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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

A.J. Jacobs: The life cycle of a cup of coffee | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

shrub

n. a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil

synonym: bush, hedge, fern

(1) tree and **shrubs**, (2) small **shrub**

These are **shrubs** with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.

domesticate

v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

synonym: tame, naturalize, cultivate

(1) easy to **domesticate**, (2) **domesticate** the plant

We **domesticate** cows to gain milk and meat.

equator

n. an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)

(1) south of the **equator**, (2) above the **equator**

Ecuador is on the **equator**.

ripen

v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe

synonym: mature, grow, age

(1) **ripen** the fruit, (2) **ripen** naturally

His tireless efforts **ripen** into success.

toil

v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

synonym: struggle, labor, work hard

(1) **toil** to make a living, (2) **toil** up the mountain

The farmers **toiled** in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.

dusk

n. the period of the day just before nightfall when the light begins to fade; the darker part of twilight

synonym: twilight, gloaming, sundown

(1) **dusk** sky, (2) **dusk** falls

The sky turned a beautiful orange hue at **dusk**.

ferment

v. to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases;
(noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements

synonym: ripen, simmer, (noun) agitation

(1) **ferment** sugar into ethanol, (2) political **ferment**

The dough was left to **ferment** overnight to give the bread its distinctive flavor.

rake

n. a garden tool with a long handle and curved, pointed teeth used for gathering fallen leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from lawns and gardens; a dissolute or immoral person, often one who pursues pleasure and debauchery to excess

synonym: scraper, harrow, hoe

(1) bamboo **rake**, (2) **rake's** behavior

The golf course has special **rakes** for smoothing out the sand

traps.

sieve

n. a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully

synonym: strainer, colander, tamis

(1) **sieve** tissue, (2) molecular **sieve**

The baker sifted the flour through a **sieve** to remove any lumps.

roast

v. to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven

synonym: bake, broil, grill

(1) **roast** coffee beans, (2) **roast** beef

The chef **roasted** the chicken to perfection in the oven.

brew

v. to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water

synonym: make, prepare

(1) **brew** a cup of tea, (2) **brew** beer

I am going to **brew** some coffee this morning.

aroma

n. a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

synonym: fragrance, scent, smell

(1) **aroma** therapy, (2) coffee **aroma**

The **aroma** of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.

mouthfeel

n. the tactile sensation or feeling of food or drink in the mouth, including its texture, viscosity, and other physical characteristics

synonym: texture, consistency

(1) smooth **mouthfeel**, (2) crispy **mouthfeel**

The creamy **mouthfeel** of the ice cream was due to the high-fat content.

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.

burlap

n. a rough, woven fabric made from jute, hemp, or other fibers, often used for making sacks

synonym : hessian, gunny, jute

(1) **burlap** table runner, (2) **burlap** ribbon

The farmer used **burlap** sacks to transport his vegetables to the market.

sack

v. to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place;
(noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things

synonym : discharge, remove, (noun) bag

(1) **sack** an employee, (2) a sleep **sack**

He was **sacked** from his job for stealing company property.

unload

v. to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.

synonym : empty, offload, unpack

(1) **unload** the cargo, (2) **unload** a dishwasher

He had to **unload** the merchandise before the Black Friday bargain.

grind

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

synonym : mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

barista

n. a person who works in a coffee shop or café, typically making and serving coffee and other hot beverages

synonym: coffee maker, coffee expert, espresso artist

(1) **barista** skills, (2) professional **barista**

The **barista** at my favorite coffee shop always makes the perfect latte.

elixir

n. a medicinal or restorative substance believed to possess healing properties; a drink or potion believed to promote good health, vitality, or longevity

synonym: potion, concoction, panacea

(1) **elixir** of eternal life, (2) magical **elixir**

The chef added a secret **elixir** to the dish to enhance the flavor.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym: wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. gr__d your teeth *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
2. s__k an employee *v.* to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things
3. el___r of eternal life *n.* a medicinal or restorative substance believed to possess healing properties; a drink or potion believed to promote good health, vitality, or longevity
4. r__e's behavior *n.* a garden tool with a long handle and curved, pointed teeth used for gathering fallen leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from lawns and gardens; a dissolute or immoral person, often one who pursues pleasure and debauchery to excess
5. t__l to make a living *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
6. smooth mo_____el *n.* the tactile sensation or feeling of food or drink in the mouth, including its texture, viscosity, and other physical characteristics

