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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Steven Allison: Earth's original inhabitants -- and their role in combating climate change | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_allison_earth_s_ori ginal_inhabitants_and_their_role_in_combating_climate_change



Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

microbe

 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.

sanitize

v. to clean or disinfect something to make it safe or hygienic; to remove potentially harmful or sensitive information from a document or communication

synonym: clean, disinfect, sterilize

(1) sanitize surfaces, (2) sanitize the kitchenI always sanitize my hands before eating to prevent germs from spreading.

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.

adaptable

adj. able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations

synonym: flexible, adjustable, elastic

(1) **adaptable** enough for the environment, (2) an **adaptable** person

We seek a candidate who possesses **adaptable** fighting potential.

inhabitant

- n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular placesynonym: dweller, occupant, resident
- (1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

enamored

adj. deeply in love; having a strong affection or admiration for

synonym: captivated, smitten, in love

(1) **enamored** of the idea, (2) **enamored** of bygone days He had been **enamored** with her since the first time he saw her.

pathogen

 a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

synonym: germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) plant **pathogen**, (2) the **pathogen** in the air mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated **pathogens**.

pandemic

 an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym: outbreak

(1) flu pandemic, (2) global pandemicThey fear a pandemic of a new type of virus.

fungus

 a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive synonym: mold, mildew, yeast

(1) fungus infection, (2) symbiotic fungus

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

microbiology

- the study of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and algae, and their role in various fields such as medicine, agriculture, and the environment
- (1) a specialist in **microbiology**, (2) **microbiology** laboratory

The field of **microbiology** includes the study of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microorganisms.

assemblage

 a collection or gathering of things or persons; a group or ensemble of items that have been brought together in a particular way

synonym: gathering, collection, meeting

(1) sculptural **assemblage**, (2) an **assemblage** of tools The **assemblage** of artists displayed their works in the gallery for all to see.

interloper

 a person who intrudes into a place or sphere of activity where they are not wanted or are considered not to belong

synonym: intruder, trespasser, intruder

(1) an annoying **interloper**, (2) interstellar **interloper**The **interloper** at the party was not on the guest list and was asked to leave.

microbiome

 the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body

synonym: flora

(1) skin **microbiome**, (2) have a diverse **microbiome**The gut **microbiome** is a major producer of serotonin, which is necessary for human mental stability.

cyanobacteria

 a group of photosynthetic bacteria that possess chlorophyll and blue pigments and are characteristically found in aquatic environments; also known as blue-green algae

synonym: blue-green algae, blue-green bacteria, pond scum

(1) **cyanobacteria** blooms, (2) marine **cyanobacteria**The toxic algae bloom in the lake was caused by an overgrowth of **cyanobacteria**.

photosynthesis

- n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
- (1) oxygenic photosynthesis,(2) process of photosynthesisIn photosynthesis, plants use carbon dioxide to feed

themselves.

ecologist

n. a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior

synonym: conservationist, naturalist

(1) behavioral **ecologist**, (2) forestry **ecologist**The forestry **ecologist** studied the interactions between the different species in the forest's ecosystem.

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**.

symbiotic

- adj. involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist
- symbiotic economy, (2) symbiotic bacteria
 we have a mutually symbiotic connection with them.

mycorrhiza

n. a mutually beneficial association between a fungus and the roots of a plant, in which the fungus helps the plant absorb water and nutrients, and the plant provides the fungus with sugars produced through photosynthesis

synonym: fungus, root, relationship

(1) mycorrhiza fungi, (2) orchid mycorrhiza

Some studies have shown that plants grown in soil with a high population of **mycorrhizal** fungi are more resistant to drought and disease.

inoculate

v. to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

synonym: vaccinate, immunize, protect

(1) **inoculate** against disease, (2) **inoculate** with a virus The doctor **inoculated** the child with a vaccine.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym: settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

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.

moss

 a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks

synonym: plant, foliage, greenery

(1) green moss, (2) moss garden

Moss grows in damp, shaded areas and is often found on the forest floor.

mushroom

a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

synonym: fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

recycle

to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

synonym: reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

diligent

adj. showing or characterized by care and effort in your work or duties

synonym: active, engaged, assiduous

- (1) a diligent person, (2) a diligent search of the files The **diligent** detective investigated all clues.
- to reduce something to small particles or powder by grind crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of

synonym: mill, crush, grate

time

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

deprive

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.

biofuel

 a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels

synonym: renewable energy, green fuel, alternative fuel

(1) **biofuel** production, (2) **biofuel** technology The airplane was powered by a **biofuel** made from plant-based materials.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

staphylococcus

 n. (also staph) a type of bacteria that can cause various types of infections in humans, including skin infections, pneumonia, and food poisoning

synonym: bacteria, microbe, germ

(1) **staphylococcus** aureus, (2) **staphylococcus** bacteria The patient was diagnosed with a **staphylococcus** infection.

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**.

sterilize

v. to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation

synonym: disinfect, sanitize, cleanse

(1) **sterilize** chemically, (2) **sterilize** surfaces

The nurse **sterilized** the instruments before the surgery to prevent any infections.

faze

ooze

v. to disturb or disconcert someone, often causing them to lose their confidence or composure; to unsettle, intimidate, or fluster

synonym: disturb, unsettle, bother

- faze a decision-maker, (2) unlikely to faze him
 won't let a little criticism faze me from pursuing my dreams.
- v. to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily

synonym: flow, seep, drip

(1) **ooze** from the speakers, (2) **ooze** with confidence The wound on his leg continued to **ooze** blood even after he applied pressure.

