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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Wallace-Wells: How we could change the planet's climate future | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

environmentalist

n. a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment

synonym : conservationist

(1) dedicated **environmentalist**, (2) an **environmentalist** political party

The **environmentalist** lobby changed the mindset of many conservative politicians.

fortress

n. a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

synonym : castle, citadel, stronghold

(1) **fortress** wall, (2) military **fortress**

The ancient **fortress** was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.

complacent

adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes

synonym : content, satisfied, self-satisfied

(1) **complacent** attitude, (2) **complacent** with past successes

He became **complacent** in his job and stopped trying to improve.

delude

v. to deceive or mislead someone; to give a false impression of something

synonym: deceive, mislead, fool

(1) **delude** with false promises, (2) **delude** the public

It is easy to **delude** yourself into thinking everything is fine when it's not.

livable

adj. capable of being lived in comfortably and sustainably; suitable for human habitation

synonym: habitable, comfortable, pleasant

(1) **livable** city, (2) **livable** housing

Finding a safe and **livable** neighborhood is important when looking for a new place to live.

heatstroke

n. a serious and potentially life-threatening condition caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures, which symptoms include high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, and confusion or loss of consciousness

synonym: heat exhaustion, hyperthermia, sunstroke

(1) **heatstroke** symptoms, (2) **heatstroke** prevention

The hiker experienced a severe **heatstroke** after hiking in the desert for several hours without enough water.

industrialize

v. to organize the production of something into an industry

synonym: motorize

(1) **industrialize** service, (2) **industrialized** textile production

The nations of South East Asia will quickly **industrialize** and catch up with the West.

enclose

v. to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include

synonym: surround, encase, contain

(1) **enclose** a check with a letter, (2) **enclose** area

The walls were **enclosed** to create a private outdoor space.

rudimentary

adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

synonym : essential, fundamental, elementary

(1) a **rudimentary** plant, (2) **rudimentary** understanding

He has only a **rudimentary** knowledge of this topic.

saga

n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes

synonym : epic, tale, chronicle

(1) fantasy **saga**, (2) historical **saga**

The epic **saga** of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

grandchild

n. a child of someone's son or daughter

synonym : offspring, descendant, progeny

(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

gore

v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death;
(noun) coagulated blood from a wound

synonym : pierce, stab, puncture

(1) **gore** him with a weapon, (2) **gore** scene

The hunter **gored** the deer with an arrow.

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.

catastrophe

n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
synonym: disaster, calamity, cataclysm

(1) **catastrophe** risk management, (2) avoid climate **catastrophe**

The lack of funds has resulted in a **catastrophe** for our university system.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

exhilarating

adj. making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill

synonym: thrilling, exciting, stimulating

(1) an **exhilarating** drink, (2) **exhilarating** view

Bungee jumping was an **exhilarating** experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.

inaction

n. the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed

synonym: idleness, passivity, inertia

(1) excuse for **inaction**, (2) consequences of **inaction**

Inaction in response to climate change poses a dire threat to our future.

barnacle

n. a type of crustacean that attaches itself to hard surfaces underwater, such as rocks, ships, or docks; a metaphorical term used to describe a person or object that is difficult to remove or separate from another

person or object

synonym : cirripede, shellfish, crustacean

(1) **barnacle** growth, (2) **barnacle** removal

The bottom of the boat was covered in **barnacles**, slowing its speed in the water.

sliver

n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something

synonym : splinter, shard, fragment

(1) **sliver** of wood, (2) **sliver** of metal

I had to be careful not to step on a **sliver** of glass on the floor.

vegan

n. a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons

(1) raw food **vegan**, (2) **vegan** lifestyle

The **vegan** diet is based on plant-based foods.

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.

methane

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

(1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions

The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

decarbonize

v. to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy

synonym : decoke, decarburise, decarburize

- (1) **decarbonize** their manufacturing process,
(2) **decarbonize** its energy system

We have to seek methods to **decarbonize** its fossil fuel economy.

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.

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.

seawall

n. a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline

synonym : embankment, breakwater

- (1) strong **seawall**, (2) **seawall** construction

The beachfront property owners installed a **seawall** to protect their homes from the rising tides.

levee

n. an artificial embankment or wall built to prevent a river or low-lying land from flooding

synonym : dike, embankment, floodwall

- (1) **levee** protection, (2) **levee** breach

The concrete **levee** protects from the rising river during floods.

nationalist

adj. relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and

devotion to one's own country

synonym : chauvinist, patriotic, jingoist

(1) **nationalist** sentiment, (2) **nationalist** revolt

The **nationalist** rally attracted thousands of supporters.

geopolitical

adj. of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area

(1) the **geopolitical** situations, (2) reduce **geopolitical** risk

The country holds dominant **geopolitical** power over its neighbors.

insignificant

adj. of little importance, influence, or power

synonym : unimportant, trivial, irrelevant

(1) **insignificant** amount, (2) an **insignificant** mistake

He made me feel small and **insignificant**.

