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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Laura Boykin: How we're using DNA tech to help farmers fight crop diseases | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/laura\\_boykin\\_how\\_we\\_re\\_using\\_dna\\_tech\\_to\\_help\\_farmers\\_fight\\_crop\\_disease](https://www.ted.com/talks/laura_boykin_how_we_re_using_dna_tech_to_help_farmers_fight_crop_disease)

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### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### insecure

*adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

*synonym* : uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment

Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

### dorm

*n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus

*synonym* : residence hall, hostel, boarding house

(1) **dorm** room, (2) university **dorm**

Living in a **dorm** can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.

### herbarium

*n.* a collection of preserved plant specimens, typically identified and arranged in a systematic manner for scientific study and reference

*synonym* : plant collection, botanical garden

(1) digital **herbarium** database, (2) **herbarium** specimens

The botanist added the new fern specimen to the **herbarium** collection.

## glamorous

*adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people

*synonym*: alluring, bewitching, enchanting

(1) **glamorous** movie stars, (2) cast **glamorous** eyes

The south coast is less **glamorous** yet has many clean and appealing hotels.

## supercomputer

*n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing

*synonym*: high-performance computer, mainframe, giant computer

(1) **supercomputer** performance, (2) **supercomputer** technology

China has developed one of the world's fastest **supercomputers** for its space program.

## steroid

*n.* any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs

(1) **steroid** abuse, (2) a **steroid** hormone

Some **steroids** are banned for use by athletes because of their muscle-building effects.

## 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.

## plight

*n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation

*synonym*: crisis, predicament, trouble

(1) miserable **plight**, (2) the **plight** of the poor

The government has ignored the **plight** of the homeless population.

## cassava

*n.* a starchy, tuberous root plant that is native to South America and is grown in many tropical and subtropical regions around the world

*synonym* : manioc, yuca

(1) **cassava** flour, (2) **cassava** starch

**Cassava** leaves are also eaten as a vegetable in some parts of the world.

## whitefly

*n.* a tiny insect with white wings that feed on plants, often causing damage to crops

*synonym* : fly, insect

(1) spread of **whitefly**, (2) **whitefly** control

**Whitefly** infestations can cause significant damage to crops.

## pathogen

*n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

*synonym* : germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) plant **pathogen**, (2) the **pathogen** in the air

mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated **pathogens**.

## starch

*n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals

*synonym* : carbohydrate, glucose, dextrin

(1) **starch** granules, (2) potato **starch**

When heated, **starch** molecules absorb water and become thick and goeey, making it a useful thickening agent in cooking.

## sub-Saharan

*adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

(1) **sub-Saharan** Africa, (2) **sub-Saharan** countries

The coffee producers in **sub-Saharan** countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.

## oversea

*adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries

*synonym*: foreign, abroad, international

(1) **oversea** shipments, (2) for **oversea** use

The company enhanced **oversea** operations to tap into new markets.

## degrade

*v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

*synonym*: demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

## minion

*n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization

*synonym*: lackey, servant, subordinate

(1) a **minion** of the minister, (2) work as a **minion**

The boss treated his employees like **minions**, demanding obedience and respect.

## moth

*n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

## hectare

*n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters

(1) **hectare** land, (2) housing per **hectare**

The farm spans over 100 **hectares** of land.

## engrave

*v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner

*synonym* : carve, inscribe, etch

(1) **engrave** initials, (2) **engrave** metal

He wanted to **engrave** his wedding ring with their initials as a lasting symbol of their love.

## **gadget**

*n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job

*synonym* : appliance, gimmick, device

(1) a handy **gadget**, (2) time-saving **gadget**

I found the kitchen **gadget** that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. sup\_\_\_\_\_ter technology *n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing
2. he\_\_\_\_\_um specimens *n.* a collection of preserved plant specimens, typically identified and arranged in a systematic manner for scientific study and reference
3. time-saving ga\_\_\_\_t *n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
4. m\_\_h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
5. miserable pl\_\_\_\_t *n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation
6. st\_\_\_\_\_d abuse *n.* any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs
7. digital he\_\_\_\_\_um database *n.* a collection of preserved plant specimens, typically identified and arranged in a systematic manner for scientific study and reference
8. sub\_\_\_\_\_an countries *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

ANSWERS: 1. supercomputer, 2. herbarium, 3. gadget, 4. moth, 5. plight, 6. steroid, 7. herbarium, 8. sub-Saharan

9. st\_\_\_h granules *n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals
10. the pa\_\_\_\_\_en in the air *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
11. wh\_\_\_\_\_ly control *n.* a tiny insect with white wings that feed on plants, often causing damage to crops
12. m\_\_h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
13. for ov\_\_\_\_\_a use *adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries
14. de\_\_\_\_\_e his public image *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
15. en\_\_\_\_\_e metal *v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner
16. a mi\_\_\_\_\_n of the minister *n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
17. a st\_\_\_\_\_d hormone *n.* any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs

