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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Stefan AI: Could we build a wooden skyscraper? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

towering

adj. very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature

synonym: lofty, tall, excessive

(1) **towering** trees, (2) **towering** mountain

The **towering** skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.

skyline

n. the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance

synonym: silhouette, cityscape, horizon

(1) **skyline** view, (2) downtown **skyline**

The **skyline** of the city was dotted with tall buildings.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

farmland

n. land used for farming or agricultural purposes

synonym: agriculture, cropland

(1) **farmland** acreage, (2) fertile **farmland**

The government is encouraging farmers to expand their **farmland** to increase food production.

perpendicular

adj. forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon

synonym: vertical, upright, standing

(1) **perpendicular** angles, (2) **perpendicular** walls

The two lines were perfectly **perpendicular** to each other.

tensile

adj. relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension

synonym: flexible, pliable, ductile

(1) **tensile** deformation, (2) **tensile** properties

The engineer tested the **tensile** strength of the metal to determine its durability.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym: condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

laminated

n. a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring

synonym: veneer, coating, layer

(1) **laminated** flooring, (2) **laminated** table

The countertop in my kitchen is made of durable **laminated** material.

glulam

n. a type of engineered wood product made by bonding together multiple layers of lumber to create a strong and

durable structural member, often used in construction and building design

synonym : laminated timber, engineered wood

(1) **glulam** beams, (2) **glulam** construction

The wooden ceiling beams were made of **glulam**, a material that combines strength and beauty.

rigidity

n. the state or quality of being rigid or inflexible; the inability to adapt to change or new circumstances; the condition of being stiff or unyielding

synonym : stiffness, inflexibility, firmness

(1) mental **rigidity**, (2) legal **rigidity**

The **rigidity** of the school's dress code policy caused much controversy among the students and parents.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

crane

n. a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook

synonym : hoist, derrick, winch

(1) **crane** operator, (2) **crane** construction

The construction workers used a **crane** to lift the heavy beams.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

synonym : cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

prefabricated

adj. constructed or made in advance, often in sections or components, before being assembled on-site; manufactured or built in a factory rather than on-site

synonym : prebuilt, prefab, factory-made

(1) **prefabricated** building, (2) **prefabricated** home

The new office building was constructed with **prefabricated** materials, which helped save time and money.

biodegrade

v. to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

(1) **biodegrade** by the microorganism, (2) bioplastic designed to **biodegrade**

The company's plastic products are easily **biodegraded** thanks to a unique manufacturing process.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym : robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym : isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity

We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

evacuate

v. to remove people or things from a place of danger or threat; to leave or abandon a place or situation, often due to fear or risk

synonym : empty, clear out, vacate

(1) **evacuate** the building, (2) **evacuate** civilians

The town was forced to **evacuate** due to the hurricane

approaching.

conductivity

n. the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.

synonym: conduction

(1) low **conductivity**, (2) electrical **conductivity**

High thermal **conductivity** is also essential for the exterior of the machine.

slab

n. a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure

synonym: slate, tile, paving stone

(1) a **slab** of chocolate, (2) marble **slab**

The construction workers poured a large **slab** of concrete for the foundation of the building.

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym: high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed **skyscraper**

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization | <i>n.</i> a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface |
| 2. a hard and re_____nt steel | <i>adj.</i> able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions |
| 3. fa_____nd acreage | <i>n.</i> land used for farming or agricultural purposes |
| 4. sk_____e view | <i>n.</i> the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance |
| 5. per_____lar angles | <i>adj.</i> forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon |
| 6. per_____lar walls | <i>adj.</i> forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon |
| 7. pre_____ted building | <i>adj.</i> constructed or made in advance, often in sections or components, before being assembled on-site; manufactured or built in a factory rather than on-site |
| 8. in_____te the room from sound | <i>v.</i> to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc. |
| 9. to_____ng trees | <i>adj.</i> very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature |
| 10. gl_____m construction | <i>n.</i> a type of engineered wood product made by bonding together multiple layers of lumber to create a strong and durable structural member, often used in construction and building design |

ANSWERS: 1. footprint, 2. resilient, 3. farmland, 4. skyline, 5. perpendicular, 6. perpendicular, 7. prefabricated, 8. insulate, 9. towering, 10. glulam

11. re_____nt population *adj.* able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
12. mental ri_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being rigid or inflexible; the inability to adapt to change or new circumstances; the condition of being stiff or unyielding
13. marble s___b *n.* a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
14. cr___e operator *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
15. bio_____de by the microorganism *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
16. cr___e construction *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
17. la_____te flooring *n.* a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring
18. fertile fa_____nd *n.* land used for farming or agricultural purposes
19. low con_____ity *n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
20. co_____ss the chest *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
21. te_____e properties *adj.* relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension

ANSWERS: 11. resilient, 12. rigidity, 13. slab, 14. crane, 15. biodegrade, 16. crane, 17. laminate, 18. farmland, 19. conductivity, 20. compress, 21. tensile

22. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
23. in____te electricity *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
24. sky_____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
25. downtown sk_____e *n.* the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance
26. pre_____ted home *adj.* constructed or made in advance, often in sections or components, before being assembled on-site; manufactured or built in a factory rather than on-site
27. la_____te table *n.* a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring
28. co_____ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
29. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
30. electrical con_____ity *n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.
31. ev_____te civilians *v.* to remove people or things from a place of danger or threat; to leave or abandon a place or situation, often due to fear or risk

ANSWERS: 22. rev, 23. insulate, 24. skyscraper, 25. skyline, 26. prefabricated, 27. laminate, 28. compress, 29. mimic, 30. conductivity, 31. evacuate

32. m__d allergy *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
33. ev____te the building *v.* to remove people or things from a place of danger or threat; to leave or abandon a place or situation, often due to fear or risk
34. to____ng mountain *adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
35. a s__b of chocolate *n.* a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
36. legal ri____ty *n.* the state or quality of being rigid or inflexible; the inability to adapt to change or new circumstances; the condition of being stiff or unyielding
37. steel-framed sky____er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
38. a casting m__d *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

ANSWERS: 32. mold, 33. evacuate, 34. towering, 35. slab, 36. rigidity, 37. skyscraper, 38. mold

39. te____e deformation *adj.* relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension
40. bioplastic designed to bio_____de *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
41. gl___m beams *n.* a type of engineered wood product made by bonding together multiple layers of lumber to create a strong and durable structural member, often used in construction and building design
42. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
43. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
44. fo_____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

ANSWERS: 39. tensile, 40. biodegrade, 41. glulam, 42. rev, 43. mimic, 44. footprint

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The wooden ceiling beams were made of _____ a material that combines strength and beauty.
 - n.* a type of engineered wood product made by bonding together multiple layers of lumber to create a strong and durable structural member, often used in construction and building design

2. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
 - n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

3. The construction workers used a _____ to lift the heavy beams.
 - n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook

4. The _____ skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.
 - adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature

5. The countertop in my kitchen is made of durable _____ material.
 - n.* a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring

6. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
 - n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

7. We had our bedroom _____ before winter came.
 - v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. glulam, 2. footprint, 3. crane, 4. towering, 5. laminate, 6. rev, 7. insulated

8. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
9. The construction workers poured a large _____ of concrete for the foundation of the building.
n. a flat, rectangular piece of material, such as wood or concrete; often used to describe a large, heavy, or solid object or structure
10. The town was forced to _____ due to the hurricane approaching.
v. to remove people or things from a place of danger or threat; to leave or abandon a place or situation, often due to fear or risk
11. The company's plastic products are easily _____ thanks to a unique manufacturing process.
v. to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
12. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.
n. a very tall building, typically one in a city
13. The new office building was constructed with _____ materials, which helped save time and money.
adj. constructed or made in advance, often in sections or components, before being assembled on-site; manufactured or built in a factory rather than on-site
14. The engineer tested the _____ strength of the metal to determine its durability.
adj. relating to the ability of a material or structure to stretch or bend without breaking or losing its shape; having great strength or flexibility under tension
15. The government is encouraging farmers to expand their _____ to increase food production.
n. land used for farming or agricultural purposes

ANSWERS: 8. resilient, 9. slab, 10. evacuate, 11. biodegraded, 12. skyscraper, 13. prefabricated, 14. tensile, 15. farmland

16. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.

- n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

17. The two lines were perfectly _____ to each other.

- adj.* forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon

18. High thermal _____ is also essential for the exterior of the machine.

- n.* the quality of a material's ability to conduct electricity, heat, etc.

19. The _____ of the school's dress code policy caused much controversy among the students and parents.

- n.* the state or quality of being rigid or inflexible; the inability to adapt to change or new circumstances; the condition of being stiff or unyielding

20. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.

- v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

21. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

- v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

22. The _____ of the city was dotted with tall buildings.

- n.* the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance

ANSWERS: 16. mold, 17. perpendicular, 18. conductivity, 19. rigidity, 20. mimic, 21. compressed, 22. skyline

ANSWERS: