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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jan Wurzbacher: *The massive machines cleaning Earth's atmosphere* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

clumsy

adj. lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome

synonym : awkward, ungainly, inept

(1) **clumsy** at sports, (2) **clumsy** attempt

The **clumsy** waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

sorbent

n. a substance that absorbs other substances, often used in the treatment of liquids or gases

synonym: absorbent, adsorbent, sponge

(1) ion **sorbent**, (2) catalyst **sorbent**

The **sorbent** material in the oil spill cleanup kit absorbed the oil and helped to contain the damage.

porous

adj. having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids

synonym: permeable, spongy, absorbent

(1) **porous** materials, (2) **porous** membrane

Our unfenced and largely unpoliced border inevitably has been very **porous** for insurgents.

sponge

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

(1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500 million years.

pore

n. a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively

synonym: stoma, foramen

(1) woody **pore** fungi, (2) **pore** over reference books

I was sweating at every **pore**.

ppm

n. an abbreviation for "parts per million," used to express the concentration of a substance in a solution or mixture

synonym: parts per million, concentration, proportion

(1) **ppm** volume fraction, (2) **ppm** level

According to the World Health Organization, the

recommended safe lead level in drinking water is 15 **ppm**.

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.

inlet

n. a small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river, usually leading inland

synonym: cove, bayou, estuary

(1) **inlet** valve, (2) **inlet** temperature

The boat sailed through the narrow **inlet** and into the harbor.

cofounder

n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

(1) **cofounder** of the university, (2) late **cofounder**

He is the **cofounder** and chairman of this tech company.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym: extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

pollute

v. to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals

synonym: contaminate, corrupt, degrade

(1) **pollute** the air, (2) **pollute** the thread

We should do our best not to **pollute** the environment.

emit

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

synonym: give off, radiate, expel

(1) **emit** a gamma ray, (2) **emit** air pollution

During the unloading, the container box **emits** a clicking sound.

miner

n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

synonym: digger, excavator, miner

(1) **miner** strike, (2) **miner** industry

The coal **miner** worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.

inject

v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym: shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

basalt

n. a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava

synonym: volcanic rock, lava, igneous rock

(1) **basalt** rock, (2) **basalt** glass

The hiking trail was lined with towering **basalt** columns.

snowstorm

n. a storm with heavy snowfall, usually with a strong wind

synonym: blizzard, winter storm, snow squall

(1) **snowstorm** warning, (2) a northern **snowstorm**

The news warned of a potentially dangerous **snowstorm** expected to hit the area.

mammoth

adj. exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene

synonym: huge, large

(1) woolly **mammoth**, (2) a **mammoth** ship

The minister decided to review its **mammoth** public works

projects.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. a northern sn_____rm | <i>n.</i> a storm with heavy snowfall, usually with a strong wind |
| 2. in__t valve | <i>n.</i> a small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river, usually leading inland |
| 3. e__t a gamma ray | <i>v.</i> to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc. |
| 4. ba____t rock | <i>n.</i> a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava |
| 5. e__t air pollution | <i>v.</i> to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc. |
| 6. woody p__e fungi | <i>n.</i> a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through;
<i>(verb)</i> to read carefully or study attentively |
| 7. p_m volume fraction | <i>n.</i> an abbreviation for "parts per million," used to express the concentration of a substance in a solution or mixture |
| 8. cl___y attempt | <i>adj.</i> lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome |
| 9. late co_____er | <i>n.</i> one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business |
| 10. woolly ma_____h | <i>adj.</i> exceedingly large or extensive; <i>(noun)</i> any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene |
| 11. dr_____c measures | <i>adj.</i> radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact |

ANSWERS: 1. snowstorm, 2. inlet, 3. emit, 4. basalt, 5. emit, 6. pore, 7. ppm, 8. clumsy, 9. cofounder, 10. mammoth, 11. drastic

12. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
13. pu_____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
14. ba____t glass *n.* a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava
15. p__e over reference books *n.* a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through; (verb) to read carefully or study attentively
16. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
17. po____s membrane *adj.* having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids
18. make dr_____c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
19. in____t a personal opinion into a debate *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
20. in__t temperature *n.* a small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river, usually leading inland
21. po____s materials *adj.* having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids
22. co_____er of the university *n.* one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
23. sn_____rm warning *n.* a storm with heavy snowfall, usually with a strong wind

ANSWERS: 12. smartphone, 13. puzzling, 14. basalt, 15. pore, 16. improvisation, 17. porous, 18. drastic, 19. inject, 20. inlet, 21. porous, 22. cofounder, 23. snowstorm

24. catalyst so____t
n. a substance that absorbs other substances, often used in the treatment of liquids or gases
25. ind_____us student
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
26. in___t under the skin
v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
27. mi__r strike
n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth
28. ind_____us worker
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
29. mi__r industry
n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth
30. jazz imp_____ion
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
31. a ma_____h ship
adj. exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene
32. cl___y at sports
adj. lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome

ANSWERS: 24. sorbent, 25. industrious, 26. inject, 27. miner, 28. industrious, 29. miner, 30. improvisation, 31. mammoth, 32. clumsy

33. metallic sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
34. sea sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
35. po_____e the thread *v.* to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals
36. ion so_____t *n.* a substance that absorbs other substances, often used in the treatment of liquids or gases
37. pu_____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
38. p_m level *n.* an abbreviation for "parts per million," used to express the concentration of a substance in a solution or mixture
39. po_____e the air *v.* to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals
40. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

ANSWERS: 33. sponge, 34. sponge, 35. pollute, 36. sorbent, 37. puzzling, 38. ppm, 39. pollute, 40. smartphone

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. According to the World Health Organization, the recommended safe lead level in drinking water is 15 _____.
n. an abbreviation for "parts per million," used to express the concentration of a substance in a solution or mixture
2. The _____ waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.
adj. lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
3. Let's try to _____ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
4. The tiny marine _____ has existed for more than 500 million years.
n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
5. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
6. The news warned of a potentially dangerous _____ expected to hit the area.
n. a storm with heavy snowfall, usually with a strong wind
7. The hiking trail was lined with towering _____ columns.
n. a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that forms from the solidification of lava

ANSWERS: 1. ppm, 2. clumsy, 3. inject, 4. sponge, 5. smartphones, 6. snowstorm, 7. basalt

8. He is the _____ and chairman of this tech company.
n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
9. Our unfenced and largely unpoliced border inevitably has been very _____ for insurgents.
adj. having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids
10. The boat sailed through the narrow _____ and into the harbor.
n. a small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river, usually leading inland
11. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
12. We should do our best not to _____ the environment.
v. to make an area or substance, such as land, air, water, etc., dirty or harmful to living things by adding waste matter or harmful chemicals
13. The _____ material in the oil spill cleanup kit absorbed the oil and helped to contain the damage.
n. a substance that absorbs other substances, often used in the treatment of liquids or gases
14. The coal _____ worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.
n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth
15. The minister decided to review its _____ public works projects.
adj. exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene

ANSWERS: 8. cofounder, 9. porous, 10. inlet, 11. improvisation, 12. pollute, 13. sorbent, 14. miner, 15. mammoth

16. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

17. I was sweating at every _____.

n. a tiny hole in the skin of people or other animals that sweat can pass through;
v. to read carefully or study attentively

18. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.

adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

19. The global community is undergoing _____ changes at present.

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

20. During the unloading, the container box _____ a clicking sound.

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

ANSWERS: 16. industrious, 17. pore, 18. puzzling, 19. drastic, 20. emits