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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Stuart Oda: Are indoor vertical farms the future of agriculture? | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/stuart\\_oda\\_are\\_indoor\\_vertical\\_farms\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_agriculture](https://www.ted.com/talks/stuart_oda_are_indoor_vertical_farms_the_future_of_agriculture)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### 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.

### acquit

*v.* to declare someone not guilty of a crime; to relieve someone of a duty or obligation

*synonym* : absolve, clear, exonerate

(1) **acquit** a suspect, (2) **acquit** him of his duty

The jury decided to **acquit** the defendant due to a lack of evidence.

### spoil

*v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

*synonym* : rot, decay, deteriorate

(1) **spoil** a person's sport, (2) **spoil** the surprise

If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will **spoil**.

### 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.

## unsurprising

*adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted

*synonym*: predictable, expected, foreseeable

(1) **unsurprising** success, (2) **unsurprising** result

The **unsurprising** outcome of the election was a victory for the incumbent candidate.

## arid

*adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality

*synonym*: dry, parched, barren

(1) **arid** terrain, (2) semi- **arid** zone

The desert is known for its **arid** climate and lack of rainfall.

## decommission

*v.* to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair

*synonym*: retire, dismantle, disable

(1) **decommission** the dam, (2) **decommission** ship

After years of protests from environmental activists, the government decided to **decommission** the nuclear power plant.

## hydroponic

*adj.* relating to the cultivation of plants in nutrient-rich water instead of soil, often using specialized equipment or systems to optimize growth and production

*synonym*: soilless, aquaponic, aquacultural

(1) **hydroponic** vegetables, (2) **hydroponic** farm

The **hydroponic** garden in my kitchen allows me to grow fresh herbs and vegetables year-round.

## aeroponic

*adj.* relating to a technique of growing plants without soil by suspending the roots in a mist or aerosol of nutrients

*synonym*: aerospace, hydroponic, mist

(1) **aeroponic** vegetable, (2) **aeroponic** garden  
An **aeroponic** system uses mist to grow plants.

## urethane

*n.* a synthetic organic compound used as a monomer to manufacture flexible and rigid polyurethane foams, adhesives, and coatings

*synonym*: ethyl carbamate

(1) **urethane** foam, (2) **urethane** sealant

The car's bumper was coated with a **urethane** layer for extra protection.

## 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.

## biodegrade

*v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

(1) **biodegrade** by the microorganism, (2) bioplastic designed to **biodegrade**

The company's plastic products are easily **biodegraded** thanks to a unique manufacturing process.

## peat

*n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world

(1) **peat** reserves, (2) **peat** production

Gardeners often use **peat** as a soil conditioner to improve drainage and retain moisture.

## moss

*n.* a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks

*synonym*: plant, foliage, greenery

(1) green **moss**, (2) **moss** garden

**Moss** grows in damp, shaded areas and is often found on the forest floor.

## inorganic

*adj.* being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon

(1) **inorganic** acid, (2) **inorganic** nutrition

**Inorganic** substances include rocks and minerals.

## perlite

*n.* a type of volcanic glass that expands when heated and is used as a soil additive to improve drainage and aeration

*synonym*: silicate rock, volcanic glass

(1) agricultural **perlite**, (2) **perlite** filter aid

He added **perlite** insulation to the walls of his home to improve energy efficiency.

## pellet

*n.* a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic

*synonym*: bead, ball, bullet

(1) the form of a small **pellet**, (2) **pellet** stove

The **pellet** gun was used to shoot small metal balls.

## 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.

## recycle

*v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

*synonym*: reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because

they contain a lot of valuable metals.

## conserve

*v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

*synonym*: preserve, save, maintain

(1) means to **conserve** energy, (2) **conserve** coal resources

Children must be taught to **conserve** our natural environment.

## weatherproof

*adj.* designed or treated to be resistant to damage or deterioration caused by exposure to changing weather conditions, typically involving precipitation, extreme temperatures, or humidity

*synonym*: water-resistant, weather-resistant, waterproof

(1) **weatherproof** camera, (2) **weatherproof** sealant

I need a **weatherproof** jacket for my camping trip, and it will be rainy and windy.

## drawback

*n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

*synonym*: disadvantage, defect, weakness

(1) the **drawback** of his method, (2) one of the main **drawbacks**

He pointed out all the **drawbacks** to our plan.

## underprivileged

*adj.* lacking resources, opportunities, or advantages that are necessary for success

*synonym*: poor, disadvantaged, destitute

(1) poor and **underprivileged** elderly, (2) **underprivileged** communities

The **underprivileged** children were in dire need of food, clothing, and shelter.

## repurpose

*v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

*synonym*: reutilize, recycle, reuse

(1) **repurpose** an old building, (2) **repurpose** a used car  
The old barn was **repurposed** into a modern event space.

