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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Stefan Al: What happens if you cut down all of a city's trees? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

chop

v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife

synonym: cut, hack, slice

(1) **chop** wood, (2) **chop** a meet with a knife

The cook **chopped** the vegetables for the soup.

offshoot

n. a subsidiary or secondary branch or part of something; a new development or idea that has grown out of a larger one

synonym: branch, derivation, offspring

(1) an **offshoot** of the company, (2) cultural **offshoot**

The new program is an **offshoot** of the main curriculum for students with specific interests.

enlightenment

n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge

synonym: civilization, awareness, sophistication

(1) spiritual **enlightenment**, (2) **enlightenment** activity

He finally brought his **enlightenment** to perfection.

reverence

n. a deep respect for someone or something

synonym: respect, honor, awe

(1) **reverence** for tradition, (2) pay **reverence** to him

The people of the village showed great **reverence** for the elderly.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym: defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

saltiness

n. the quality or state of being salty

(1) the taste of **saltiness**, (2) enhance the **saltiness**

She tasted the dish and detected a slight **saltiness**.

converse

v. to talk informally

synonym: discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

sponge

n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

(1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500 million years.

mudslide

n. a natural disaster in which a large amount of mud, rocks, and debris slide uncontrollably down a steep slope

synonym: landslide, mudflow

(1) **mudslide** disaster, (2) **mudslide** warning

The town was devastated by a massive **mudslide** after heavy rainfall.

toxin

n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

synonym: poison, venom, contaminant

(1) **toxin** exposure, (2) **toxin** production

Mold exposure can release dangerous **toxins** into the air.

purify

v. to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

synonym: refine, filter, clarify

(1) **purify** hydrogen gas, (2) **purify** the blood

The equipment is frequently used to **purify** and distribute drinking water.

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.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

arboreal

adj. relating to or living in trees; characterized by the presence of trees

synonym: woody, tree-dwelling, dendriform

(1) **arboreal** lifestyle, (2) **arboreal** habitat

The spider monkey is an **arboreal** primate found in Central and South America.

oppressive

adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way

synonym: stifling, overwhelming, depressing

(1) the atmosphere was **oppressive**, (2) **oppressive** governments

The political situation has become increasingly **oppressive**.

cholera

n. a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes

synonym: infectious disease, epidemic, plague

(1) **cholera** toxin, (2) **cholera** epidemic

The outbreak of **cholera** was a major health crisis in the 19th century.

skyscraper

n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

synonym: high-rise, tower

(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed **skyscraper**

The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

bronchitis

n. an inflammation of the bronchial tubes, often resulting in cough, chest discomfort, and difficulty breathing, can be caused by viral or bacterial infections, environmental irritants, or other factors

synonym: chest cold, respiratory infection, bronchial inflammation

(1) viral **bronchitis**, (2) chronic **bronchitis**

I have a terrible case of **bronchitis** and need to see a doctor.

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**.

foliage

n. the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes

synonym : leaves, greenery, flora

(1) colorful **foliage**, (2) autumn **foliage**

The vibrant **foliage** on the vines made the winery look even more beautiful.

colonel

n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general

synonym : officer, military, ranking officer

(1) **colonel** rank, (2) brevet **colonel**

The Army **colonel** led the troops into battle.

savannah

n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

synonym : grassland, plain

(1) **savannah** region, (2) tropical **savannah**

The birds live in tropical forests, **savannahs**, and arid semi-desert environments.

resilient

adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

synonym : robust, sturdy, tough

(1) a hard and **resilient** steel, (2) **resilient** population

She is a **resilient** person and has always bounced back from setbacks.

mammal

n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

(1) a primitive **mammal**, (2) a sort of **mammal**

Marine **mammal** populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

conservatory

n. a place where plants are grown and cultivated, often for scientific or educational purposes; a school or institution that provides training in music, dance, or other performing arts

synonym: greenhouse, nursery, school

(1) **conservatory** of music, (2) **conservatory** plant

The **conservatory** program offered advanced training in acting and theater production.

rainwater

n. water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected

synonym: precipitation, drizzle, showers

(1) **rainwater** acidity, (2) **rainwater** drainage

The company installed a **rainwater** harvesting system to collect and reuse it for manufacturing.

landmass

n. a large area of land, especially one that is distinct from surrounding areas by its topography, geology, or biota

synonym: continent, mainland, landform

(1) large **landmass**, (2) continental **landmass**

Australia is the world's smallest continent by **landmass**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. di____sh swelling | <i>v.</i> to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc. |
| 2. co____se with an acquaintance | <i>v.</i> to talk informally |
| 3. a hard and re_____nt steel | <i>adj.</i> able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions |
| 4. tropical sa____ah | <i>n.</i> a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close |
| 5. con_____te his ego | <i>v.</i> to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture |
| 6. re_____nt population | <i>adj.</i> able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions |
| 7. brevet co_____l | <i>n.</i> a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general |
| 8. environmental det_____nt | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 9. sa____ah region | <i>n.</i> a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close |
| 10. pay re_____ce to him | <i>n.</i> a deep respect for someone or something |

ANSWERS: 1. diminish, 2. converse, 3. resilient, 4. savannah, 5. contaminate, 6. resilient, 7. colonel, 8. determinant, 9. savannah, 10. reverence

20. mu____de warning *n.* a natural disaster in which a large amount of mud, rocks, and debris slide uncontrollably down a steep slope
21. opp_____ve governments *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
22. pu___y hydrogen gas *v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
23. ra_____er acidity *n.* water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected
24. chronic bro_____is *n.* an inflammation of the bronchial tubes, often resulting in cough, chest discomfort, and difficulty breathing, can be caused by viral or bacterial infections, environmental irritants, or other factors
25. large la_____ss *n.* a large area of land, especially one that is distinct from surrounding areas by its topography, geology, or biota
26. the taste of sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
27. con_____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
28. a sort of ma___l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
29. pu___y the blood *v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
30. sea sp___e *n.* a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning

ANSWERS: 20. mudslide, 21. oppressive, 22. purify, 23. rainwater, 24. bronchitis, 25. landmass, 26. saltiness, 27. contaminate, 28. mammal, 29. purify, 30. sponge

31. continental la____ss *n.* a large area of land, especially one that is distinct from surrounding areas by its topography, geology, or biota
32. un____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
33. mu____de disaster *n.* a natural disaster in which a large amount of mud, rocks, and debris slide uncontrollably down a steep slope
34. autumn fo____e *n.* the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes
35. re____ce for tradition *n.* a deep respect for someone or something
36. enhance the sa____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
37. colorful fo____e *n.* the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes
38. cultural of____ot *n.* a subsidiary or secondary branch or part of something; a new development or idea that has grown out of a larger one
39. ch____a toxin *n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes

ANSWERS: 31. landmass, 32. uncover, 33. mudslide, 34. foliage, 35. reverence, 36. saltiness, 37. foliage, 38. offshoot, 39. cholera

40. spiritual enl_____ent *n.* education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
41. con_____ory plant *n.* a place where plants are grown and cultivated, often for scientific or educational purposes; a school or institution that provides training in music, dance, or other performing arts
42. ar_____al habitat *adj.* relating to or living in trees; characterized by the presence of trees
43. ch_____a epidemic *n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
44. noxious po_____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
45. water po_____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
46. c__p a meet with a knife *v.* to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
47. an of _____ot of the company *n.* a subsidiary or secondary branch or part of something; a new development or idea that has grown out of a larger one
48. the atmosphere was opp_____ve *adj.* treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way

ANSWERS: 40. enlightenment, 41. conservatory, 42. arboreal, 43. cholera, 44. pollutant, 45. pollutant, 46. chop, 47. offshoot, 48. oppressive

49. to__n production *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
50. co____l rank *n.* a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
51. ra____er drainage *n.* water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected
52. ask a co____se question *v.* to talk informally
53. sky____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
54. ar____al lifestyle *adj.* relating to or living in trees; characterized by the presence of trees
55. di____sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
56. steel-framed sky____er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city

ANSWERS: 49. toxin, 50. colonel, 51. rainwater, 52. converse, 53. skyscraper, 54. arboreal, 55. diminish, 56. skyscraper

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He finally brought his _____ to perfection.
n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
2. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.
n. a very tall building, typically one in a city
3. The political situation has become increasingly _____.
adj. treating people in a cruel and authoritarian way
4. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.
v. to talk informally
5. The _____ program offered advanced training in acting and theater production.
n. a place where plants are grown and cultivated, often for scientific or educational purposes; a school or institution that provides training in music, dance, or other performing arts
6. As people get old, their energies may _____.
v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
7. The town was devastated by a massive _____ after heavy rainfall.
n. a natural disaster in which a large amount of mud, rocks, and debris slide uncontrollably down a steep slope

ANSWERS: 1. enlightenment, 2. skyscraper, 3. oppressive, 4. converse, 5. conservatory, 6. diminish, 7. mudslide

8. The vibrant _____ on the vines made the winery look even more beautiful.
n. the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes
9. The people of the village showed great _____ for the elderly.
n. a deep respect for someone or something
10. The tiny marine _____ has existed for more than 500 million years.
n. a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
11. I have a terrible case of _____ and need to see a doctor.
n. an inflammation of the bronchial tubes, often resulting in cough, chest discomfort, and difficulty breathing, can be caused by viral or bacterial infections, environmental irritants, or other factors
12. The Army _____ led the troops into battle.
n. a military rank above a lieutenant colonel and below a general
13. She tasted the dish and detected a slight _____.
n. the quality or state of being salty
14. She is a _____ person and has always bounced back from setbacks.
adj. able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
15. The cook _____ the vegetables for the soup.
v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
16. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.
v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

ANSWERS: 8. foliage, 9. reverence, 10. sponge, 11. bronchitis, 12. colonel, 13. saltiness, 14. resilient, 15. chopped, 16. contaminate

17. The equipment is frequently used to _____ and distribute drinking water.
- v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
18. The outbreak of _____ was a major health crisis in the 19th century.
- n.* a severe infectious disease that causes acute diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration, often resulting in a rapid and dangerous loss of body fluids and electrolytes
19. The company installed a _____ harvesting system to collect and reuse it for manufacturing.
- n.* water that falls from the clouds in the form of rain and is collected
20. Australia is the world's smallest continent by _____.
- n.* a large area of land, especially one that is distinct from surrounding areas by its topography, geology, or biota
21. 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
22. The new program is an _____ of the main curriculum for students with specific interests.
- n.* a subsidiary or secondary branch or part of something; a new development or idea that has grown out of a larger one
23. Marine _____ populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.
- n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

ANSWERS: 17. purify, 18. cholera, 19. rainwater, 20. landmass, 21. pollutant, 22. offshoot, 23. mammal

24. Mold exposure can release dangerous _____ into the air.
- n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
25. 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
26. The spider monkey is an _____ primate found in Central and South America.
- adj.* relating to or living in trees; characterized by the presence of trees
27. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
- v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
28. The birds live in tropical forests, _____ and arid semi-desert environments.
- n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

ANSWERS: 24. toxins, 25. determinant, 26. arboreal, 27. uncovered, 28. savannahs,