ANSWERS: 9. starch, 10. pathogen, 11. whitefly, 12. moth, 13. oversea, 14. degrade, 15. engrave, 16. minion, 17. steroid

18. de\_\_\_\_e environmental quality      *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
19. un\_\_\_\_r a potential problem      *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
20. an in\_\_\_\_re future      *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
21. plant pa\_\_\_\_en      *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
22. in\_\_\_\_re attachment      *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
23. sub\_\_\_\_an Africa      *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
24. a handy ga\_\_\_\_t      *n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
25. ca\_\_\_\_a flour      *n.* a starchy, tuberous root plant that is native to South America and is grown in many tropical and subtropical regions around the world
26. housing per he\_\_\_\_e      *n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
27. sup\_\_\_\_ter performance      *n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing

ANSWERS: 18. degrade, 19. uncover, 20. insecure, 21. pathogen, 22. insecure, 23. sub-Saharan, 24. gadget, 25. cassava, 26. hectare, 27. supercomputer



28. d\_\_m room *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
29. gl\_\_\_\_\_us movie stars *adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
30. cast gl\_\_\_\_\_us eyes *adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
31. ca\_\_\_\_\_a starch *n.* a starchy, tuberous root plant that is native to South America and is grown in many tropical and subtropical regions around the world
32. spread of wh\_\_\_\_\_ly *n.* a tiny insect with white wings that feed on plants, often causing damage to crops
33. ov\_\_\_\_\_a shipments *adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries
34. the pl\_\_\_t of the poor *n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation
35. work as a mi\_\_\_n *n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
36. potato st\_\_\_h *n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals
37. en\_\_\_\_\_e initials *v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner

ANSWERS: 28. dorm, 29. glamorous, 30. glamorous, 31. cassava, 32. whitefly, 33. oversea, 34. plight, 35. minion, 36. starch, 37. engrave

38. un\_\_\_\_r the truth      *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
39. he\_\_\_\_e land      *n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
40. university d\_\_m      *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus

ANSWERS: 38. uncover, 39. hectare, 40. dorm

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Living in a \_\_\_\_\_ can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.  
*n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
  
2. When heated, \_\_\_\_\_ molecules absorb water and become thick and gooey, making it a useful thickening agent in cooking.  
*n.* a complex carbohydrate found in many plants, including rice, wheat, and potatoes that is an important foodstuff for humans and animals
  
3. The company enhanced \_\_\_\_\_ operations to tap into new markets.  
*adj.* situated or operating beyond national boundaries; in, from, or to foreign countries
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ infestations can cause significant damage to crops.  
*n.* a tiny insect with white wings that feed on plants, often causing damage to crops
  
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a serious threat to the farm's output.  
*n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
  
6. Some \_\_\_\_\_ are banned for use by athletes because of their muscle-building effects.  
*n.* any of several organic compounds that are produced in the body and have important physiological effects and affect the development and growth of sex organs
  
7. China has developed one of the world's fastest \_\_\_\_\_ for its space program.  
*n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing

ANSWERS: 1. dorm, 2. starch, 3. oversea, 4. Whitefly, 5. moth, 6. steroids, 7.

supercomputers

8. He continued his investigation and soon \_\_\_\_\_ another crime.  
*v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
9. The farm spans over 100 \_\_\_\_\_ of land.  
*n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
10. He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ his wedding ring with their initials as a lasting symbol of their love.  
*v.* to carve, cut, or etch a design, message, or image onto a surface, often using a sharp tool or laser; to permanently record or mark something in a lasting manner
11. mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
12. The botanist added the new fern specimen to the \_\_\_\_\_ collection.  
*n.* a collection of preserved plant specimens, typically identified and arranged in a systematic manner for scientific study and reference
13. I found the kitchen \_\_\_\_\_ that will serve as a bottle opener in the store.  
*n.* a small tool or device that is useful for a particular job
14. The south coast is less \_\_\_\_\_ yet has many clean and appealing hotels.  
*adj.* highly attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
15. Children in an unstructured environment often feel \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

ANSWERS: 8. uncovered, 9. hectares, 10. engrave, 11. pathogens, 12. herbarium, 13. gadget, 14. glamorous, 15. insecure

16. The coffee producers in \_\_\_\_\_ countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.

*adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

17. The government has ignored the \_\_\_\_\_ of the homeless population.

*n.* a difficult or unfortunate situation

18. You should not \_\_\_\_\_ yourself by allowing them to use you.

*v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

19. The boss treated his employees like \_\_\_\_\_ demanding obedience and respect.

*n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization

20. \_\_\_\_\_ leaves are also eaten as a vegetable in some parts of the world.

*n.* a starchy, tuberous root plant that is native to South America and is grown in many tropical and subtropical regions around the world

ANSWERS: 16. sub-Saharan, 17. plight, 18. degrade, 19. minions, 20. Cassava