indifference

n. a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something

synonym : apathy, disinterest, unconcern

(1) **indifference** to pain, (2) general **indifference**

I tried to assume an air of **indifference**.

quo

n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

synonym : status, condition, state

(1) status **quo** politician, (2) **quo** warranto

The company has been successful in maintaining the status **quo**.

disinterest

n. lack of interest, concern, or involvement in a particular matter; impartiality or neutrality

synonym : impartiality, neutrality, detachment

(1) show **disinterest**, (2) **disinterest** in politics

The judge's **disinterest** in the case allowed for an impartial decision.

prosperous

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

synonym : successful, thriving, affluent

(1) **prosperous** weather, (2) **prosperous** nation

The company decided to invest in a **prosperous** industry.

Session 2: Spelling

1. nat_____st revolt
adj. relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
2. hea_____ke prevention
n. a serious and potentially life-threatening condition caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures, which symptoms include high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, and confusion or loss of consciousness
3. ind_____us student
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
4. g__e him with a weapon
v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
5. le__e breach
n. an artificial embankment or wall built to prevent a river or low-lying land from flooding
6. atmospheric me_____e
n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
7. com_____nt attitude
adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes
8. com_____nt with past successes
adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes
9. consequences of in_____on
n. the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed

ANSWERS: 1. nationalist, 2. heatstroke, 3. industrious, 4. gore, 5. levee, 6. methane, 7. complacent, 8. complacent, 9. inaction

10. q_o warranto *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
11. reduce geo_____cal risk *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
12. avoid climate cat_____he *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
13. li_____e housing *adj.* capable of being lived in comfortably and sustainably; suitable for human habitation
14. ind_____ize service *v.* to organize the production of something into an industry
15. e__t a gamma ray *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
16. se_____l construction *n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
17. ins_____ant amount *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
18. de___e the public *v.* to deceive or mislead someone; to give a false impression of something
19. pro_____us weather *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
20. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter

ANSWERS: 10. quo, 11. geopolitical, 12. catastrophe, 13. livable, 14. industrialize, 15. emit, 16. seawall, 17. insignificant, 18. delude, 19. prosperous, 20. grandchild

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 21. ter_____ng events | <i>adj.</i> very frightening or intimidating |
| 22. great-gra_____nt | <i>n.</i> a parent of one's father or mother |
| 23. status q_o politician | <i>n.</i> the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue |
| 24. on the br__k | <i>n.</i> the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place |
| 25. le__e protection | <i>n.</i> an artificial embankment or wall built to prevent a river or low-lying land from flooding |
| 26. exh_____ing view | <i>adj.</i> making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill |
| 27. dis_____st in politics | <i>n.</i> lack of interest, concern, or involvement in a particular matter; impartiality or neutrality |
| 28. ve__n lifestyle | <i>n.</i> a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons |
| 29. an env_____ist political party | <i>n.</i> a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment |
| 30. general ind_____nce | <i>n.</i> a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something |
| 31. se_____d broth | <i>n.</i> a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae |

ANSWERS: 21. terrifying, 22. grandparent, 23. quo, 24. brink, 25. levee, 26. exhilarating, 27. disinterest, 28. vegan, 29. environmentalist, 30. indifference, 31. seaweed

32. the geo_____cal situations *adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
33. br__k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
34. strong se_____l *n.* a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
35. sl____r of wood *n.* a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
36. floating se_____d *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
37. excuse for in_____on *n.* the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed
38. rud_____ry understanding *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
39. dec_____ze their manufacturing process *v.* to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy

ANSWERS: 32. geopolitical, 33. brink, 34. seawall, 35. sliver, 36. seaweed, 37. inaction, 38. rudimentary, 39. decarbonize

40. de___e with false promises *v.* to deceive or mislead someone; to give a false impression of something
41. ind_____ized textile production *v.* to organize the production of something into an industry
42. g__e scene *v.* to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
43. li_____e city *adj.* capable of being lived in comfortably and sustainably; suitable for human habitation
44. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
45. nat_____st sentiment *adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
46. historical s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
47. sl___r of metal *n.* a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something
48. gra_____ld development *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
49. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 40. delude, 41. industrialize, 42. gore, 43. livable, 44. ancestor, 45. nationalist, 46. saga, 47. sliver, 48. grandchild, 49. ancestor

50. pro_____us nation *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
51. cat_____he risk management *n.* a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
52. ind_____nce to pain *n.* a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
53. en_____e area *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
54. ter_____ng experience *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
55. ba_____le removal *n.* a type of crustacean that attaches itself to hard surfaces underwater, such as rocks, ships, or docks; a metaphorical term used to describe a person or object that is difficult to remove or separate from another person or object
56. dec_____ze its energy system *v.* to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy
57. e__t air pollution *v.* to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
58. military fo_____ss *n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
59. a rud_____ry plant *adj.* relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental

