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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Karin Öberg: The galactic recipe for a living planet | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

biomolecule

n. a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

synonym: biochemical, molecule, protein

(1) **biomolecule** structure, (2) protein **biomolecule**

DNA is a complex **biomolecule** that contains the genetic information of an organism.

cyanide

n. a highly toxic compound consisting of a carbon atom triple-bonded to a nitrogen atom, most often encountered as hydrogen cyanide or one of its salts, often used in industrial processes, insecticides, and as a lethal poison

synonym: nitrile, poison, toxin

(1) **cyanide** poisoning, (2) hydrogen **cyanide**

The use of **cyanide** as a chemical weapon is prohibited under international law.

temperate

adj. mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude

synonym: moderate, mild, genial

(1) **temperate** grassland, (2) **temperate** behavior

The **temperate** climate of the region made it an ideal vacation spot.

conceive

v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

synonym: imagine, envision, concoct

(1) **conceive** of an idea, (2) **conceive** a child

I can't **conceive** he'd want to harm us.

interstellar

adj. relating to or located in the space between stars

synonym: galactic, cosmic, intergalactic

(1) **interstellar** communication, (2) **interstellar** space

The **interstellar** medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

elusive

adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

synonym: mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

cypress

n. a tall, conical-shaped evergreen tree with small, needle-like leaves and small cones, often used in landscaping and as ornamental trees

synonym: evergreen, conifer

(1) **cypress** swamp, (2) **cypress** wood

The **cypress** trees provide a picturesque backdrop for the lake.

fertile

adj. capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive

synonym : fruitful, productive, rich

(1) **fertile** ground, (2) **fertile** market

Herbs require **fertile** soil in a sunny, sheltered location.

degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym : demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

tint

n. a shade or small amount of a color

synonym : hue, stain, pigment

(1) rosy **tint** lip, (2) **tint** color

This flower has milky white petals with a pink **tint** on its edges.

unison

n. occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves

synonym : harmony, accord, unanimity

(1) singing in **unison**, (2) clap the hands in **unison**

They saluted in **unison** to the captain.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cy____s swamp *n.* a tall, conical-shaped evergreen tree with small, needle-like leaves and small cones, often used in landscaping and as ornamental trees

2. rosy t__t lip *n.* a shade or small amount of a color

3. protein bio____le *n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

4. t__t color *n.* a shade or small amount of a color

5. de____e his public image *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

6. bio____le structure *n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

7. ob____s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

ANSWERS: 1. cypress, 2. tint, 3. biomolecule, 4. tint, 5. degrade, 6. biomolecule, 7. obsess

8. te_____te grassland *adj.* mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude
9. fe_____e market *adj.* capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive
10. track down an el_____e fact *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
11. cy_____e poisoning *n.* a highly toxic compound consisting of a carbon atom triple-bonded to a nitrogen atom, most often encountered as hydrogen cyanide or one of its salts, often used in industrial processes, insecticides, and as a lethal poison
12. te_____te behavior *adj.* mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude
13. de_____e environmental quality *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
14. co_____ve of an idea *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

ANSWERS: 8. temperate, 9. fertile, 10. elusive, 11. cyanide, 12. temperate, 13. degrade, 14. conceive

15. hydrogen cy____e *n.* a highly toxic compound consisting of a carbon atom triple-bonded to a nitrogen atom, most often encountered as hydrogen cyanide or one of its salts, often used in industrial processes, insecticides, and as a lethal poison
16. an el____e criminal *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
17. fe____e ground *adj.* capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive
18. co____ve a child *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
19. singing in un____n *n.* occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves
20. int____lar space *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
21. clap the hands in un____n *n.* occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves
22. int____lar communication *adj.* relating to or located in the space between stars
23. he is ob____sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
24. cy____s wood *n.* a tall, conical-shaped evergreen tree with small, needle-like leaves and small cones, often used in landscaping and as ornamental trees

ANSWERS: 15. cyanide, 16. elusive, 17. fertile, 18. conceive, 19. unison, 20. interstellar, 21. unison, 22. interstellar, 23. obsess, 24. cypress

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I can't _____ he'd want to harm us.
v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
2. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
3. The physicist who found the _____ particle won the Nobel Prize.
adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
4. They saluted in _____ to the captain.
n. occurring or corresponding together, simultaneously, or exactly; (music) two or more sounds or tones at the same pitch or in octaves
5. Herbs require _____ soil in a sunny, sheltered location.
adj. capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops; intellectually productive
6. The use of _____ as a chemical weapon is prohibited under international law.
n. a highly toxic compound consisting of a carbon atom triple-bonded to a nitrogen atom, most often encountered as hydrogen cyanide or one of its salts, often used in industrial processes, insecticides, and as a lethal poison
7. The _____ climate of the region made it an ideal vacation spot.
adj. mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude
8. DNA is a complex _____ that contains the genetic information of an organism.
n. a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

ANSWERS: 1. conceive, 2. obsessed, 3. elusive, 4. unison, 5. fertile, 6. cyanide, 7.

temperate, 8. biomolecule

9. The _____ medium comprises gas, dust, and cosmic rays that fill the space between stars.

adj. relating to or located in the space between stars

10. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

11. The _____ trees provide a picturesque backdrop for the lake.

n. a tall, conical-shaped evergreen tree with small, needle-like leaves and small cones, often used in landscaping and as ornamental trees

12. This flower has milky white petals with a pink _____ on its edges.

n. a shade or small amount of a color

ANSWERS: 9. interstellar, 10. degrade, 11. cypress, 12. tint