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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Ilissa Ocko: The fastest way to slow climate change now | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ilissa\\_ocko\\_the\\_fastest\\_way\\_to\\_slow\\_climate\\_change\\_now](https://www.ted.com/talks/ilissa_ocko_the_fastest_way_to_slow_climate_change_now)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### 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.

### methane

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub> 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.

### linger

v. to stay in a place or exist longer than expected

*synonym*: dawdle, tarry, loiter

(1) **linger** in the mind, (2) **linger** over your work

She **lingered** for a moment before leaving the room.

### stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

*synonym*: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

## worsen

*v.* to become or make something worse

*synonym* : languish, degenerate, degrade

(1) **worsen** a relation, (2) **worsen** the food problem

Unilateral import bans have **worsened** that country's terms of trade.

## buildup

*n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time

*synonym* : accumulation, increase, growth

(1) lactic acid **buildup**, (2) huge military **buildup**

The **buildup** of stress over time can lead to health problems.

## 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.

## gasket

*n.* a mechanical seal or packing that fills the space between two mating surfaces to prevent leaks or gaps, typically made of rubber, silicone, or other flexible materials

*synonym* : seal, packing, washer

(1) engine **gasket**, (2) **gasket** packing

The engine overheated due to a leak in the cylinder head **gasket**.

## 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.

## deprive

*v.* to take away something from someone

*synonym* : deny, take away, divest

(1) **deprive** others of profit, (2) **deprive** him of his status  
He was **deprived** of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

## drone

*n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

*synonym*: hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

## 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**.

## sludge

*n.* a thick, wet mixture of liquid and solid matter, typically one that is unpleasant or harmful

*synonym*: muck, ooze, mire

(1) **sludge** treatment, (2) **sludge** removal

The **sludge** at the bottom of the river was a toxic hazard for marine life.

## electrify

*v.* 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.

## 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.

## belch

*v.* to expel air from the stomach through the mouth with a noisy or offensive sound, typically as a result of swallowing air or because of indigestion

*synonym* : burp, eruct, rumble

(1) **belch** chemical waste into the atmosphere, (2) **belch** loudly

The bubbling mud in the hot spring occasionally **belch** up a foul odor.

## lagoon

*n.* a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean

*synonym* : pond, pool, bayou

(1) **lagoon** island, (2) **lagoon** paradise

The mangroves around the **lagoon** provide a habitat for a unique ecosystem

## staple

*adj.* essential, crucial, or regularly used

*synonym* : essential, fundamental, pivotal

(1) **staple** commodities, (2) **staple** crop

Rice and beans are a **staple** food in many cultures.

## microbe

*n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

*synonym* : germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

**Microbes** thrive on the surface of the human skin.

## 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**.

## standalone

*adj.* (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently

(1) **standalone** application, (2) **standalone** approach

We never prescribe medication as a **standalone** treatment.

## determinant

*n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

*synonym*: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

## 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.

## inequity

*n.* a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice

*synonym*: injustice, unfairness, bias

(1) **inequity** in education, (2) market **inequity**

There's an **inequity** in the criminal justice system that needs to be addressed.

**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.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. el\_\_\_\_\_fy the audience  
*v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
2. e\_\_t air pollution  
*v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
3. sta\_\_\_\_\_ne application  
*adj.* (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently
4. 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
5. ar\_\_\_c ice  
*adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
6. arson-caused wi\_\_\_\_\_re  
*n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
7. de\_\_\_\_\_se matter  
*v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
8. in\_\_\_\_\_ty in education  
*n.* a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice

ANSWERS: 1. electrify, 2. emit, 3. standalone, 4. compost, 5. arctic, 6. wildfire, 7. decompose, 8. inequity

9. be\_\_h loudly *v.* to expel air from the stomach through the mouth with a noisy or offensive sound, typically as a result of swallowing air or because of indigestion
10. st\_\_\_\_\_ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
11. a det\_\_\_\_\_nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
12. la\_\_\_n island *n.* a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean
13. ga\_\_\_t packing *n.* a mechanical seal or packing that fills the space between two mating surfaces to prevent leaks or gaps, typically made of rubber, silicone, or other flexible materials
14. the speaker's dr\_\_e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
15. jazz imp\_\_\_\_\_ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
16. li\_\_\_r in the mind *v.* to stay in a place or exist longer than expected
17. st\_\_\_e crop *adj.* essential, crucial, or regularly used

ANSWERS: 9. belch, 10. stabilize, 11. determinant, 12. lagoon, 13. gasket, 14. drone, 15. improvisation, 16. linger, 17. staple



18. high ar\_\_\_c *adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
19. be\_\_h chemical waste into the atmosphere *v.* to expel air from the stomach through the mouth with a noisy or offensive sound, typically as a result of swallowing air or because of indigestion
20. environmental det\_\_\_\_\_nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
21. pathogenic mi\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
22. la\_\_\_n paradise *n.* a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean
23. huge military bu\_\_\_\_\_p *n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time
24. imp\_\_\_\_\_ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
25. market in\_\_\_\_\_ty *n.* a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice
26. mi\_\_\_\_\_es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
27. e\_\_t a gamma ray *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

