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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Tara Djokic: This ancient rock is changing our theory on the origin of life | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tara\\_djokic\\_this\\_ancient\\_rock\\_is\\_changing\\_our\\_theory\\_on\\_the\\_origin\\_of\\_life](https://www.ted.com/talks/tara_djokic_this_ancient_rock_is_changing_our_theory_on_the_origin_of_life)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### inconsequential

*adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible

*synonym* : insignificant, trivial, minor

(1) **inconsequential** details, (2) **inconsequential** effect

The mistake was **inconsequential** and did not significantly impact the outcome.

### tectonics

*n.* the study of the processes that shape the Earth's surface, including the movements of tectonic plates, earthquakes, and volcanic activity

*synonym* : geology, plate tectonics, earth movements

(1) plate **tectonics**, (2) collision **tectonics**

Global **tectonics** plays a critical role in the formation of mountain ranges and the movement of Earth's crustal plates.

### pivotal

*adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something

*synonym* : crucial, essential, important

(1) **pivotal** moment, (2) **pivotal** role

The CEO's decision was **pivotal** in the success of the company's expansion plans.

## microscopic

*adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

*synonym*: infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis

Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

## stromatolite

*n.* a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution

*synonym*: microbialite, fossilized stromatolite

(1) ancient **stromatolite**, (2) microbial **stromatolite** formation

The **stromatolite** fossils provide important clues about the early evolution of life on Earth.

## foothold

*n.* a secure or reliable position in a particular situation, allowing for further progress or expansion; a firm grip or support on a surface

*synonym*: toehold, base, foundation

(1) establish a **foothold**, (2) military **foothold**

The company is looking to gain a **foothold** in the emerging market.

## deformity

*n.* a physical abnormality or distortion

*synonym*: abnormality, malformation, disfigurement

(1) **deformity** of character, (2) physical **deformity**

The **deformity** in the steel beam caused the bridge to collapse.

## wrinkle

*n.* a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty

*synonym*: crinkle, fold, crumple

(1) a fine **wrinkle** on a fabric, (2) a facial **wrinkle**

This suit is made of **wrinkle-proof** material.

## mound

*n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

*synonym* : hill, knoll, rise

(1) **mound** of dirt, (2) burial **mound**

The team discovered a hidden **mound** in the desert.

## dissolve

*v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

*synonym* : disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

## hydrothermal

*adj.* relating to hot water or steam, especially in the Earth's crust, and the thermal energy and chemical reactions that occur as a result

*synonym* : geothermal, thermal, volcanic

(1) **hydrothermal** vents, (2) **hydrothermal** chemistry

The **hydrothermal** activity in this area creates a unique environment for marine creatures.

## billow

*v.* to surge or rise in a large, swelling mass, especially of smoke or water; (noun) a large wave or swell of something, especially water or smoke

*synonym* : wave, swell, surge

(1) **billow** cloud, (2) **billow** like a sail

The smoke **billowed** out of the chimney and into the sky.

## chimney

*n.* a vertical structure that channels smoke or gas from a fire or furnace out of a building; a hollow column or tube that facilitates air or fluid flow throughout a system

*synonym* : flue, smokestack, stack

(1) smoke **chimney**, (2) **chimney** sweep

The **chimney** in the factory was constantly emitting dark smoke.

## probabilistic

*adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

*synonym* : probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

## volcano

*n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

*synonym* : mount, peak, crater

(1) **volcano** alert level, (2) active **volcano**

The island was formed by a **volcano** millions of years ago.

## debatable

*adj.* open to discussion or argument; capable of being disputed or doubted

*synonym* : questionable, uncertain, open to discussion

(1) the validity of the theory is **debatable**, (2) **debatable** topic

Whether or not extraterrestrial life exists is still **debatable** among scientists.

## flourish

*v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully

*synonym* : boom, advance, succeed

(1) **flourish** economically, (2) **flourish** worldwide

The Ottoman Empire **flourished** for over five centuries.

## diversified

*adj.* characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types

*synonym* : varied, assorted, heterogeneous

(1) **diversified** portfolio, (2) **diversified** economy

The **diversified** menu offered options for everyone, from meat-eaters to vegetarians.

## gorge

*n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it

*synonym* : canyon, gully, ravine

(1) cast the **gorge**, (2) the **gorges** of the Yangtse River  
We must pass through the narrow **gorge** with a stream running through it.

## carve

*v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

*synonym* : sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate  
This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

## ironic

*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

*synonym* : sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

## microbe

*n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

*synonym* : germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

**Microbes** thrive on the surface of the human skin.

## relinquish

*v.* to give up power, control, or possession

*synonym* : surrender, give up, abandon

(1) **relinquish** control, (2) **relinquish** all hope

She decided to **relinquish** her role as the leader of the group.