## **underutilized**

*adj.* not used as much as is possible or necessary

*synonym*: underused, neglected, unappreciated

(1) **underutilized** resources, (2) **underutilized** space  
The factory has been **underutilized** for years and requires renovation.

## **ride-sharing**

*n.* an arrangement in which a passenger travels in a private car driven by its owner for free or for a fee, especially as arranged by using a website or app

*synonym*: carpooling

(1) **ride-sharing** app, (2) **ride-sharing** parking lot  
The court ruled that the **ride-sharing** company should consider the drivers as employees.

## **intellect**

*n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

*synonym*: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**  
Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. ur\_\_\_\_ne foam *n.* a synthetic organic compound used as a monomer to manufacture flexible and rigid polyurethane foams, adhesives, and coatings
2. means to co\_\_\_\_ve energy *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
3. in\_\_\_\_ic acid *adj.* being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon
4. a\_\_d terrain *adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality
5. wea\_\_\_\_oof sealant *adj.* designed or treated to be resistant to damage or deterioration caused by exposure to changing weather conditions, typically involving precipitation, extreme temperatures, or humidity
6. green m\_\_s *n.* a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks
7. semi-a\_\_d zone *adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality
8. ind\_\_\_\_us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
9. bioplastic designed to bio\_\_\_\_de *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

ANSWERS: 1. urethane, 2. conserve, 3. inorganic, 4. arid, 5. weatherproof, 6. moss, 7. arid, 8. industrious, 9. biodegrade

10. metallic 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
11. rid\_\_\_\_\_ing parking lot *n.* an arrangement in which a passenger travels in a private car driven by its owner for free or for a fee, especially as arranged by using a website or app
12. re\_\_\_\_\_se a used car *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
13. und\_\_\_\_\_zed resources *adj.* not used as much as is possible or necessary
14. co\_\_\_\_\_ve coal resources *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
15. und\_\_\_\_\_ged communities *adj.* lacking resources, opportunities, or advantages that are necessary for success
16. ac\_\_\_t a suspect *v.* to declare someone not guilty of a crime; to relieve someone of a duty or obligation
17. re\_\_\_\_\_se an old building *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
18. agricultural pe\_\_\_\_\_e *n.* a type of volcanic glass that expands when heated and is used as a soil additive to improve drainage and aeration
19. 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: 10. sponge, 11. ride-sharing, 12. repurpose, 13. underutilized, 14. conserve, 15. underprivileged, 16. acquit, 17. repurpose, 18. perlite, 19. sponge



20. uns\_\_\_\_\_ing success *adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
21. ae\_\_\_\_\_ic garden *adj.* relating to a technique of growing plants without soil by suspending the roots in a mist or aerosol of nutrients
22. pe\_\_\_\_\_e filter aid *n.* a type of volcanic glass that expands when heated and is used as a soil additive to improve drainage and aeration
23. ind\_\_\_\_\_us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
24. ur\_\_\_\_\_ne sealant *n.* a synthetic organic compound used as a monomer to manufacture flexible and rigid polyurethane foams, adhesives, and coatings
25. human in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
26. the form of a small pe\_\_\_\_t *n.* a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic
27. rid\_\_\_\_\_ing app *n.* an arrangement in which a passenger travels in a private car driven by its owner for free or for a fee, especially as arranged by using a website or app
28. dec\_\_\_\_\_ion ship *v.* to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair
29. hyd\_\_\_\_\_ic vegetables *adj.* relating to the cultivation of plants in nutrient-rich water instead of soil, often using specialized equipment or systems to optimize growth and production

ANSWERS: 20. unsurprising, 21. aeroponic, 22. perlite, 23. industrious, 24. urethane, 25. intellect, 26. pellet, 27. ride-sharing, 28. decommission, 29. hydroponic

30. enrich my in\_\_\_\_\_ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
31. con\_\_\_\_\_te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
32. ae\_\_\_\_\_ic vegetable *adj.* relating to a technique of growing plants without soil by suspending the roots in a mist or aerosol of nutrients
33. sp\_\_l the surprise *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
34. p\_\_t reserves *n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world
35. und\_\_\_\_\_zed space *adj.* not used as much as is possible or necessary
36. bio\_\_\_\_\_de by the microorganism *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
37. uns\_\_\_\_\_ing result *adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
38. re\_\_\_\_\_e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
39. sp\_\_l a person's sport *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
40. dec\_\_\_\_\_ion the dam *v.* to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair

ANSWERS: 30. intellect, 31. contaminate, 32. aeroponic, 33. spoil, 34. peat, 35. underutilized, 36. biodegrade, 37. unsurprising, 38. recycle, 39. spoil, 40. decommission