ANSWERS: 50. prosperous, 51. catastrophe, 52. indifference, 53. enclose, 54. terrifying, 55. barnacle, 56. decarbonize, 57. emit, 58. fortress, 59. rudimentary

70. fantasy s__a *n.* a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
71. ba____le growth *n.* a type of crustacean that attaches itself to hard surfaces underwater, such as rocks, ships, or docks; a metaphorical term used to describe a person or object that is difficult to remove or separate from another person or object
72. an ins_____ant mistake *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power

ANSWERS: 70. saga, 71. barnacle, 72. insignificant

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The judge's _____ in the case allowed for an impartial decision.
n. lack of interest, concern, or involvement in a particular matter; impartiality or neutrality
2. He became _____ in his job and stopped trying to improve.
adj. satisfied with the status quo and not wishing to make changes
3. The epic _____ of the family's journey through time captivated readers worldwide.
n. a long, detailed story or account of heroic deeds, family history, or notable events, often consisting of a series of connected episodes
4. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
n. a child of someone's son or daughter
5. _____ in response to climate change poses a dire threat to our future.
n. the lack of action or activity; the state of not doing anything; the failure to take action when action is needed
6. Bungee jumping was an _____ experience that left me shaking with adrenaline.
adj. making one feel very happy and lively; invigorating; providing a feeling of excitement or thrill
7. I had to be careful not to step on a _____ of glass on the floor.
n. a small, thin, narrow piece or fragment of something, often characterized by its length or its sharpness or thinness; a small portion or amount of something, often used in a metaphorical sense to describe a trace or a hint of something

ANSWERS: 1. disinterest, 2. complacent, 3. saga, 4. grandchild, 5. Inaction, 6. exhilarating, 7. sliver

8. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
adj. very frightening or intimidating
9. During the unloading, the container box _____ a clicking sound.
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
10. Finding a safe and _____ neighborhood is important when looking for a new place to live.
adj. capable of being lived in comfortably and sustainably; suitable for human habitation
11. I tried to assume an air of _____.
n. a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or sympathy towards someone or something
12. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
13. He has only a _____ knowledge of this topic.
adj. relating to basic facts or principles; fundamental
14. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
n. a parent of one's father or mother
15. The hunter _____ the deer with an arrow.
v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
16. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.
adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

ANSWERS: 8. terrifying, 9. emits, 10. livable, 11. indifference, 12. industrious, 13. rudimentary, 14. grandparents, 15. gored, 16. prosperous

17. The company has been successful in maintaining the status ____.
- n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
18. It is easy to _____ yourself into thinking everything is fine when it's not.
- v.* to deceive or mislead someone; to give a false impression of something
19. The country holds dominant _____ power over its neighbors.
- adj.* of or relating to political activity or relations between countries and groups of countries, as influenced by the physical features of a country or area
20. The _____ lobby changed the mindset of many conservative politicians.
- n.* a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment
21. The walls were _____ to create a private outdoor space.
- v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
22. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
- n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
23. The bottom of the boat was covered in _____ slowing its speed in the water.
- n.* a type of crustacean that attaches itself to hard surfaces underwater, such as rocks, ships, or docks; a metaphorical term used to describe a person or object that is difficult to remove or separate from another person or object
24. The hiker experienced a severe _____ after hiking in the desert for several hours without enough water.
- n.* a serious and potentially life-threatening condition caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures, which symptoms include high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, and confusion or loss of consciousness

ANSWERS: 17. quo, 18. delude, 19. geopolitical, 20. environmentalist, 21. enclosed, 22. brink, 23. barnacles, 24. heatstroke

25. The _____ rally attracted thousands of supporters.
adj. relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
26. The beachfront property owners installed a _____ to protect their homes from the rising tides.
n. a barrier or structure made of concrete, stone, or other materials that are built along the coastline or riverbanks to protect against erosion, flooding, or waves; a structure that separates the water from the land and helps to preserve the shoreline
27. The lack of funds has resulted in a _____ for our university system.
n. a sudden event that causes extreme ruin and misfortune
28. 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
29. He made me feel small and _____.
adj. of little importance, influence, or power
30. The nations of South East Asia will quickly _____ and catch up with the West.
v. to organize the production of something into an industry
31. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
32. The concrete _____ protects from the rising river during floods.
n. an artificial embankment or wall built to prevent a river or low-lying land from flooding

ANSWERS: 25. nationalist, 26. seawall, 27. catastrophe, 28. seaweed, 29. insignificant, 30. industrialize, 31. ancestor, 32. levee

33. The ignition of _____ gas in the plant killed five employees.
- n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
34. The _____ diet is based on plant-based foods.
- n.* a person who does not eat or use any animal products, typically for ethical or environmental reasons
35. We have to seek methods to _____ its fossil fuel economy.
- v.* to stop or reduce emitting carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, by replacing energy made from fossil fuels with renewable energy
36. The ancient _____ was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.
- n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

ANSWERS: 33. methane, 34. vegan, 35. decarbonize, 36. fortress