

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Soraya Field Fiorio: The infamous overpopulation bet:

Simon vs. Ehrlich | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

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**.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym: assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

unchecked

adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference

synonym: uncontrolled, unrestrained, unbridled

(1) **unchecked** ambition, (2) **unchecked** growth

The **unchecked** spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.

outpace

v. to move or proceed at a faster rate than someone or something else; to surpass or exceed someone's or

something's performance or ability

synonym : outdistance, outstrip, overtake

(1) **outpace** market share, (2) **outpace** economic growth
Her running speed allowed her to **outpace** her competitors and win the race.

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym : hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

unrest

n. a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace

synonym : disturbance, agitation, turmoil

(1) **unrest** in the city, (2) cause **unrest**

The recent political **unrest** in the country has led to widespread protests and civil disobedience.

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.

ingenuity

n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

synonym : creativity, invention, originality

(1) the infinite **ingenuity** of man, (2) abound in **ingenuity**

Creativity and **ingenuity** are often brought about by extreme concentration.

diminish

v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

synonym : decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling

As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

preposterous

adj. absurd, ridiculous, or contrary to reason or common sense

synonym : ridiculous, absurd, nonsensical

(1) **preposterous** claim, (2) **preposterous** price

The idea that aliens built the pyramids is **preposterous**.

scathe

v. to harm or injure someone or something, often by using words or criticism; to cut or wound deeply

synonym : damage, harm, hurt

(1) **scathe** the coastal town, (2) **scathe** the politician's credibility

The harsh words from her boss were enough to **scathe** her confidence for the rest of the day.

incite

v. to encourage, stir up, or provoke someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive

synonym : provoke, stimulate, encourage

(1) **incite** violence, (2) **incite** rebellion

The politician's speech seemed designed to **incite** anger and unrest among the crowd.

wager

n. a bet or gamble, typically involving a sum of money, on the outcome of an event or situation

synonym : bet, stake, gamble

(1) friendly **wager**, (2) make a **wager**

I placed a **wager** with my friend who would win the basketball game.

feud

n. a bitter argument between two parties, causing a lot of anger or violence

synonym : argument, conflict, dispute

(1) family **feud**, (2) carry out a **feud**

The retired politician resolved the **feud** between groups

through mediation.

prioritize

v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things

synonym: rank, order, arrange

(1) **prioritize** tasks, (2) **prioritize** people over cars

The organization **prioritized** the needs of the community in its decision-making.

overpopulation

n. a situation in which the number of people or living organisms in a particular area or environment exceeds the carrying capacity or resources of that area or environment

synonym: population explosion, demographic burden, overcrowding

(1) **overpopulation** problem, (2) **overpopulation** crisis

Many animal species are at risk of extinction due to human **overpopulation** and habitat destruction.

scarcity

n. the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount

synonym: lack, absence, dearth

(1) fuel **scarcity**, (2) **scarcity** of capital

Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor **scarcity**.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

synonym: hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. sc___e the politician's credibility | <i>v.</i> to harm or injure someone or something, often by using words or criticism; to cut or wound deeply |
| 2. make a wa__r | <i>n.</i> a bet or gamble, typically involving a sum of money, on the outcome of an event or situation |
| 3. ou_____e economic growth | <i>v.</i> to move or proceed at a faster rate than someone or something else; to surpass or exceed someone's or something's performance or ability |
| 4. pri_____ze people over cars | <i>v.</i> to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things |
| 5. ove_____ion crisis | <i>n.</i> a situation in which the number of people or living organisms in a particular area or environment exceeds the carrying capacity or resources of that area or environment |
| 6. family f__d | <i>n.</i> a bitter argument between two parties, causing a lot of anger or violence |
| 7. un___t in the city | <i>n.</i> a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace |
| 8. fa___e relief | <i>n.</i> a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons |
| 9. the infinite in_____ty of man | <i>n.</i> the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways |
| 10. pre_____ous price | <i>adj.</i> absurd, ridiculous, or contrary to reason or common sense |

ANSWERS: 1. scathe, 2. wager, 3. outpace, 4. prioritize, 5. overpopulation, 6. feud, 7. unrest, 8. famine, 9. ingenuity, 10. preposterous