41. wea\_\_\_\_\_oof camera *adj.* designed or treated to be resistant to damage or deterioration caused by exposure to changing weather conditions, typically involving precipitation, extreme temperatures, or humidity
42. re\_\_\_\_\_e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
43. poor and und\_\_\_\_\_ged elderly *adj.* lacking resources, opportunities, or advantages that are necessary for success
44. m\_\_s garden *n.* a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks
45. pe\_\_\_t stove *n.* a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic
46. ci\_\_\_\_\_te an agenda before the meeting *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
47. in\_\_\_\_\_ic nutrition *adj.* being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon
48. ac\_\_\_t him of his duty *v.* to declare someone not guilty of a crime; to relieve someone of a duty or obligation
49. one of the main dr\_\_\_\_\_cks *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
50. p\_\_t production *n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world

ANSWERS: 41. weatherproof, 42. recycle, 43. underprivileged, 44. moss, 45. pellet, 46. circulate, 47. inorganic, 48. acquit, 49. drawback, 50. peat

51. hyd\_\_\_\_\_ic farm *adj.* relating to the cultivation of plants in nutrient-rich water instead of soil, often using specialized equipment or systems to optimize growth and production
52. con\_\_\_\_\_te his ego *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
53. the dr\_\_\_\_\_ck of his method *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
54. ci\_\_\_\_\_te a rumor *v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system

ANSWERS: 51. hydroponic, 52. contaminate, 53. drawback, 54. circulate

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The jury decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the defendant due to a lack of evidence.  
*v.* to declare someone not guilty of a crime; to relieve someone of a duty or obligation
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ children were in dire need of food, clothing, and shelter.  
*adj.* lacking resources, opportunities, or advantages that are necessary for success
3. The company's plastic products are easily \_\_\_\_\_ thanks to a unique manufacturing process.  
*v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
4. If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
5. He pointed out all the \_\_\_\_\_ to our plan.  
*n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive
6. The factory has been \_\_\_\_\_ for years and requires renovation.  
*adj.* not used as much as is possible or necessary
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ outcome of the election was a victory for the incumbent candidate.  
*adj.* not surprising, and what was expected; able to be predicted
8. He added \_\_\_\_\_ insulation to the walls of his home to improve energy efficiency.  
*n.* a type of volcanic glass that expands when heated and is used as a soil additive to improve drainage and aeration

ANSWERS: 1. acquit, 2. underprivileged, 3. biodegraded, 4. spoil, 5. drawbacks, 6. underutilized, 7. unsurprising, 8. perlite

9. We largely \_\_\_\_\_ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.
- v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
10. The desert is known for its \_\_\_\_\_ climate and lack of rainfall.
- adj.* lacking in moisture or rainfall; dry and barren; lacking in interest, life, or vitality
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ gun was used to shoot small metal balls.
- n.* a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic
12. The fan \_\_\_\_\_ the air in the room quickly.
- v.* to move continuously or freely around a place or closed system
13. \_\_\_\_\_ substances include rocks and minerals.
- adj.* being or consisting of nonliving stuff; chemical compounds that contain no or only trace amounts of carbon
14. Children must be taught to \_\_\_\_\_ our natural environment.
- v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
15. The car's bumper was coated with a \_\_\_\_\_ layer for extra protection.
- n.* a synthetic organic compound used as a monomer to manufacture flexible and rigid polyurethane foams, adhesives, and coatings
16. I need a \_\_\_\_\_ jacket for my camping trip, and it will be rainy and windy.
- adj.* designed or treated to be resistant to damage or deterioration caused by exposure to changing weather conditions, typically involving precipitation, extreme temperatures, or humidity

ANSWERS: 9. recycle, 10. arid, 11. pellet, 12. circulates, 13. Inorganic, 14. conserve, 15. urethane, 16. weatherproof

17. After years of protests from environmental activists, the government decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the nuclear power plant.
- v.* to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair
18. 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
19. The court ruled that the \_\_\_\_\_ company should consider the drivers as employees.
- n.* an arrangement in which a passenger travels in a private car driven by its owner for free or for a fee, especially as arranged by using a website or app
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ garden in my kitchen allows me to grow fresh herbs and vegetables year-round.
- adj.* relating to the cultivation of plants in nutrient-rich water instead of soil, often using specialized equipment or systems to optimize growth and production
21. We strive not to \_\_\_\_\_ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.
- v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
22. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
23. The old barn was \_\_\_\_\_ into a modern event space.
- v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

ANSWERS: 17. decommission, 18. sponge, 19. ride-sharing, 20. hydroponic, 21. contaminate, 22. intellect, 23. repurposed

24. Gardeners often use \_\_\_\_\_ as a soil conditioner to improve drainage and retain moisture.
- n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world
25. \_\_\_\_\_ grows in damp, shaded areas and is often found on the forest floor.
- n.* a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks
26. An \_\_\_\_\_ system uses mist to grow plants.
- adj.* relating to a technique of growing plants without soil by suspending the roots in a mist or aerosol of nutrients
27. He was known to be very \_\_\_\_\_ and would often work late into the night.
- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 24. peat, 25. Moss, 26. aeroponic, 27. industrious