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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

James Irungu Mwangi: Africa's great carbon valley -and how to end energy poverty | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/james_irungu_mwangi_afri ca_s_great_carbon_valley_and_how_to_end_energy _poverty



Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

morbid

 adj. characterized by a preoccupation with death or unhealthy topics or behaviors; gruesome or disturbing

synonym: unhealthy, sickly, gruesome

(1) morbid fascination, (2) morbid joke

The decayed and **morbid** atmosphere of the abandoned house scared her.

rift

 a break or fissure in a relationship, organization, or physical structure; a large crack in the ground, rock, or other surfaces

synonym: split, break, gap

(1) rift between friends, (2) geological rift

Their disagreement caused a **rift** in their friendship.

catastrophe

- n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortunesynonym: disaster, calamity, cataclysm
- (1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

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

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.

halve

v. to divide something into two equal parts; to reduce something by half its original amount or size

synonym: reduce by half, cut in half, split(1) halve the price, (2) halve the workload

I need to **halve** the recipe to make just enough for two people.

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.

airbag

 a safety device designed to inflate rapidly in the event of a collision, protecting the occupants of a vehicle and reducing the risk of injury or death

synonym: air cushion, safety bag, crash bag

(1) defective **airbag**, (2) **airbag** deployment

The **airbag** system in the car saved the driver's life in a severe crash.

ram

v. to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force

synonym: crash, collide, slam

(1) ram the door open, (2) ram into the ice

The car **rammed** into the wall, causing significant damage.

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.

reforestation

the process of replanting or regenerating forests,
 typically after they have been cut down or destroyed by natural disasters

synonym: afforestation

(1) **reforestation** project, (2) **reforestation** policy **Reforestation** efforts are necessary to combat deforestation and its negative environmental impact.

biochar

 a material produced by heating organic matter under low-oxygen conditions often used as a fertilizer or soil amendment

synonym: biocharcoal, charcoal

(1) **biochar** carbon, (2) **biochar** soil amendment **Biochar** production can be a way to manage organic waste while also generating renewable energy.

moreover

 adv. indicating that what follows is an additional or supplementary point; furthermore; in addition to what has been said before

synonym: furthermore, besides, in addition

(1) **moreover**, she decided to go, (2) but **moreover**, they work well together

The company is environmentally conscious, and **moreover**, it uses sustainable materials in its products.

wildfire

 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.

amplify

- v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness synonym: intensify, boost, argument
- (1) **amplify** a signal, (2) **amplify** the effect You might need to **amplify** this point.

sequester

v. to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.

synonym: isolate, set apart, segregate

- (1) **sequester** ten percent of the annual carbon emissions,
- (2) sequester myself from the world

He approved their requests to **sequester** the jury.

inaugurate

v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony

synonym: initiate, launch, commence

(1) **inaugurate** an enterprise, (2) **inaugurate** a new policy The president will **inaugurate** the new embassy building next week.

geothermal

adj. relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth; often used to refer to energy produced by tapping into the natural heat of the earth

synonym: underground, thermal, subterranean

(1) **geothermal** activity, (2) **geothermal** drilling
The town is exploring using **geothermal** energy to power its homes and buildings.

dissolve

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

synonym: disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

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.

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.

basalt

 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.

entail

v. to involve or require something as necessary, particularly as a consequence of a particular situation or action; to impose a burden or restriction on something

synonym: involve, necessitate, require

(1) entail legal consequences, (2) entail risks

The job offer **entails** a lot of responsibility and hard work.

electrify

to make a machine or system work by using electricity;
 to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

curtail

v. to reduce or restrict something; to shorten or truncate; to cut short or bring to an abrupt end

synonym: restrict, limit, cut back

(1) **curtail** spending, (2) **curtail** freedom

Due to budget constraints, the company had to **curtail** its

marketing campaign for the new product.

displace

v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

synonym: evict, exile, remove

(1) **displace** workers, (2) **displace** the explosive power The construction of the new dam will **displace** hundreds of families living downstream.

retiring

adj. withdrawing from a position or activity, or becoming more secluded or reserved

synonym: shy, leaving, quitting

(1) near **retiring** age, (2) a **retiring** pension

The **retiring** CEO passed on the reins to his successor.

urgently

 adv. in a way that requires immediate action or attention, especially before anything else, because of being very important

synonym: promptly, immediately, swiftly

tackle the problem urgently, (2) urgently required
 need to send this email urgently.

geophysical

adj. relating to the physical characteristics and processes of the Earth and its surrounding atmospheres, such as geology, meteorology, and oceanography

synonym: geologic, earth science, seismic

(1) **geophysical** exploration, (2) **geophysical** data **Geophysical** surveys study the physical characteristics of the Earth's surface and subsurface.

proximate

adj. very near or close, either in space or time; immediately preceding or following something

synonym: immediate, closest, nearest

(1) proximate region, (2) proximate location

The **proximate** cause of the accident was the driver texting on their phone.