ANSWERS: 1. grind, 2. sack, 3. elixir, 4. rake, 5. toil, 6. mouthfeel

7. bu___p ribbon *n.* a rough, woven fabric made from jute, hemp, or other fibers, often used for making sacks
8. st___e commodities *adj.* essential, crucial, or regularly used
9. political fe_____t *v.* to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases; (noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements
10. professional ba_____a *n.* a person who works in a coffee shop or café, typically making and serving coffee and other hot beverages
11. gr__d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
12. bamboo r__e *n.* a garden tool with a long handle and curved, pointed teeth used for gathering fallen leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from lawns and gardens; a dissolute or immoral person, often one who pursues pleasure and debauchery to excess
13. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
14. ar__a therapy *n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

ANSWERS: 7. burlap, 8. staple, 9. ferment, 10. barista, 11. grind, 12. rake, 13. determinant, 14. aroma

25. coffee ar__a *n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object
26. tree and sh__bs *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
27. crispy mo_____el *n.* the tactile sensation or feeling of food or drink in the mouth, including its texture, viscosity, and other physical characteristics
28. b__w beer *v.* to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water
29. bu___p table runner *n.* a rough, woven fabric made from jute, hemp, or other fibers, often used for making sacks
30. south of the eq____r *n.* an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)
31. d__k falls *n.* the period of the day just before nightfall when the light begins to fade; the darker part of twilight
32. a ma___l of beauty *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
33. easy to dom_____te *v.* to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
34. small sh__b *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
35. fe_____t sugar into ethanol *v.* to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases; (noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements

ANSWERS: 25. aroma, 26. shrub, 27. mouthfeel, 28. brew, 29. burlap, 30. equator, 31. dusk, 32. marvel, 33. domesticate, 34. shrub, 35. ferment

36. si__e tissue *n.* a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully
37. a sleep s__k *v.* to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things
38. un___d a dishwasher *v.* to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.
39. un___d the cargo *v.* to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.
40. magical el___r *n.* a medicinal or restorative substance believed to possess healing properties; a drink or potion believed to promote good health, vitality, or longevity
41. ro__t coffee beans *v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
42. 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
43. st___e crop *adj.* essential, crucial, or regularly used
44. ro__t beef *v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven

ANSWERS: 36. sieve, 37. sack, 38. unload, 39. unload, 40. elixir, 41. roast, 42. determinant, 43. staple, 44. roast

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The sky turned a beautiful orange hue at _____.
n. the period of the day just before nightfall when the light begins to fade; the darker part of twilight

2. She had to _____ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

3. The creamy _____ of the ice cream was due to the high-fat content.
n. the tactile sensation or feeling of food or drink in the mouth, including its texture, viscosity, and other physical characteristics

4. The farmers _____ in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.
v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

5. The _____ at my favorite coffee shop always makes the perfect latte.
n. a person who works in a coffee shop or café, typically making and serving coffee and other hot beverages

6. He was _____ from his job for stealing company property.
v. to remove or dismiss someone from a position or place; (noun) a large bag made of strong, rough material, such as burlap, that is used for storing or carrying things

7. I am going to _____ some coffee this morning.
v. to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water

ANSWERS: 1. dusk, 2. grind, 3. mouthfeel, 4. toiled, 5. barista, 6. sacked, 7. brew

8. He had to _____ the merchandise before the Black Friday bargain.
v. to remove contents of something from a vehicle, ship, container, etc.
9. Ecuador is on the _____.
n. an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)
10. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.
n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
11. Rice and beans are a _____ food in many cultures.
adj. essential, crucial, or regularly used
12. We _____ cows to gain milk and meat.
v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
13. The farmer used _____ sacks to transport his vegetables to the market.
n. a rough, woven fabric made from jute, hemp, or other fibers, often used for making sacks
14. The baker sifted the flour through a _____ to remove any lumps.
n. a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully
15. These are _____ with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.
n. a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
16. The _____ of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.
n. a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

ANSWERS: 8. unload, 9. equator, 10. marvel, 11. staple, 12. domesticate, 13. burlap, 14. sieve, 15. shrubs, 16. aroma

17. The golf course has special _____ for smoothing out the sand traps.
- n.* a garden tool with a long handle and curved, pointed teeth used for gathering fallen leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from lawns and gardens; a dissolute or immoral person, often one who pursues pleasure and debauchery to excess
18. His tireless efforts _____ into success.
- v.* to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe
19. The chef added a secret _____ to the dish to enhance the flavor.
- n.* a medicinal or restorative substance believed to possess healing properties; a drink or potion believed to promote good health, vitality, or longevity
20. The dough was left to _____ overnight to give the bread its distinctive flavor.
- v.* to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases; (noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements
21. The chef _____ the chicken to perfection in the oven.
- v.* to cook food by surrounding it with hot, dry air, especially in an oven
22. 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

ANSWERS: 17. rakes, 18. ripen, 19. elixir, 20. ferment, 21. roasted, 22. determinant