## fossilized

*adj.* transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible

*synonym* : petrified, ossified, preserved

(1) obsolete **fossilized** ways, (2) a **fossilized** grove

The dinosaur bones were so old that they had been wholly **fossilized**, turning to stone over millions of years.

### encompass

*v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely

*synonym*: surround, encircle, include

(1) **encompass** a broad range, (2) **encompass** the enemy

The optimal solution that would **encompass** all these elements has yet to be proposed.

### demise

*n.* death or the end of something

*synonym*: death, passing, end

(1) **demise** of bureaucracy, (2) meet their **demise**

The sudden **demise** of the king was a shock to everyone and threw the kingdom into chaos.

### extinguish

*v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining

*synonym*: quench, smother, blow out

(1) **extinguish** a cigarette, (2) **extinguish** the street lamp

Firefighters made every effort to **extinguish** the blaze immediately.

### speck

*n.* a very small spot, piece, or amount

*synonym*: blot, dot, mark

(1) a **speck** of dust, (2) **speck** of suspicion

The plane was just a **speck** in the sky.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. a fine wr\_\_\_\_\_e on a fabric  
*n.* a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty
2. ancient str\_\_\_\_\_ite  
*n.* a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution
3. an ir\_\_\_c turn of events  
*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
4. pi\_\_\_\_\_l role  
*adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
5. de\_\_\_\_\_ty of character  
*n.* a physical abnormality or distortion
6. ext\_\_\_\_\_sh a cigarette  
*v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining
7. inc\_\_\_\_\_ial details  
*adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible
8. en\_\_\_\_\_ss a broad range  
*v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
9. physical de\_\_\_\_\_ty  
*n.* a physical abnormality or distortion

ANSWERS: 1. wrinkle, 2. stromatolite, 3. ironic, 4. pivotal, 5. deformity, 6. extinguish, 7. inconsequential, 8. encompass, 9. deformity

10. a facial wr\_\_\_\_\_e                      *n.* a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty
11. ch\_\_\_\_\_y sweep                      *n.* a vertical structure that channels smoke or gas from a fire or furnace out of a building; a hollow column or tube that facilitates air or fluid flow throughout a system
12. hyd\_\_\_\_\_mal vents                      *adj.* relating to hot water or steam, especially in the Earth's crust, and the thermal energy and chemical reactions that occur as a result
13. div\_\_\_\_\_ed economy                      *adj.* characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types
14. fl\_\_\_\_\_sh economically                      *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
15. a fos\_\_\_\_\_ed grove                      *adj.* transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible
16. microbial str\_\_\_\_\_ite formation                      *n.* a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution
17. plate te\_\_\_\_\_cs                      *n.* the study of the processes that shape the Earth's surface, including the movements of tectonic plates, earthquakes, and volcanic activity

ANSWERS: 10. wrinkle, 11. chimney, 12. hydrothermal, 13. diversified, 14. flourish, 15. fossilized, 16. stromatolite, 17. tectonics



18. the validity of the theory is  
de\_\_\_\_\_le *adj.* open to discussion or argument;  
capable of being disputed or doubted
19. cast the go\_\_e *n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or  
mountains, usually with steep sides and  
a river running through it
20. bi\_\_\_w cloud *v.* to surge or rise in a large, swelling  
mass, especially of smoke or water;  
(noun) a large wave or swell of  
something, especially water or smoke
21. ca\_\_e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or  
stone; to turn sharply
22. div\_\_\_\_\_ed portfolio *adj.* characterized by diversity or variety;  
having different forms or types
23. collision te\_\_\_\_\_cs *n.* the study of the processes that shape  
the Earth's surface, including the  
movements of tectonic plates,  
earthquakes, and volcanic activity
24. hyd\_\_\_\_\_mal chemistry *adj.* relating to hot water or steam,  
especially in the Earth's crust, and the  
thermal energy and chemical reactions  
that occur as a result
25. officially di\_\_\_\_\_ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a  
liquid to form a part of the solution; to  
close down or dismiss
26. rel\_\_\_\_\_sh control *v.* to give up power, control, or possession
27. obsolete fos\_\_\_\_\_ed ways *adj.* transformed into a fossil (= something  
preserved in rock for a very long period)  
or preserved in the form of a fossil;  
antiquated or inflexible

ANSWERS: 18. debatable, 19. gorge, 20. billow, 21. carve, 22. diversified, 23. tectonics, 24. hydrothermal, 25. dissolve, 26. relinquish, 27. fossilized