zebra

 a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes

synonym: striped horse, wild horse

(1) zebra pattern, (2) zebra crossing

The **zebra's** distinctive black and white stripes help it blend into its surroundings in the wild.

graze

 to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping

synonym: nibble, feed, scrape

(1) turn cattle out to **graze**, (2) **graze** the left shoulder The sheep **graze** on the green grass in the meadow.

sneeze

v. to make a sudden, involuntary expulsion of air from the nose and mouth, usually due to irritation caused by the presence of dust, pollen, or other irritants

synonym: exhale, whiff, blow

(1) **sneeze** into my hand, (2) **sneeze** loudly Whenever I get a cold, I tend to **sneeze** a lot.

endow

 to give a quality, ability, or asset to a person or institution

synonym: finance, subsidize, support

(1) **endow** him with the power, (2) **endow** the scholarship Some people believe that human is **endowed** with reason and capable of distinguishing good from evil.

equator

- an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)
- (1) south of the **equator**, (2) above the **equator** Ecuador is on the **equator**.

paradox

 a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

bounty

 a reward offered for capturing or killing someone or for accomplishing a specific task

synonym: reward, premium, recompense

(1) cash **bounty**, (2) a **bounty** on exports

The **bounty** hunter was hired to capture the notorious criminal and bring him to justice.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

trade-off

 a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise

synonym: compromise, balance, exchange

(1) **trade-off** problem, (2) environmental **trade-off**There was a **trade-off** between speed and accuracy in the task.

innovate

- v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products synonym: bring in, introduce, found
- (1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

capita

 a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone synonym: head, headcount, person

- (1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita** GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.
- to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening

synonym: discourage, prevent, deter

(1) avert disaster, (2) avert a strike

The dam systematically releases large amounts of water to avert flooding during the rainy season

peatland

avert

 an area covered with peat (= a partially decayed organic matter formed from plants)

synonym: bog, marsh, moor

(1) peatland ecosystem, (2) peatland bog

The preservation of **peatlands** is crucial in mitigating climate change, as they help regulate the Earth's temperature and reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide.

grassland

 a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

synonym: meadow, plain, savanna

(1) endangered **grassland**, (2) vast **grassland**Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale **grasslands** in many parts of the world.

smallholding

 a small farm or estate that the owner or family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit

synonym: small farm, homestead, mini ranch

(1) **smallholding** farm, (2) **smallholding** agriculture The farmer's **smallholding** was enough to grow and sell vegetables for their family at the local market.

hapless

adj. having no luck; unfortunate

synonym: unfortunate, unlucky, pitiable

(1) her hapless fate, (2) hapless situation

The **hapless** victim had no way to defend themselves.

helpless

adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

synonym: defenseless, powerless, susceptible

(1) **helpless** baby, (2) **helpless** victims

I feel so helpless without you.

vanguard

 the leading or forefront position in a movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative

synonym: forefront, avant-garde, cutting edge

(1) intellectual vanguard, (2) artistic vanguard

The company is at the **vanguard** of technological innovation in its industry.

Session 2: Spelling

9.

a re____ng pension

ind us student adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in 1. effort 2. el fy the audience to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something he ss baby adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do 3. things without help artistic va____rd the leading or forefront position in a 4. n. movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative sma____ing farm 5. a small farm or estate that the owner or n. family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit 6. av ta strike to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening 7. adv. in a way that requires immediate action tackle the problem ur____ly or attention, especially before anything else, because of being very important 8. an line of latitude that separates Earth's south of the eq____r n. northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)

ANSWERS: 1. industrious, 2. electrify, 3. helpless, 4. vanguard, 5. smallholding, 6. avert, 7. urgently, 8. equator, 9. retiring

adj. withdrawing from a position or activity,

or becoming more secluded or reserved

ANSWERS: 10. trade-off, 11. endow, 12. catastrophe, 13. geothermal, 14. bounty, 15. inject, 16. opportune, 17. industrious, 18. displace, 19. curtail

ANSWERS: 20. sequester, 21. drastic, 22. peatland, 23. peatland, 24. grassland, 25. endow, 26. sequester, 27. sneeze, 28. dissolve, 29. paradox

ANSWERS: 64. basalt, 65. ram, 66. moreover, 67. smallholding, 68. wildfire, 69. grassland, 70. opportune, 71. hapless, 72. halve, 73. airbag

ANSWERS: 74. hapless, 75. biochar, 76. proximate, 77. proximate, 78. geophysical, 79. drastic, 80. retiring, 81. basalt, 82. graze, 83. porous, 84. innovate

85. av__t disaster
86. he____ss victims
87. po___s membrane
88. arson-caused wi____re
89. ur___ly required
90. e__t a gamma ray
91. ina____te an enterprise
92. e__t air pollution
93. am____y a signal

