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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Brendan Rogers and Jessica Howard: What's hidden in Arctic ice? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym : disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

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.

arctic

adj. of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold

synonym : cold, frozen, polar

(1) **arctic** ice, (2) high **arctic**

Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the **arctic** climate.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

hemisphere

n. half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere

(1) northern **hemisphere**, (2) cerebral **hemisphere**

This weather pattern is unique to the southern **hemisphere**.

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.

thaw

v. to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly

synonym : melt, defrost, unfreeze

(1) **thaw** out a glacier, (2) **thaw** relations between countries

The sun was beginning to **thaw** the frozen ground.

microorganism

n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

synonym : germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microorganism**, (2) **microorganisms** in his gut

This **microorganism** is a producer of respiratory disease.

decompose

v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

synonym : break down, rot, spoil

(1) **decompose** matter, (2) **decompose** into simpler molecules

After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to **decompose**.

subfreezing

adj. below the freezing point (32 F or 0 C)

synonym : below-freezing, icy, frigid

(1) live in a **subfreezing** climate, (2) **subfreezing** temperature

The temperature outside was **subfreezing**, and I could feel the chill in my bones.

fossilized

adj. transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible

synonym : petrified, ossified, preserved

(1) obsolete **fossilized** ways, (2) a **fossilized** grove

The dinosaur bones were so old that they had been wholly **fossilized**, turning to stone over millions of years.

extrapolate

v. to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now

synonym : deduce, reason, infer

(1) **extrapolate** the results, (2) **extrapolate** animal dose

This predictive model mechanically **extrapolates** past trends into the future.

pup

n. a young dog, seal, or other animals

synonym : puppy, whelp, cub

(1) **pup** company, (2) playful **pup**

The little **pup** was so cute, with big, floppy ears and a wagging tail.

nestle

v. to settle comfortably or cozily into a place

synonym : snuggle, cuddle, curl up

(1) **nestle** deeper against him, (2) **nestle** in a cozy spot
The cat **nestled** in my lap and fell asleep.

reindeer

n. a large deer with branched antlers found in northern regions, often domesticated and used for transportation or as a source of food

synonym: caribou, elk, deer

(1) red-nosed **reindeer**, (2) domesticated **reindeer**

The Sami people have been herding **reindeer** in the Arctic for centuries, using them for food, transportation, and clothing.

herder

n. a person who takes care of and manages a herd of livestock, such as cows, sheep, or goats

synonym: shepherd, rancher, drover

(1) cattle **herder**, (2) seminomadic **herders**

The sheep **herder** led his flock through the hills, keeping a watchful eye on them at all times.

unmistakable

adj. clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand

synonym: apparent, clear, definite

(1) find **unmistakable** evidence, (2) **unmistakable** difference

His talent for singing is **unmistakable**.

extinct

adj. no longer in existence

synonym: dead, obsolete, abolished

(1) **extinct** by human activity, (2) long- **extinct** volcano

Many species have become **extinct** due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

skeletal

adj. of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated

synonym: bony, emaciated, gaunt

(1) **skeletal** system, (2) **skeletal** muscles

The older man was skinny and **skeletal** and not in good

health.

reconstruct

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

synonym: rebuild, revamp, reorganize

(1) **reconstruct** an image, (2) **reconstruct** the original text
They've decided to **reconstruct** a ruined castle.

regenerate

v. to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful

synonym: renew, revive, improve

(1) **regenerate** bone tissue, (2) a **regenerate** sinner
The new CEO's primary mission is to **regenerate** the company on the verge of bankruptcy.

tundra

n. a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen

synonym: arctic plain, permafrost, polar desert

(1) the Siberian **tundra**, (2) **tundra** biome

The Arctic **tundra** is a vast and desolate landscape with few signs of life.

encase

v. to enclose or cover something in a protective or decorative layer

synonym: encircle, enclose, enclasp

(1) **encase** in glass, (2) **encase** his feet

They **encased** the fragile vase in bubble wrap to protect it during shipping.

squirrel

n. a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world

synonym: rodent, chipmunk, tree-dweller

(1) agile **squirrel**, (2) gray **squirrel**

The **squirrels** in the park were very friendly and came right up to us looking for food.

burrow

v. to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

synonym : tunnel, dig, excavate

(1) **burrow** through the forest, (2) **burrow** into a mystery

You can't **burrow** through solid metal.

