

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lisa Winer: Can you solve the virus riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

prehistoric

adj. belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable

synonym : ancient, primitive, archaic

(1) **prehistoric** settlements, (2) **prehistoric** times

Scientists often fail to date archeological or **prehistorical** findings.

permafrost

n. a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions

(1) **permafrost** area, (2) thawing **permafrost**

Permafrost is crucial to soil stability in arctic areas.

vial

n. a small glass container, especially one containing liquid medicine or perfume

synonym : container, bottle, flask

(1) glass **vials**, (2) insulin **vial**

This medication is sealed in a **vial**.

unleash

v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

synonym : discharge, free, release

(1) **unleash** a hound, (2) **unleash** her anger

The general was still reluctant to **unleash** his troops in

pursuit of an enemy.

airborne

adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
synonym : flying, aerial, floating

(1) **airborne** troop, (2) **airborne** particles

The amount of **airborne** pollen this year is higher than usual.

hesitation

n. the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous

synonym : unwillingness, indecision, uncertainty

(1) perform without **hesitation**, (2) after some **hesitation**

There was a **hesitation** in her speech.

airlock

n. a chamber between two areas that can be sealed against pressure, allowing the passage of people and objects to go from one area to the other

(1) an **airlock** chamber, (2) **airlock** module

The mechanic has just inspected the jammed **airlock**.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym : defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

lockdown

n. an emergency policy for people, communities, or a country to stay where they are, usually due to specific risks, such as COVID-19

(1) go on **lockdown**, (2) **lockdown** area

The country's prime minister has decided to implement a nationwide **lockdown** measure.

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.

checkerboard

n. a board having 64 squares of two alternating black and white colors used for playing draughts, also known as checker

synonym : check, plaid, patchwork

(1) **checkerboard** pattern, (2) **checkerboard** frame
This historic city is famous for its **checkerboard** streets.

apocalyptic

adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

synonym : fateful, prophetic, ominous

(1) **apocalyptic** event, (2) have **apocalyptic** overtones
The **apocalyptic** landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.

salesperson

n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers

synonym : dealer, seller, vendor

(1) a **salesperson** in a store, (2) a drapery **salesperson**
He received the title of the best **salesperson** in all our branches worldwide.

Session 2: Spelling

1. after some hes_____on
n. the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous
2. ai_____ne troop
adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
3. pre_____ic settlements
adj. belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
4. pre_____ic times
adj. belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
5. have apo_____ic overtones
adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
6. thawing per_____st
n. a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions
7. perform without hes_____on
n. the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous
8. che_____ard frame
n. a board having 64 squares of two alternating black and white colors used for playing draughts, also known as checker
9. apo_____ic event
adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world
10. un_____h a hound
v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

ANSWERS: 1. hesitation, 2. airborne, 3. prehistoric, 4. prehistoric, 5. apocalyptic, 6. permafrost, 7. hesitation, 8. checkerboard, 9. apocalyptic, 10. unleash

11. che_____ard pattern *n.* a board having 64 squares of two alternating black and white colors used for playing draughts, also known as checker
12. lo_____wn area *n.* an emergency policy for people, communities, or a country to stay where they are, usually due to specific risks, such as COVID-19
13. glass v__ls *n.* a small glass container, especially one containing liquid medicine or perfume
14. con_____te his ego *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
15. an ai_____k chamber *n.* a chamber between two areas that can be sealed against pressure, allowing the passage of people and objects to go from one area to the other
16. ai_____k module *n.* a chamber between two areas that can be sealed against pressure, allowing the passage of people and objects to go from one area to the other
17. a drapery sal_____on *n.* a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers
18. un_____h her anger *v.* to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
19. ai_____ne particles *adj.* moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
20. 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

ANSWERS: 11. checkerboard, 12. lockdown, 13. vial, 14. contaminate, 15. airlock, 16. airlock, 17. salesperson, 18. unleash, 19. airborne, 20. instinct

21. go on lo____wn *n.* an emergency policy for people, communities, or a country to stay where they are, usually due to specific risks, such as COVID-19
22. a sal_____on in a store *n.* a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers
23. insulin v__l *n.* a small glass container, especially one containing liquid medicine or perfume
24. con_____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
25. per_____st area *n.* a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions
26. 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

ANSWERS: 21. lockdown, 22. salesperson, 23. vial, 24. contaminate, 25. permafrost, 26. instinct

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The general was still reluctant to _____ his troops in pursuit of an enemy.
v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

2. There was a _____ in her speech.
n. the act of pausing or being slow before saying or doing something, especially because you feel uncertain or nervous

3. _____ is crucial to soil stability in arctic areas.
n. a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions

4. 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

5. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.
v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

6. This medication is sealed in a _____.
n. a small glass container, especially one containing liquid medicine or perfume

7. The mechanic has just inspected the jammed _____.
n. a chamber between two areas that can be sealed against pressure, allowing the passage of people and objects to go from one area to the other

8. The _____ landscape of burnt-out villages and bombed-out ruins spread out before them.
adj. describing severe damage and destruction in past or future events, or the end of the world

ANSWERS: 1. unleash, 2. hesitation, 3. Permafrost, 4. instinct, 5. contaminate, 6. vial, 7. airlock, 8. apocalyptic

9. Scientists often fail to date archeological or _____ findings.
adj. belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
10. He received the title of the best _____ in all our branches worldwide.
n. a person whose job is to sell goods in a shop or directly to customers
11. The amount of _____ pollen this year is higher than usual.
adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
12. The country's prime minister has decided to implement a nationwide _____ measure.
n. an emergency policy for people, communities, or a country to stay where they are, usually due to specific risks, such as COVID-19
13. This historic city is famous for its _____ streets.
n. a board having 64 squares of two alternating black and white colors used for playing draughts, also known as checker

ANSWERS: 9. prehistorical, 10. salesperson, 11. airborne, 12. lockdown, 13. checkerboard