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Nkosilathi Nyathi: A next-generation solution to the climate crisis | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

scorch

v. to burn the surface of something, usually accidentally, with a hot iron or flame

synonym: char, burn, singe

(1) **scorch** your clothes, (2) careful not to **scorch**

The sun **scorched** the desert, making it uninhabitable.

swelter

v. to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable

synonym: simmer, roast, bake

(1) **swelter** in their bulletproof vests, (2) **swelter** under the scorching sun

The heat was so intense that it made us **swelter**.

unbearable

adj. not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable

synonym: intolerable, insufferable, unendurable

(1) **unbearable** heat, (2) **unbearable** pain

The loss of his wife was an **unbearable** sorrow that he found hard to overcome.

dwindle

v. to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller

synonym: shrink, decrease, fade

(1) **dwindle** in importance, (2) **dwindle** to almost nothing
The crowds at the festival **dwindled** as the night went on.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym : douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

cyclone

n. a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs

synonym : tornado, twister, hurricane

(1) **cyclone** warning, (2) devastating **cyclone**

The **cyclone's** strong winds and rough seas severely impacted the fishing industry.

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.

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.

livelihood

n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

synonym : occupation, living, income

(1) a means of **livelihood**, (2) **livelihood** assistance
I could no longer earn my own **livelihood**.

biogas

n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel

(1) **biogas** plant, (2) **biogas** digester

The **biogas** produced from organic waste was used to generate electricity.

compost

n. a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil

synonym: fertilizer, humus, manure

(1) organic **compost**, (2) **compost** pile

You can add coffee grounds and crushed eggshells to your **compost** to improve the pH balance.

dusty

adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

synonym: stale, filthy, grimy

(1) **dusty** road, (2) **dusty** bookshelf

The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of **dusty** debris.

podium

n. a raised platform or stand that is used for delivering speeches, conducting meetings, or presenting awards

synonym: lectern, stand, dais

(1) win a **podium** position, (2) **podium** finisher

The speaker stood confidently on the **podium** while delivering their speech.

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.

brink

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

synonym: edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

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.

trickle

v. to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities

synonym: dribble, flow, seep

(1) **trickle** down my cheek, (2) **trickle** from his eyes

Water was beginning to **trickle** into the basement after the heavy rain.

befall

v. to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way

synonym: occur, happen, take place

(1) **befall** tragedy, (2) misfortunes **befall**

I hope nothing bad will **befall** my family during the storm.

insecure

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

synonym: uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment

Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

loom

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym : appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

waterfall

n. a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock

synonym : cascade, falls, rapids

(1) scenic **waterfall**, (2) a **waterfall** with a fall of ten feet

Years of river erosion have formed the uniquely shaped **waterfall** basin.

Session 2: Spelling

1. du__y bookshelf *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
2. unb_____le heat *adj.* not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
3. sc___h your clothes *v.* to burn the surface of something, usually accidentally, with a hot iron or flame
4. in_____re attachment *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
5. 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
6. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
7. l__m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
8. sw_____r in their bulletproof vests *v.* to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable
9. win a po___m position *n.* a raised platform or stand that is used for delivering speeches, conducting meetings, or presenting awards
10. bi___s digester *n.* a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel

ANSWERS: 1. dusty, 2. unbearable, 3. scorch, 4. insecure, 5. disrupt, 6. brink, 7. loom, 8. swelter, 9. podium, 10. biogas

11. co_____t pile *n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
12. I was dr__ned in work *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
13. tr_____e from his eyes *v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
14. bi___s plant *n.* a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
15. misfortunes be___l *v.* to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
16. a means of liv_____od *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
17. avoid climate cat_____he *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
18. scenic wa_____ll *n.* a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock
19. di_____ce workers *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

ANSWERS: 11. compost, 12. drown, 13. trickle, 14. biogas, 15. befall, 16. livelihood, 17. catastrophe, 18. waterfall, 19. displace

30. po___m finisher *n.* a raised platform or stand that is used for delivering speeches, conducting meetings, or presenting awards
31. tr_____e down my cheek *v.* to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
32. devastating cy_____e *n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
33. organic co_____t *n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
34. dw_____e to almost nothing *v.* to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller
35. cat_____he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
36. a wa_____ll with a fall of ten feet *n.* a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock
37. cy_____e warning *n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs

ANSWERS: 30. podium, 31. trickle, 32. cyclone, 33. compost, 34. dwindle, 35. catastrophe, 36. waterfall, 37. cyclone

38. liv_____od assistance *n.* a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
39. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
40. br__k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
41. dw_____e in importance *v.* to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller
42. du__y road *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

ANSWERS: 38. livelihood, 39. opportune, 40. brink, 41. dwindle, 42. dusty

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 crowds at the festival _____ as the night went on.
v. to gradually decrease in size, amount, or strength; to become smaller
3. I could no longer earn my own _____.
n. a means of earning money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.
4. I hope nothing bad will _____ my family during the storm.
v. to happen or occur, especially unexpectedly or by chance; to affect or happen to someone or something in a negative or unfortunate way
5. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
6. The heat was so intense that it made us _____.
v. to feel extremely hot and uncomfortable
7. 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
8. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. catastrophe, 2. dwindled, 3. livelihood, 4. befall, 5. brink, 6. swelter, 7. disrupt, 8. opportune

9. Water was beginning to _____ into the basement after the heavy rain.
v. to flow or drip slowly and in small amounts; to happen or occur gradually or in small quantities
10. The _____ strong winds and rough seas severely impacted the fishing industry.
n. a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
11. The _____ produced from organic waste was used to generate electricity.
n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
12. The sun _____ the desert, making it uninhabitable.
v. to burn the surface of something, usually accidentally, with a hot iron or flame
13. You can add coffee grounds and crushed eggshells to your _____ to improve the pH balance.
n. a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
14. Children in an unstructured environment often feel _____.
adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
15. The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of _____ debris.
adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
16. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

ANSWERS: 9. trickle, 10. cyclone's, 11. biogas, 12. scorched, 13. compost, 14. insecure, 15. dusty, 16. drown

17. The speaker stood confidently on the _____ while delivering their speech.
n. a raised platform or stand that is used for delivering speeches, conducting meetings, or presenting awards
18. Years of river erosion have formed the uniquely shaped _____ basin.
n. a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock
19. The construction of the new dam will _____ hundreds of families living downstream.
v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
20. The loss of his wife was an _____ sorrow that he found hard to overcome.
adj. not able to be tolerated or endured; too difficult, severe, or intense to be dealt with or suffered through; intolerable or insufferable
21. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

ANSWERS: 17. podium, 18. waterfall, 19. displace, 20. unbearable, 21. loomed