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.

wildfire

n. a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope

synonym : blaze, bonfire, flame

(1) **wildfire** spread, (2) arson-caused **wildfire**

The **wildfire** destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

far-reaching

adj. having a wide or significant impact or influence

synonym : extensive, widespread, broad

(1) achieve **far-reaching** reform, (2) **far-reaching** consequences

The **far-reaching** effects of the policy change are still being felt.

landslide

n. a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

synonym : avalanche, mudslide, rockfall

(1) **landslide** victory, (2) prevent a **landslide**

The massive **landslide** buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.

endanger

v. to put someone or something in a risky situation

synonym : threaten, imperil, jeopardize

(1) **endanger** my health, (2) **endanger** a close relationship
Their actions **endangered** the lives of innocent people.

immemorial

adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old
synonym: ancient, age-old, time-honored

(1) **immemorial** relationship, (2) from **immemorial** times
The ancient ruins had been there since **immemorial**, and their origin was mysterious.

methane

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄
with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

(1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions
The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

tread

v. to step or walk on something
synonym: step, walk, pace

(1) **tread** water, (2) **tread** a similar path
He **treads** carefully on the slippery ice.

Session 2: Spelling

1. en___e in glass *v.* to enclose or cover something in a protective or decorative layer
2. gray sq_____el *n.* a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world
3. tr__d water *v.* to step or walk on something
4. find unm_____ble evidence *adj.* clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand
5. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
6. un_____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
7. prevent a la_____de *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
8. sub_____ng temperature *adj.* below the freezing point (32 F or 0 C)
9. un_____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
10. seminomadic he_____rs *n.* a person who takes care of and manages a herd of livestock, such as cows, sheep, or goats
11. 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

ANSWERS: 1. encase, 2. squirrel, 3. tread, 4. unmistakable, 5. reconstruct, 6. uncover, 7. landslide, 8. subfreezing, 9. uncover, 10. herder, 11. miner

12. high ar___c *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
13. per_____st area *n.* a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions
14. de_____se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
15. de_____se matter *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
16. ext_____te the results *v.* to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
17. a reg_____te sinner *v.* to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
18. cattle he___r *n.* a person who takes care of and manages a herd of livestock, such as cows, sheep, or goats
19. tu___a biome *n.* a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen
20. agile sq_____el *n.* a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world
21. en_____er a close relationship *v.* to put someone or something in a risky situation
22. a ma_____h ship *adj.* exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene

ANSWERS: 12. arctic, 13. permafrost, 14. decompose, 15. decompose, 16. extrapolate, 17. regenerate, 18. herder, 19. tundra, 20. squirrel, 21. endanger, 22. mammoth

23. pathogenic mic_____ism *n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
24. from imm_____al times *adj.* extending back beyond memory or record; very old
25. t__w out a glacier *v.* to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly
26. achieve far_____ing reform *adj.* having a wide or significant impact or influence
27. playful p_p *n.* a young dog, seal, or other animals
28. pre_____ic settlements *adj.* belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
29. la_____de victory *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
30. p_p company *n.* a young dog, seal, or other animals
31. atmospheric me_____e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
32. ne_____e in a cozy spot *v.* to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
33. en_____e his feet *v.* to enclose or cover something in a protective or decorative layer
34. en_____er my health *v.* to put someone or something in a risky situation
35. cerebral hem_____re *n.* half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere

ANSWERS: 23. microorganism, 24. immemorial, 25. thaw, 26. far-reaching, 27. pup, 28. prehistoric, 29. landslide, 30. pup, 31. methane, 32. nestle, 33. encase, 34. endanger, 35. hemisphere

36. ar___c ice *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
37. ex_____t by human activity *adj.* no longer in existence
38. sk_____al system *adj.* of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated
39. a fos_____ed grove *adj.* transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible
40. far_____ing consequences *adj.* having a wide or significant impact or influence
41. the Siberian tu___a *n.* a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen
42. wi_____re spread *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
43. northern hem_____re *n.* half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere
44. reduce me_____e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
45. obsolete fos_____ed ways *adj.* transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible
46. mic_____isms in his gut *n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

ANSWERS: 36. arctic, 37. extinct, 38. skeletal, 39. fossilized, 40. far-reaching, 41. tundra, 42. wildfire, 43. hemisphere, 44. methane, 45. fossilized, 46. microorganism

47. ne___e deeper against him *v.* to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
48. t__w relations between countries *v.* to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly
49. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
50. tr__d a similar path *v.* to step or walk on something
51. bu___w into a mystery *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
52. woolly ma_____h *adj.* exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene
53. ext_____te animal dose *v.* to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
54. live in a sub_____ng climate *adj.* below the freezing point (32 F or 0 C)
55. sk_____al muscles *adj.* of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated
56. thawing per_____st *n.* a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions
57. 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
58. long-ex_____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence

ANSWERS: 47. nestle, 48. thaw, 49. bury, 50. tread, 51. burrow, 52. mammoth, 53. extrapolate, 54. subfreezing, 55. skeletal, 56. permafrost, 57. miner, 58. extinct

59. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
60. arson-caused wi_____re *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
61. imm_____al relationship *adj.* extending back beyond memory or record; very old
62. reg_____te bone tissue *v.* to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
63. domesticated re_____er *n.* a large deer with branched antlers found in northern regions, often domesticated and used for transportation or as a source of food
64. pre_____ic times *adj.* belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
65. unm_____ble difference *adj.* clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand
66. rec_____ct an image *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
67. red-nosed re_____er *n.* a large deer with branched antlers found in northern regions, often domesticated and used for transportation or as a source of food
68. bu___w through the forest *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

ANSWERS: 59. bury, 60. wildfire, 61. immemorial, 62. regenerate, 63. reindeer, 64. prehistoric, 65. unmistakable, 66. reconstruct, 67. reindeer, 68. burrow

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ancient ruins had been there since _____ and their origin was mysterious.
adj. extending back beyond memory or record; very old
2. 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
3. The sheep _____ led his flock through the hills, keeping a watchful eye on them at all times.
n. a person who takes care of and manages a herd of livestock, such as cows, sheep, or goats
4. _____ is crucial to soil stability in arctic areas.
n. a layer of soil that is permanently below freezing, usually in polar regions
5. The older man was skinny and _____ and not in good health.
adj. of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated
6. The _____ effects of the policy change are still being felt.
adj. having a wide or significant impact or influence
7. The cat _____ in my lap and fell asleep.
v. to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
8. The new CEO's primary mission is to _____ the company on the verge of bankruptcy.
v. to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful

ANSWERS: 1. immemorial, 2. mammoth, 3. herder, 4. Permafrost, 5. skeletal, 6. far-reaching, 7. nestled, 8. regenerate

9. The ignition of _____ gas in the plant killed five employees.
- n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
10. He _____ carefully on the slippery ice.
- v.* to step or walk on something
11. This _____ is a producer of respiratory disease.
- n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
12. The _____ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.
- n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
13. The sun was beginning to _____ the frozen ground.
- v.* to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly
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 _____ in the park were very friendly and came right up to us looking for food.
- n.* a small to medium-sized rodent with a bushy tail, found in almost every part of the world

ANSWERS: 9. methane, 10. treads, 11. microorganism, 12. wildfire, 13. thaw, 14. miner, 15. squirrels

16. After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to _____.
- v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
17. You can't _____ through solid metal.
- v. to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
18. The massive _____ buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.
- n. a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
19. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
- v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
20. The dinosaur bones were so old that they had been wholly _____ turning to stone over millions of years.
- adj. transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible
21. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
- v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
22. Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the _____ climate.
- adj. of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
23. This weather pattern is unique to the southern _____.
- n. half of the terrestrial globe; half of a sphere

ANSWERS: 16. decompose, 17. burrow, 18. landslide, 19. bury, 20. fossilized, 21. uncovered, 22. arctic, 23. hemisphere

24. This predictive model mechanically _____ past trends into the future.
v. to guess or think about what might happen or estimate something using the facts that you have now
25. The Arctic _____ is a vast and desolate landscape with few signs of life.
n. a vast, treeless, and typically frozen plain in the Arctic regions, where the subsoil is permanently frozen
26. The Sami people have been herding _____ in the Arctic for centuries, using them for food, transportation, and clothing.
n. a large deer with branched antlers found in northern regions, often domesticated and used for transportation or as a source of food
27. The temperature outside was _____ and I could feel the chill in my bones.
adj. below the freezing point (32 F or 0 C)
28. Scientists often fail to date archeological or _____ findings.
adj. belonging to or existing in times before recorded history; no longer fashionable
29. They _____ the fragile vase in bubble wrap to protect it during shipping.
v. to enclose or cover something in a protective or decorative layer
30. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.
adj. no longer in existence
31. The little ____ was so cute, with big, floppy ears and a wagging tail.
n. a young dog, seal, or other animals

ANSWERS: 24. extrapolates, 25. tundra, 26. reindeer, 27. subfreezing, 28. prehistorical, 29. encased, 30. extinct, 31. pup

32. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

33. Their actions _____ the lives of innocent people.

v. to put someone or something in a risky situation

34. His talent for singing is _____.

adj. clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand

ANSWERS: 32. reconstruct, 33. endangered, 34. unmistakable