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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kate Slabosky: Can the ocean run out of oxygen? |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

- gulf** *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
synonym: chasm, divide, abyss
(1) **gulf** war, (2) **gulf** stream
The **Gulf** of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.
- teem** *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
synonym: brim, swarm, overflow
(1) **teem** with activity, (2) **teem** down
The city **teems** with traffic on holiday.
- crustacean** *n.* a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton
synonym: lobster, crab, shrimp
(1) **crustacean** dish, (2) **crustacean** shell
A lobster is a type of **crustacean** found in the ocean.
- baleen** *n.* whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater
synonym: whisker, bristle, sieve
(1) **baleen** bristles, (2) **baleen** plates

The whale's **baleen** filters out small organisms for the animal to eat.

suffocate

v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression

synonym : choke, smother, stifle

(1) **suffocate** to death, (2) **suffocate** fire

People can **suffocate** from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.

algae

n. A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

(1) **algae** biofuel, (2) blue **algae**

Algae has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.

cyanobacteria

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

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**.

seaweed

n. a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae

synonym : kelp, algae

(1) floating **seaweed**, (2) **seaweed** broth

She soaked **seaweed** in water until tender.

seagrass

n. a type of grass that grows in shallow salty or brackish water along coasts

synonym : seaweed, eelgrass, ocean-plant

(1) **seagrass** habitat, (2) **seagrass** bed

Seagrass meadows help reduce coastal erosion by stabilizing sediments and acting as a buffer against waves

and storms.

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 **photosynthesis**

In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

phosphorus

n. a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element

synonym: P, phosphoric, phosphorous

(1) **phosphorus** element, (2) yellow **phosphorus**

Phosphorus compounds are commonly used to manufacture fertilizers to promote plant growth.

rainstorm

n. a heavy fall of rain

synonym: downpour, deluge, cloudburst

(1) furious **rainstorm**, (2) brave a **rainstorm**

The severe **rainstorm** caused flash flooding in low-lying areas.

eutrophication

n. the process by which a body of water becomes enriched with excess nutrients (usually from agricultural runoff or sewage), resulting in an overgrowth of algae and other aquatic plants, which can eventually cause oxygen depletion and the death of other organisms in the water

synonym: overfertilization

(1) **eutrophication** problem, (2) pond **eutrophication**

The **eutrophication** of the lake caused an overgrowth of algae.

deprive

v. 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.

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**.

deplete

v. to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials

synonym: exhaust, consume, use up

(1) **deplete** customer confidence, (2) **deplete** glycogen stores

If we continue to **deplete** the Earth's natural resources, we will cause severe damage to the environment.

uninhabitable

adj. not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation

synonym: desolate, dilapidated, unlivable

(1) **uninhabitable** conditions, (2) **uninhabitable** apartment

The hurricane left many coastal areas **uninhabitable** for a long time.

sew

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym: stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

estuary

n. a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix

synonym: delta, mouth, inlet

(1) **estuary** port, (2) **estuary** delta

The mouth of the river formed an **estuary** where saltwater and freshwater met.

pollutant

n. a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil

synonym: contaminant, toxic substance

(1) noxious **pollutant**, (2) water **pollutant**

The factory's use of chemicals has made it a significant **pollutant** in the area.

saltwater

adj. of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea

synonym: marine, naval, maritime

(1) a **saltwater** fish, (2) **saltwater** crocodile

The ecosystem upstream of the river significantly impacts the **saltwater** ecosystem downstream.

seafloor

n. the bottom of the ocean

synonym: ocean floor, benthic zone, abyssal plain

(1) **seafloor** exploration, (2) **seafloor** mapping

The oceanographer studied the **seafloor** topography to understand how it had changed over time.

circulate

v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

synonym: flow, disperse, rotate

(1) **circulate** a rumor, (2) **circulate** an agenda before the meeting

The fan **circulates** the air in the room quickly.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work

late into the night.

untreated

adj. not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment

synonym: raw, unprocessed, coarse

(1) an **untreated** disease, (2) dispose of **untreated** formalin solution

Heat stroke is the result of **untreated** heat exhaustion.

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.

incentivize

v. to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

synonym: encourage, motivate

(1) **incentivize** carpooling, (2) **incentivize** the right behavior

Governments **incentivize** their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cya_____ria 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
2. g__f war *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
3. es_____y delta *n.* a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix
4. s_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
5. blue al__e *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
6. ci_____te a rumor *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
7. inc_____ze the right behavior *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
8. dispose of un_____ed formalin solution *adj.* not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment
9. small sh__b *n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
10. eut_____ion problem *n.* the process by which a body of water becomes enriched with excess nutrients (usually from agricultural runoff or sewage), resulting in an overgrowth of algae and other aquatic plants, which can eventually cause oxygen depletion and the death of other organisms in the water

ANSWERS: 1. cyanobacteria, 2. gulf, 3. estuary, 4. sew, 5. algae, 6. circulate, 7.

incentivize, 8. untreated, 9. shrub, 10. eutrophication

11. process of pho_____sis *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.
12. g__f stream *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
13. inc_____ze carpooling *v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward
14. brave a ra_____rm *n.* a heavy fall of rain
15. su_____te to death *v.* to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
16. an un_____ed disease *adj.* not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment
17. noxious po_____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
18. se_____d broth *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
19. marine cya_____ria *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