ANSWERS: 18. arctic, 19. belch, 20. determinant, 21. microbe, 22. lagoon, 23. buildup, 24. improvisation, 25. inequity, 26. microbe, 27. emit

28. lactic acid bu\_\_\_\_p *n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time
29. de\_\_\_\_e him of his status *v.* to take away something from someone
30. de\_\_\_\_se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
31. de\_\_\_\_e others of profit *v.* to take away something from someone
32. wo\_\_\_\_n a relation *v.* to become or make something worse
33. sl\_\_\_\_e treatment *n.* a thick, wet mixture of liquid and solid matter, typically one that is unpleasant or harmful
34. el\_\_\_\_fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
35. reduce me\_\_\_\_e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
36. dr\_\_e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
37. ind\_\_\_\_us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
38. 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

ANSWERS: 28. buildup, 29. deprive, 30. decompose, 31. deprive, 32. worsen, 33. sludge, 34. electrify, 35. methane, 36. drone, 37. industrious, 38. compost

39. ind\_\_\_\_\_us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
40. atmospheric me\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
41. st\_\_\_e commodities *adj.* essential, crucial, or regularly used
42. st\_\_\_\_\_ze blood sugar levels *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
43. an op\_\_\_\_\_ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
44. wi\_\_\_\_\_re spread *n.* a large, uncontrolled fire that spreads quickly through a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or mountain slope
45. wo\_\_\_n the food problem *v.* to become or make something worse
46. li\_\_\_r over your work *v.* to stay in a place or exist longer than expected
47. engine ga\_\_\_t *n.* a mechanical seal or packing that fills the space between two mating surfaces to prevent leaks or gaps, typically made of rubber, silicone, or other flexible materials
48. sta\_\_\_\_\_ne approach *adj.* (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently
49. op\_\_\_\_\_ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 39. industrious, 40. methane, 41. staple, 42. stabilize, 43. opportune, 44. wildfire, 45. worsen, 46. linger, 47. gasket, 48. standalone, 49. opportune

50. sl\_\_\_e removal

*n.* a thick, wet mixture of liquid and solid matter, typically one that is unpleasant or harmful

ANSWERS: 50. sludge

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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
2. The mangroves around the \_\_\_\_\_ provide a habitat for a unique ecosystem  
*n.* a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean
3. During the unloading, the container box \_\_\_\_\_ a clicking sound.  
*v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
4. The ignition of \_\_\_\_\_ gas in the plant killed five employees.  
*n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub> with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
5. 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
6. 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
7. We never prescribe medication as a \_\_\_\_\_ treatment.  
*adj.* (of computer hardware or software) able to operate the system without being connected to other hardware or software; (also stand-alone) capable of working independently

ANSWERS: 1. arctic, 2. lagoon, 3. emits, 4. methane, 5. decompose, 6. improvisation, 7. standalone

8. 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
9. Rice and beans are a \_\_\_\_\_ food in many cultures.
- adj.* essential, crucial, or regularly used
10. The engine overheated due to a leak in the cylinder head \_\_\_\_\_.
- n.* a mechanical seal or packing that fills the space between two mating surfaces to prevent leaks or gaps, typically made of rubber, silicone, or other flexible materials
11. 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
12. She \_\_\_\_\_ for a moment before leaving the room.
- v.* to stay in a place or exist longer than expected
13. The phone rang at the most \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. The raising of interest rates \_\_\_\_\_ the inflation rate.
- v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
15. The bubbling mud in the hot spring occasionally \_\_\_\_\_ up a foul odor.
- v.* to expel air from the stomach through the mouth with a noisy or offensive sound, typically as a result of swallowing air or because of indigestion

ANSWERS: 8. wildfire, 9. staple, 10. gasket, 11. compost, 12. lingered, 13. opportune, 14. stabilizes, 15. belch

16. One \_\_\_\_\_ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
17. \_\_\_\_\_ thrive on the surface of the human skin.
- n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
18. The product developed through years of research continues to \_\_\_\_\_ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
19. He heard a \_\_\_\_\_ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
- n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ of stress over time can lead to health problems.
- n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time
21. Unilateral import bans have \_\_\_\_\_ that country's terms of trade.
- v.* to become or make something worse
22. There's an \_\_\_\_\_ in the criminal justice system that needs to be addressed.
- n.* a lack of fairness or justice; an unfair or unequal situation or practice
23. He was known to be very \_\_\_\_\_ and would often work late into the night.
- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 16. determinant, 17. Microbes, 18. electrify, 19. drone, 20. buildup, 21. worsened, 22. inequity, 23. industrious

24. He was \_\_\_\_\_ of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

*v.* to take away something from someone

25. The \_\_\_\_\_ at the bottom of the river was a toxic hazard for marine life.

*n.* a thick, wet mixture of liquid and solid matter, typically one that is unpleasant or harmful

ANSWERS: 24. deprived, 25. sludge