94. ref ion project

- v. to prevent something dangerous or undesirable from happening
- adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
- adj. having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids
- a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
- adv. in a way that requires immediate action or attention, especially before anything else, because of being very important
- ν. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
- v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony
- v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
- v. to enhance something, particularly sound or brightness
- the process of replanting or regenerating forests, typically after they have been cut down or destroyed by natural disasters

ANSWERS: 85. avert, 86. helpless, 87. porous, 88. wildfire, 89. urgently, 90. emit, 91. inaugurate, 92. emit, 93. amplify, 94. reforestation

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	The victim had no way to defend themselves.
adj.	having no luck; unfortunate
	production can be a way to manage organic waste while also generating renewable energy.
n.	a material produced by heating organic matter under low-oxygen conditions often used as a fertilizer or soil amendment
3.	Let's try to a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
<i>v</i> .	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 lack of funds has resulted in a for our university system.
n.	a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
5.	The sheep on the green grass in the meadow.
<i>v</i> .	to feed on grass or other vegetation, especially by nibbling at it repeatedly; to break the skin of a body part by scraping
	Companies developing self-driving cars consistently the emerging technologies.
ν.	to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
7.	The phone rang at the most time.
adj.	suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
	SWERS: 1. hapless, 2. Biochar, 3. inject, 4. catastrophe, 5. graze, 6. innovate, 7 ortune

8.	GDP per shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.	
n.	a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; an head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone	ıy
9.	The town is exploring using energy to power its homes and buildings.	
adj.	j. relating to or produced by the internal heat of the earth; often used to refer to energy produced by tapping into the natural heat of the earth	
10.	Whenever I get a cold, I tend to a lot.	
<i>v</i> .	to make a sudden, involuntary expulsion of air from the nose and mouth, usually due to irritation caused by the presence of dust, pollen, or other irritant	S
11.	The product developed through years of research continues to the market.	
<i>v</i> .	to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something	
12.	The construction of the new dam will hundreds of families living downstream.	
<i>v</i> .	to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especial as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation	ly
13.	Their disagreement caused a in their friendship.	
n.	a break or fissure in a relationship, organization, or physical structure; a large crack in the ground, rock, or other surfaces	
	He was known to be very and would often work late into the night j. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort	
	ISWERS: 8. capita, 9. geothermal, 10. sneeze, 11. electrify, 12. displace, 13. rift, industrious	

 23. The company is at the of technological innovation in its industry. n. the leading or forefront position in a movement, campaign, or trend; a person or group that is at the forefront of something new or innovative
 24. The job offer a lot of responsibility and hard work. ν. to involve or require something as necessary, particularly as a consequence of a particular situation or action; to impose a burden or restriction on something
25. The distinctive black and white stripes help it blend into its surroundings in the wild.
 n. a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes
26. The company is environmentally conscious, and it uses sustainable materials in its products.
adv. indicating that what follows is an additional or supplementary point; furthermore; in addition to what has been said before
27. The political party after much internal fighting.
ν. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
28. During the unloading, the container box a clicking sound.
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
29. The hunter was hired to capture the notorious criminal and bring him to justice.
 n. a reward offered for capturing or killing someone or for accomplishing a specific task
ANSWERS: 23. vanguard, 24. entails, 25. zebra's, 26. moreover, 27. dissolved, 28. emits, 29. bounty

ab-Buil	der Ref from "James Irungu Mwangi: Africa's great carbon valley and how to end energy poverty TED Talk" (47 words
38.	efforts are necessary to combat deforestation and its negative environmental impact.
n.	the process of replanting or regenerating forests, typically after they have been cut down or destroyed by natural disasters
39.	He approved their requests to the jury.
v.	to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.
40.	The farmer's was enough to grow and sell vegetables for their family at the local market.
n.	a small farm or estate that the owner or family typically works; often used to describe a farm that is smaller than a standard agricultural unit
41.	There are many theories to explain this
n.	a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
42.	I need to send this email
adv	in a way that requires immediate action or attention, especially before anything else, because of being very important
43.	I need to the recipe to make just enough for two people.
v.	to divide something into two equal parts; to reduce something by half its original amount or size
44.	The car into the wall, causing significant damage.
v.	to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
45.	Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale in many parts of the world.
n.	a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
	SWERS: 38. Reforestation, 39. sequester, 40. smallholding, 41. paradox, 42. ently, 43. halve, 44. rammed, 45. grasslands

b-Buil	der Ref from "Jame	es Irungu Mwangi: Africa's great carbon valley and how to end energy poverty TED Talk" (47 w
46.	Theevacuate.	_ destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to
n.		controlled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a sland, or mountain slope
47.	and subsurfa	surveys study the physical characteristics of the Earth's surface ce.
adj	_	ne physical characteristics and processes of the Earth and its atmospheres, such as geology, meteorology, and oceanography
AN	SWERS: 46. \	wildfire, 47. Geophysical