ANSWERS: 11. photosynthesis, 12. gulf, 13. incentivize, 14. rainstorm, 15. suffocate, 16. untreated, 17. pollutant, 18. seaweed, 19. cyanobacteria

20. ba___n plates *n.* whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater
21. sa_____er crocodile *adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
22. pond eut_____ion *n.* the process by which a body of water becomes enriched with excess nutrients (usually from agricultural runoff or sewage), resulting in an overgrowth of algae and other aquatic plants, which can eventually cause oxygen depletion and the death of other organisms in the water
23. al__e biofuel *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
24. furious ra_____rm *n.* a heavy fall of rain
25. de_____e others of profit *v.* to take away something from someone
26. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
27. cru_____an dish *n.* a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton
28. yellow pho_____us *n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element
29. t__m down *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

ANSWERS: 20. baleen, 21. saltwater, 22. eutrophication, 23. algae, 24. rainstorm, 25. deprive, 26. industrious, 27. crustacean, 28. phosphorus, 29. teem

30. floating se_____d *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
31. pho_____us element *n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element
32. de_____se matter *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
33. t__m with activity *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
34. de_____se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
35. se_____ss habitat *n.* a type of grass that grows in shallow salty or brackish water along coasts
36. uni_____ble apartment *adj.* not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation
37. de_____e customer confidence *v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
38. ba____n bristles *n.* whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater
39. water po_____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil

ANSWERS: 30. seaweed, 31. phosphorus, 32. decompose, 33. teem, 34. decompose, 35. seagrass, 36. uninhabitable, 37. deplete, 38. baleen, 39. pollutant

40. a sa_____er fish *adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
41. su_____te fire *v.* to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
42. ci_____te an agenda before the meeting *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
43. uni_____ble conditions *adj.* not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation
44. se_____or exploration *n.* the bottom of the ocean
45. de_____e glycogen stores *v.* to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
46. se_____ss bed *n.* a type of grass that grows in shallow salty or brackish water along coasts
47. s_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
48. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
49. cru_____an shell *n.* a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton

ANSWERS: 40. saltwater, 41. suffocate, 42. circulate, 43. uninhabitable, 44. seafloor, 45. deplete, 46. seagrass, 47. sew, 48. industrious, 49. crustacean

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The hurricane left many coastal areas _____ for a long time.
adj. not suitable or safe for people to live in; lacking the necessary conditions for human habitation
2. My mother taught me how to _____.
v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
3. The factory's use of chemicals has made it a significant _____ in the area.
n. a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
4. He was _____ of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.
v. to take away something from someone
5. _____ meadows help reduce coastal erosion by stabilizing sediments and acting as a buffer against waves and storms.
n. a type of grass that grows in shallow salty or brackish water along coasts
6. _____ has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.
n. A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
7. Heat stroke is the result of _____ heat exhaustion.
adj. not given medical care or treatment; not subjected to chemical or physical treatment
8. After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to _____.
v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

ANSWERS: 1. uninhabitable, 2. sew, 3. pollutant, 4. deprived, 5. Seagrass, 6. Algae, 7. untreated, 8. decompose

9. People can _____ from a lack of oxygen in confined spaces.
- v. to die or cause someone to die from lack of air or inability to breathe; to be overwhelmed or constricted by a feeling or situation, such as anxiety or oppression
10. The oceanographer studied the _____ topography to understand how it had changed over time.
- n. the bottom of the ocean
11. If we continue to _____ the Earth's natural resources, we will cause severe damage to the environment.
- v. to reduce something, especially supplies of energy, money, etc., by a large amount; to use up resources or materials
12. A lobster is a type of _____ found in the ocean.
- n. a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton
13. The _____ of the lake caused an overgrowth of algae.
- n. the process by which a body of water becomes enriched with excess nutrients (usually from agricultural runoff or sewage), resulting in an overgrowth of algae and other aquatic plants, which can eventually cause oxygen depletion and the death of other organisms in the water
14. The city _____ with traffic on holiday.
- v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
15. The fan _____ the air in the room quickly.
- v. to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

ANSWERS: 9. suffocate, 10. seafloor, 11. deplete, 12. crustacean, 13. eutrophication, 14. teems, 15. circulates

16. The ecosystem upstream of the river significantly impacts the _____ ecosystem downstream.
- adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
17. The whale's _____ filters out small organisms for the animal to eat.
- n.* whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater
18. The _____ of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.
- n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
19. The severe _____ caused flash flooding in low-lying areas.
- n.* a heavy fall of rain
20. She soaked _____ in water until tender.
- n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
21. The mouth of the river formed an _____ where saltwater and freshwater met.
- n.* a place where a river meets the sea, typically where the fresh and saltwater mix
22. 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
23. Governments _____ their citizens to buy eco-friendly products through subsidies.
- v.* to make someone want to do in a particular way by offering them a reward

ANSWERS: 16. saltwater, 17. baleen, 18. Gulf, 19. rainstorm, 20. seaweed, 21. estuary, 22. cyanobacteria, 23. incentivize

24. In _____ plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.
- 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.
25. _____ compounds are commonly used to manufacture fertilizers to promote plant growth.
- n.* a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15 that is a non-metallic, highly reactive, and luminescent element
26. 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
27. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 24. photosynthesis, 25. Phosphorus, 26. shrubs, 27. industrious