupied time feels shorter than unoccupied time.

People usually exaggerate about the time they waited, and what they find most bothersome is time spent unoccupied.

opportunity

"Without an opportunity to experience real-world consequences, kids don't always understand why their parents make certain rules.

overestimate

As a result, when we estimate how our next summer vacation will make us feel, we overestimate the positive.

We should not "put the telescope backward" when we look into the past and underestimate the old and overestimate the new.

overprotective

Overprotective parents spare kids from all natural consequences.

participants

Some participants stood next to close friends whom they had known a long time, some stood next to friends they had not known for long, some stood next to strangers, and the others stood alone during the exercise.

The participants who stood with close friends gave significantly lower estimates of the steepness of the hill than those who stood alone, next to strangers, or next to newly formed friends.

Furthermore, the longer the close friends had known each other, the less steep the hill appeared to the participants involved in the study.

passengers

It took about a minute to get from the arrival gate to baggage claim, so the passengers spent seven more minutes waiting for their bags.

The solution was to move the arrival gates away from the baggage claim so it took passengers about seven minutes to walk there.

Thus, occupying the passengers' time by making them walk longer gave them the idea they didn't have to wait as long.

pause

I strongly encourage you to find a place to think and to discipline yourself to pause and use it because it has the potential to change your life.

perceiving

In perceiving changes, we tend to regard the most recent ones as the most revolutionary.

percentages

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perception

Having extremely vivid memories of past emotional experiences and only weak memories of past everyday events means we maintain a biased perception of the past.

philosophy

This shift marked the birth of philosophy, and the first of the great thinkers that we know of was Thales of Miletus.

plains

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About fifty years ago, a Pygmy named Kenge took his first trip out of the forests of Africa and onto the open plains with an anthropologist.

plenty

Houston Airport executives faced plenty of complaints regarding baggage claim time, so they increased the number of baggage handlers.

positive

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potential

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preference

Obviously, a third variable is related to both—perhaps preference for risk.

process

He passed on to his followers not only his answers but also the process of thinking rationally, together with an idea of what kind of explanations could be considered satisfactory.

psychologists

Social psychologists at the University of Virginia asked college students to stand at the base of a hill while carrying a weighted backpack and estimate the steepness of the hill.

published

Her work on vitamin B12 was published in 1954, which led to her being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1964.

rank

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rationally

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receive

In the 19th century, this distinctive accent was standardized as Received Pronunciation and taught widely by pronunciation tutors to people who wanted to learn to speak fashionably.

She also became the first woman to receive the Copley Medal and was a winner of the Lenin Peace Prize.

regard

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increased the number of baggage handlers.

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regulation

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related

From a correlational observation, we conclude that one variable is related to a second variable.

Obviously, a third variable is related to both—perhaps preference for risk.

relationship

That's because they are the people who know and understand the past and can explain its complex interrelationships with the present.

But neither behavior could be directly causing the other even though there is a relationship.

religion

For early societies, the answers to the most basic questions were found in religion.

religious

Some people, however, found the traditional religious explanations inadequate, and they began to search for answers based on reason.

resolving

Hodgkin showed great concern for social inequalities and resolving conflicts.

resources

We hope you will devote resources to restoring the walking paths in Freer Park for all visitors.

restoring

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revolution

The accent that we identify as British today was developed around the time of the American Revolution by people of low birth rank who had become wealthy during the Industrial Revolution.

In perceiving changes, we tend to regard the most recent ones as the most revolutionary.

Recent progress in telecommunications technologies is not more revolutionary than what happened in the late nineteenth century in relative terms.

Moreover, in terms of the consequent economic and social changes, the Internet revolution has not been as important as the washing machine and other household appliances.

revolutionary

In perceiving changes, we tend to regard the most recent ones as the most revolutionary.

Recent progress in telecommunications technologies is not more revolutionary than what happened in the late nineteenth century in relative terms.

ridiculous

It would be a ridiculous error to conclude that tattoos cause motorcycle accidents or that motorcycle accidents cause tattoos.

risk

Obviously, a third variable is related to both—perhaps preference for risk.

A person who is willing to take risks likes to be tattooed and also takes more chances on a motorcycle.

roared

"When I told Kenge that the insects were buffalo, he roared with laughter and told me not to tell such stupid lies.

satisfaction

We get the same kind of satisfaction from making things that we do from buying things.

satisfactory

He passed on to his followers not only his answers but also the process of thinking rationally, together with an idea of what kind of explanations could be considered satisfactory.

scars

Your words leave scars in their hearts like those holes in the fence."

seniors

Now we are seniors, and my wife must use a wheelchair for extended walks.

shift

This shift marked the birth of philosophy, and the first of the great thinkers that we know of was Thales of Miletus.

shrinking

This shrinking exposes the parts of the nails and hair that were once under the skin, causing them to appear longer than before.

similar

Why doesn't the modern American accent sound similar to a British accent?

Buying a new gadget might give you a similar rush, but it's also probably more temporary.

skill

Even if you end up spending money making things yourself, you're at least building a skill

rather than a collection of stuff that's quickly decreasing in value.

smart

He was smart, talented, and handsome.

social

Social psychologists at the University of Virginia asked college students to stand at the base of a hill while carrying a weighted backpack and estimate the steepness of the hill.

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societies

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socioeconomic

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sociologist

If you want to know why something is happening in the present, you might ask a sociologist or an economist.

spare

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statements

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static

What you have done there is to create a form of electricity called static electricity.

Static electricity is also found in the atmosphere.

status

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steepness

Social psychologists at the University of Virginia asked college students to stand at the base of a hill while carrying a weighted backpack and estimate the steepness of the hill.

The participants who stood with close friends gave significantly lower estimates of the steepness of the hill than those who stood alone, next to strangers, or next to newly formed friends.

structure

In 1949, she worked on the structure of penicillin with her colleagues.

stuff

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supposed

We set resolutions based on what we're supposed to do, or what others think we're supposed to do, rather than what really matters to us.

For example, reading more is a good habit, but if you're only doing it because you feel like

that's what you're supposed to do, not because you actually want to learn more, you're going to have a hard time reaching the goal.

tattooed

A person who is willing to take risks likes to be tattooed and also takes more chances on a motorcycle.

technical

So they are imagination engines," explains Jack Horner, a technical advisor for the Jurassic Park films.

technicians

Then one of the technicians turned to me with a big smile on his face and said, "You've got it!

temporary

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thinkers

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thrilled

It's hard enough to stick with goals you want to accomplish, but sometimes we make goals we're not even thrilled about in the first place.

thunderstorm

During a thunderstorm, clouds may become charged as they rub against each other.

tissue

Use a plastic pen and rub it on your hair about ten times and then hold the pen close to small pieces of tissue paper or chalk dust.

topic

Without a doubt, dinosaurs are a popular topic for kids across the planet.

Dinosaurs are studied in classrooms each year, not only for the science behind the topic, but also because of the creative thinking it seems to foster in students.

"I think it's the mystery of dinosaurs—the fact that there are still so many things we don't know—that inspires them to use that topic in their journals.

tough

"The fence was very tough, and the hammer was heavy.

traditional

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typically

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unoccupied

Research shows occupied time feels shorter than unoccupied time.

People usually exaggerate about the time they waited, and what they find most bothersome is time spent unoccupied.

value

Instead, make goals based on your own values.

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variable

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vivid

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volumes

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vote

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wealthy

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