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11. coal fa___e | <i>n.</i> a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons |
| 12. on the br__k | <i>n.</i> the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place |
| 13. un_____ed ambition | <i>adj.</i> not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference |
| 14. st___e to death | <i>v.</i> 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 |
| 15. abound in in_____ty | <i>n.</i> the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways |
| 16. po__t the existence of life after death | <i>v.</i> to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration |
| 17. br__k of war | <i>n.</i> the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place |
| 18. po__t the premise | <i>v.</i> to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration |
| 19. st___e for a victory | <i>v.</i> 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 |
| 20. in___e rebellion | <i>v.</i> to encourage, stir up, or provoke someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive |

ANSWERS: 11. famine, 12. brink, 13. unchecked, 14. starve, 15. ingenuity, 16. posit, 17. brink, 18. posit, 19. starve, 20. incite

21. cause un___t *n.* a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace
22. sc____ty of capital *n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
23. in___e violence *v.* to encourage, stir up, or provoke someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive
24. sta_____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
25. ove_____ion problem *n.* a situation in which the number of people or living organisms in a particular area or environment exceeds the carrying capacity or resources of that area or environment
26. friendly wa__r *n.* a bet or gamble, typically involving a sum of money, on the outcome of an event or situation
27. di____sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
28. pre_____ous claim *adj.* absurd, ridiculous, or contrary to reason or common sense
29. fuel sc____ty *n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
30. di____sh swelling *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
31. die of sta_____on *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

ANSWERS: 21. unrest, 22. scarcity, 23. incite, 24. starvation, 25. overpopulation, 26. wager, 27. diminish, 28. preposterous, 29. scarcity, 30. diminish, 31. starvation

32. un_____ed growth *adj.* not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
33. sc___e the coastal town *v.* to harm or injure someone or something, often by using words or criticism; to cut or wound deeply
34. pri_____ze tasks *v.* to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
35. ou_____e market share *v.* to move or proceed at a faster rate than someone or something else; to surpass or exceed someone's or something's performance or ability
36. carry out a f__d *n.* a bitter argument between two parties, causing a lot of anger or violence

ANSWERS: 32. unchecked, 33. scathe, 34. prioritize, 35. outpace, 36. feud

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The recent political _____ in the country has led to widespread protests and civil disobedience.
 - n. a state of agitation or disturbance; lack of calm or peace

2. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
 - v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

3. Many animal species are at risk of extinction due to human _____ and habitat destruction.
 - n. a situation in which the number of people or living organisms in a particular area or environment exceeds the carrying capacity or resources of that area or environment

4. The politician's speech seemed designed to _____ anger and unrest among the crowd.
 - v. to encourage, stir up, or provoke someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive

5. The harsh words from her boss were enough to _____ her confidence for the rest of the day.
 - v. to harm or injure someone or something, often by using words or criticism; to cut or wound deeply

6. Her running speed allowed her to _____ her competitors and win the race.
 - v. to move or proceed at a faster rate than someone or something else; to surpass or exceed someone's or something's performance or ability

ANSWERS: 1. unrest, 2. posit, 3. overpopulation, 4. incite, 5. scathe, 6. outpace

7. The organization _____ the needs of the community in its decision-making.
 - v. to assign a higher level of importance to something compared to other things
8. The retired politician resolved the _____ between groups through mediation.
 - n. a bitter argument between two parties, causing a lot of anger or violence
9. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.
 - n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
10. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
 - n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
11. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.
 - n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
12. I placed a _____ with my friend who would win the basketball game.
 - n. a bet or gamble, typically involving a sum of money, on the outcome of an event or situation
13. Creativity and _____ are often brought about by extreme concentration.
 - n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
14. As people get old, their energies may _____.
 - v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
15. 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

ANSWERS: 7. prioritized, 8. feud, 9. starvation, 10. brink, 11. famine, 12. wager, 13. ingenuity, 14. diminish, 15. starve

16. The idea that aliens built the pyramids is _____.

adj. absurd, ridiculous, or contrary to reason or common sense

17. Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor _____.

n. the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount

18. The _____ spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.

adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference

ANSWERS: 16. preposterous, 17. scarcity, 18. unchecked