



Neil deGrasse Tyson

Scientist who explains space in an engaging way.

Rank #19

#	Word	Definition / Example
1	cosmological	adj. related to the study of the universe and its nature. "Cosmological perspective — viewing human civilization against the backdrop of thirteen billion years — is the corrective lens he applies to every parochial dispute."
2	interstellar	adj. between the stars "Interstellar distances so dwarf human intuition that communicating them accurately requires entirely new metaphorical infrastructure."
3	gravitational	n. the force that pulls planets stars or particles toward one another "Gravitational wave detection confirmed predictions Einstein himself doubted could ever be empirically verified — a triumph of persistent scientific imagination."
4	relativistic	related to the theory of relativity, especially regarding the effects of moving close to the speed of light "Relativistic effects at velocities approaching light produce temporal distortions that remain among physics' most counterintuitive and empirically verified predictions."
5	exoplanetary	relating to planets that exist outside our solar system "Exoplanetary discovery has transformed the question of life elsewhere from philosophical speculation into an empirically tractable scientific research program."
6	nucleosynthesis	n. the process by which new atomic nuclei are produced. "Stellar nucleosynthesis forged every atom heavier than hydrogen inside dying stars — making the poetic claim that we are stardust literally and precisely accurate."
7	electromagnetic	adj. pertaining to or exhibiting magnetism produced by electric charge in motion "The electromagnetic spectrum extends far beyond the narrow visible sliver that human evolution equipped us to perceive — most of the universe is invisible to naked senses."
8	multiverse	a theoretical collection of multiple universes, including our own "Multiverse hypotheses sit at the productive boundary between testable physics and metaphysical speculation — a frontier requiring unusual epistemological care."
9	infinitesimal	adj. very small in size "Our infinitesimal position within the observable universe should inspire humility rather than insignificance — we are the universe contemplating itself."
10	spectroscopic	relating to the study of the interaction between light and matter "Spectroscopic analysis of starlight reveals chemical composition across distances so vast that direct sampling remains permanently beyond human technological reach."
11	thermodynamic	n. the branch of physics dealing with the transformation of heat to and from other forms of energy; and with the laws governing such conversions of energy "Thermodynamic inevitability of entropy's increase provides the universe's most democratic law — it applies with equal indifference to stars and civilizations alike."
12	anthropomorphic	adj. 1 similar in form to a human being; 2 ascribing human characteristics to something nonhuman. "Anthropomorphic projection onto cosmic phenomena flatters our self-importance while systematically impeding genuine understanding of how the universe actually operates."
13	inflationary	adj. an inflating or being inflated an increase in the amount of money and credit in relation to the supply of goods and services an increase in the general price leve; "Inflationary cosmology proposes an initial expansion so rapid that its traces remain detectable in the cosmic

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14	empirically	adv. in a manner capable of being proved or disproved by observation or experiment “Empirically grounded wonder — awe that deepens rather than dissolves under scientific scrutiny — is the emotional register he most consistently and successfully cultivates.”
15	supermassive	adj. extremely large in size or amount. “Supermassive black holes anchoring galactic centers exert gravitational governance over billions of stars through forces whose mechanisms we are only beginning to understand.”