28. burial mo\_\_d *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
29. ext\_\_\_\_\_sh the street lamp *v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining
30. establish a fo\_\_\_\_\_ld *n.* a secure or reliable position in a particular situation, allowing for further progress or expansion; a firm grip or support on a surface
31. de\_\_\_\_\_le topic *adj.* open to discussion or argument; capable of being disputed or doubted
32. ir\_\_\_c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
33. di\_\_\_\_\_ve the sugar *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
34. rel\_\_\_\_\_sh all hope *v.* to give up power, control, or possession
35. pro\_\_\_\_\_tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
36. mic\_\_\_\_\_ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
37. bi\_\_\_w like a sail *v.* to surge or rise in a large, swelling mass, especially of smoke or water; (noun) a large wave or swell of something, especially water or smoke

ANSWERS: 28. mound, 29. extinguish, 30. foothold, 31. debatable, 32. ironic, 33. dissolve, 34. relinquish, 35. probabilistic, 36. microscopic, 37. billow

38. meet their de\_\_\_e *n.* death or the end of something
39. mic\_\_\_\_\_ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
40. mi\_\_\_\_\_es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
41. ca\_\_e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
42. sp\_\_k of suspicion *n.* a very small spot, piece, or amount
43. en\_\_\_\_\_ss the enemy *v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
44. pro\_\_\_\_\_tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
45. active vo\_\_\_\_\_o *n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
46. military fo\_\_\_\_\_ld *n.* a secure or reliable position in a particular situation, allowing for further progress or expansion; a firm grip or support on a surface
47. a sp\_\_k of dust *n.* a very small spot, piece, or amount
48. pi\_\_\_\_\_l moment *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something

ANSWERS: 38. demise, 39. microscopic, 40. microbe, 41. carve, 42. speck, 43. encompass, 44. probabilistic, 45. volcano, 46. foothold, 47. speck, 48. pivotal

49. smoke ch\_\_\_\_y *n.* a vertical structure that channels smoke or gas from a fire or furnace out of a building; a hollow column or tube that facilitates air or fluid flow throughout a system
50. fl\_\_\_\_sh worldwide *v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
51. inc\_\_\_\_\_ial effect *adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible
52. the go\_\_es of the Yangtse River *n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
53. vo\_\_\_\_o alert level *n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
54. de\_\_\_e of bureaucracy *n.* death or the end of something
55. pathogenic mi\_\_\_\_e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
56. mo\_\_d of dirt *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

ANSWERS: 49. chimney, 50. flourish, 51. inconsequential, 52. gorge, 53. volcano, 54. demise, 55. microbe, 56. mound

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the factory was constantly emitting dark smoke.  
*n.* a vertical structure that channels smoke or gas from a fire or furnace out of a building; a hollow column or tube that facilitates air or fluid flow throughout a system
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ activity in this area creates a unique environment for marine creatures.  
*adj.* relating to hot water or steam, especially in the Earth's crust, and the thermal energy and chemical reactions that occur as a result
  
3. The team discovered a hidden \_\_\_\_\_ in the desert.  
*n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
  
4. Whether or not extraterrestrial life exists is still \_\_\_\_\_ among scientists.  
*adj.* open to discussion or argument; capable of being disputed or doubted
  
5. The smoke \_\_\_\_\_ out of the chimney and into the sky.  
*v.* to surge or rise in a large, swelling mass, especially of smoke or water; (noun) a large wave or swell of something, especially water or smoke
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ thrive on the surface of the human skin.  
*n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
  
7. Firefighters made every effort to \_\_\_\_\_ the blaze immediately.  
*v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining

ANSWERS: 1. chimney, 2. hydrothermal, 3. mound, 4. debatable, 5. billowed, 6. Microbes, 7. extinguish

8. We must pass through the narrow \_\_\_\_\_ with a stream running through it.  
*n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
9. The CEO's decision was \_\_\_\_\_ in the success of the company's expansion plans.  
*adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
10. The sudden \_\_\_\_\_ of the king was a shock to everyone and threw the kingdom into chaos.  
*n.* death or the end of something
11. This statue is \_\_\_\_\_ from a single tree trunk.  
*v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
12. This suit is made of \_\_\_\_\_ material.  
*n.* a small line or fold in something, especially fabric or the skin of the face; a minor difficulty
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the steel beam caused the bridge to collapse.  
*n.* a physical abnormality or distortion
14. The Ottoman Empire \_\_\_\_\_ for over five centuries.  
*v.* to grow or develop vigorously or successfully
15. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.  
*adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

ANSWERS: 8. gorge, 9. pivotal, 10. demise, 11. carved, 12. wrinkle-proof, 13. deformity, 14. flourished, 15. ironic

16. The island was formed by a \_\_\_\_\_ millions of years ago.
- n.* a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.
17. