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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

TED-Ed: The 4 greatest threats to the survival of humanity | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/ted_ed_the_4_greatest_threats_to_the_survival_of_humanity

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

contradict

v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

synonym: conflict, oppose, belie

(1) **contradict** each other, (2) **contradict** the principle

The book contains numerous statements that **contradict** previous reports.

ignite

v. to set on fire; to cause to start burning

synonym: light, set fire to, ignite

(1) **ignite** a boom, (2) **ignite** passion

He **ignited** the fireworks with a single spark.

unrecoverable

adj. not able to be regained, recovered, or retrieved; unable to be salvaged or repaired

synonym: irreparable, irretrievable, lost

(1) **unrecoverable** data loss, (2) **unrecoverable** mistake

Unfortunately, the data on the hard drive was **unrecoverable** after the crash.

asteroid

n. a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

synonym: minor planet, planetoid, rocky planetesimal

(1) **asteroid** mining, (2) **asteroid** explorer

Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the **asteroid** belt to understand the early solar system better.

volcano

n. a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

synonym: mount, peak, crater

(1) **volcano** alert level, (2) active **volcano**

The island was formed by a **volcano** millions of years ago.

soot

n. a black, powdery substance that is produced by the incomplete burning of a material such as coal, wood, or oil and is often found on surfaces near the source of the fire

synonym: smut, dirt

(1) **soot-covered** walls, (2) black **soot**

The fire left a layer of **soot** on everything in the room.

calamity

n. a serious event that causes damage, injury, or loss

synonym: disaster, tragedy, misfortune

(1) financial **calamity**, (2) a dire **calamity**

The earthquake was a major **calamity** that left many homeless.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym: outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

catastrophe

n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
synonym : disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

biowarfare

n. the use of biological agents, such as viruses or bacteria, as weapons of war or terrorism

synonym : germ warfare, bioterrorism

(1) **biowarfare** agent, (2) **biowarfare** defense

A scientist was arrested for sharing the recipe for a **biowarfare** agent with a foreign entity.

pathogen

n. a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

synonym : germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) plant **pathogen**, (2) the **pathogen** in the air

mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated **pathogens**.

unaligned

adj. not aligned or affiliated with any particular group, organization, or ideology; impartial or neutral for a specific conflict or dispute

synonym : unaffiliated, neutral, non-aligned

(1) **unaligned** country, (2) psychologically **unaligned**

Her thoughts and actions were **unaligned**, confusing those around her.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym: excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales

The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

cede

v. to give up, surrender, or transfer possession or control of something, especially territory, power, or authority

synonym: surrender, relinquish, yield

(1) **cede** power, (2) **cede** custody of the kids

The landowner agreed to **cede** part of his property to the government for the public good.

superintelligence

n. a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind

(1) digital **superintelligence**, (2) artificial **superintelligence**

He is looking for evidence of the existence of **superintelligence** from cosmic signals.

anthropogenic

adj. relating to or resulting from human activity or influence on the environment or climate

synonym: human-caused, manufactured, artificial

(1) **anthropogenic** impact, (2) **anthropogenic** pollution

Anthropogenic climate change is a significant concern for the future of our planet.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cat_____he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
2. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
3. digital sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
4. artificial sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
5. c__e custody of the kids *v.* to give up, surrender, or transfer possession or control of something, especially territory, power, or authority
6. global pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
7. unr_____ble mistake *adj.* not able to be regained, recovered, or retrieved; unable to be salvaged or repaired
8. as_____id explorer *n.* a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter
9. as_____id mining *n.* a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

ANSWERS: 1. catastrophe, 2. disrupt, 3. superintelligence, 4. superintelligence, 5. cede, 6. pandemic, 7. unrecoverable, 8. asteroid, 9. asteroid

10. di____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
11. su____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
12. the pa____en in the air *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
13. ant_____nic impact *adj.* relating to or resulting from human activity or influence on the environment or climate
14. su____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
15. a dire ca____ty *n.* a serious event that causes damage, injury, or loss
16. flu pa____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
17. unr_____ble data loss *adj.* not able to be regained, recovered, or retrieved; unable to be salvaged or repaired
18. con_____ct each other *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
19. financial ca____ty *n.* a serious event that causes damage, injury, or loss
20. ig___e a boom *v.* to set on fire; to cause to start burning

ANSWERS: 10. disrupt, 11. surpass, 12. pathogen, 13. anthropogenic, 14. surpass, 15. calamity, 16. pandemic, 17. unrecoverable, 18. contradict, 19. calamity, 20. ignite

21. active vo____o *n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
22. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
23. s__t-covered walls *n.* a black, powdery substance that is produced by the incomplete burning of a material such as coal, wood, or oil and is often found on surfaces near the source of the fire
24. avoid climate cat_____he *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
25. plant pa_____en *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
26. con_____ct the principle *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
27. ant_____nic pollution *adj.* relating to or resulting from human activity or influence on the environment or climate
28. ig___e passion *v.* to set on fire; to cause to start burning
29. bio_____re agent *n.* the use of biological agents, such as viruses or bacteria, as weapons of war or terrorism
30. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 21. volcano, 22. germ, 23. soot, 24. catastrophe, 25. pathogen, 26. contradict, 27. anthropogenic, 28. ignite, 29. biowarfare, 30. germ

31. c__e power *v.* to give up, surrender, or transfer possession or control of something, especially territory, power, or authority
32. psychologically un_____ed *adj.* not aligned or affiliated with any particular group, organization, or ideology; impartial or neutral for a specific conflict or dispute
33. un_____ed country *adj.* not aligned or affiliated with any particular group, organization, or ideology; impartial or neutral for a specific conflict or dispute
34. black s__t *n.* a black, powdery substance that is produced by the incomplete burning of a material such as coal, wood, or oil and is often found on surfaces near the source of the fire
35. vo_____o alert level *n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
36. bio_____re defense *n.* the use of biological agents, such as viruses or bacteria, as weapons of war or terrorism

ANSWERS: 31. cede, 32. unaligned, 33. unaligned, 34. soot, 35. volcano, 36. biowarfare

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The lack of funds has resulted in a _____ for our university system.
n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
2. The fire left a layer of _____ on everything in the room.
n. a black, powdery substance that is produced by the incomplete burning of a material such as coal, wood, or oil and is often found on surfaces near the source of the fire
3. The landowner agreed to _____ part of his property to the government for the public good.
v. to give up, surrender, or transfer possession or control of something, especially territory, power, or authority
4. Her thoughts and actions were _____ confusing those around her.
adj. not aligned or affiliated with any particular group, organization, or ideology; impartial or neutral for a specific conflict or dispute
5. He _____ the fireworks with a single spark.
v. to set on fire; to cause to start burning
6. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
7. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 1. catastrophe, 2. soot, 3. cede, 4. unaligned, 5. ignited, 6. disrupt, 7. germ

8. A scientist was arrested for sharing the recipe for a _____ agent with a foreign entity.
- n.* the use of biological agents, such as viruses or bacteria, as weapons of war or terrorism
9. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.
- n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
10. The island was formed by a _____ millions of years ago.
- n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
11. mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated _____.
- n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
12. The earthquake was a major _____ that left many homeless.
- n.* a serious event that causes damage, injury, or loss
13. Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the _____ belt to understand the early solar system better.
- n.* a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter
14. _____ climate change is a significant concern for the future of our planet.
- adj.* relating to or resulting from human activity or influence on the environment or climate

ANSWERS: 8. biowarfare, 9. pandemic, 10. volcano, 11. pathogens, 12. calamity, 13. asteroid, 14. Anthropogenic

15. He is looking for evidence of the existence of _____ from cosmic signals.
- n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
16. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
- v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
17. Unfortunately, the data on the hard drive was _____ after the crash.
- adj.* not able to be regained, recovered, or retrieved; unable to be salvaged or repaired
18. The book contains numerous statements that _____ previous reports.
- v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

ANSWERS: 15. superintelligence, 16. surpassed, 17. unrecoverable, 18. contradict