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.

biochemical

adj. relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms

synonym: molecular, biological

(1) **biochemical** reaction, (2) complex **biochemical Biochemical** research is essential to understanding the complex chemical reactions in living organisms.

vault

 a large room or chamber used for storage, often for valuables such as money, documents, or artwork; (verb) to leap or jump over something; to move quickly or suddenly

synonym: safe, strongbox, coffer

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(1) vault door, (2) vault from five to fifty percent					
The government vault contains top-secret documents and					
classified information that only a few individuals can access.					

buildup

- n. the accumulation or increase of something over timesynonym: accumulation, increase, growth
- lactic acid buildup, (2) huge military buildup
 The buildup of stress over time can lead to health problems.

reimagine

v. to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way

synonym: re-conceptualize, re-envision, re-create

- (1) **reimagine** the future, (2) **reimagine** the possibilities The company is trying to **reimagine** its business model to stay competitive.
- spew v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and

in large amounts

synonym: vomit, spout, discharge

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(1) **spew** carbon dioxide, (2) **spew** insults

The volcano started to **spew** lava and ash, causing panic among residents.

well-being

- n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperoussynonym: health, welfare, happiness
- (1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being** We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	inre attachment	adj.	give way, or not assured of safety
2.	stze chemically	ν.	to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation
3.	biI technology	n.	a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
4.	pathogenic mie	n.	a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
5.	ree the cardboard boxes	ν.	to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
6.	the early inhnts of Europe	n.	a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
7.	plant paen	n.	a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
8.	have a diverse micme	n.	the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body
9.	sw insults	<i>v</i> .	to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

ANSWERS: 1. insecure, 2. sterilize, 3. biofuel, 4. microbe, 5. recycle, 6. inhabitant, 7. pathogen, 8. microbiome, 9. spew

ANSWERS: 10. emit, 11. photosynthesis, 12. degrade, 13. cyanobacteria, 14. deprive, 15. assemblage, 16. fungus, 17. inoculate

decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

n.

or directed toward or relating to the

a type of fungus that grows on dead or

outside or exterior

ANSWERS: 26. reimagine, 27. well-being, 28. insecure, 29. decompose, 30. symbiotic, 31. biochemical, 32. pandemic, 33. fungus, 34. ecologist, 35. mushroom

35. mu___om spores

36. oe from the speakers	ν.	to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily			
37. huge military bup	n.	the accumulation or increase of something over time			
38. cyaria blooms	n.	a group of photosynthetic bacteria that possess chlorophyll and blue pigments and are characteristically found in aquatic environments; also known as blue-green algae			
39. vat from five to fifty percent	n.	a large room or chamber used for storage, often for valuables such as money, documents, or artwork; (verb) to leap or jump over something; to move quickly or suddenly			
40. inhnt tax	n.	a person or an animal that lives in a particular place			
41. coze planets	ν.	to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers			
42. ree milk packaging into new paper	v.	to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again			
43. lactic acid bup	n.	the accumulation or increase of something over time			
44. stze surfaces	ν.	to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation			
45. an adle person	adj.	able or willing to modify or be modified to deal with new situations			
ANSWERS: 36. ooze, 37. buildup, 38. cyanobacteria, 39. vault, 40. inhabitant, 41. colonize, 42. recycle, 43. buildup, 44. sterilize, 45. adaptable					

ANSWERS: 46. faze, 47. grind, 48. degrade, 49. symbiotic, 50. grind, 51. reimagine, 52. enamored, 53. inoculate, 54. microbiology

ANSWERS: 55. sequester, 56. assemblage, 57. colonize, 58. moss, 59. interloper, 60. microbiome, 61. interloper, 62. mycorrhiza

71. en ed of the idea adj. deeply in love; having a strong affection or admiration for 72. sa ze the kitchen to clean or disinfect something to make it safe or hygienic; to remove potentially harmful or sensitive information from a document or communication 73. de____e others of profit to take away something from someone ν. 74. flu pa ic an outbreak of a disease that affects n. many people over a very wide area to eject forcefully and abundantly; to 75. s_w carbon dioxide flow out rapidly and in large amounts 76. oxygenic pho____sis the process through which plants and n. other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities. to give off or send out something such 77. e ta gamma ray ν. as light, heat, sound, gas, etc. adj. showing or characterized by care and 78. a di nt person effort in your work or duties 79. o e with confidence to flow or seep out slowly, often in a thick, viscous manner; to exude or emit slowly and steadily the state of being happy and healthy 80. a sense of wel ng and prosperous 81. de____se matter to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or

ANSWERS: 71. enamored, 72. sanitize, 73. deprive, 74. pandemic, 75. spew, 76. photosynthesis, 77. emit, 78. diligent, 79. ooze, 80. well-being, 81. decompose

elements

82. bio_____al reaction
83. mu___om cultivation
84. m__s garden
85. bio_____al reaction
86. relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms
86. relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms
87. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
88. m__s garden
89. a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or

on rocks

ANSWERS: 82. biochemical, 83. mushroom, 84. moss

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	The toxic algae bloom in the lake was caused by an overgrowth of
n.	a group of photosynthetic bacteria that possess chlorophyll and blue pigments and are characteristically found in aquatic environments; also known as blue-green algae
2.	If you don't eat soon, you're going to
v.	to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
3.	The at the party was not on the guest list and was asked to leave.
n.	a person who intrudes into a place or sphere of activity where they are not wanted or are considered not to belong
4.	mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated .
n.	a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
5.	His family is the oldest of the island.
n.	a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
6.	The forestry studied the interactions between the different species in the forest's ecosystem.
n.	a person who studies the relationships between living organisms and their environment; the state of being outside or directed toward or relating to the outside or exterior
	SWERS: 1. cyanobacteria, 2. starve, 3. interloper, 4. pathogens, 5. inhabitant, 6. blogist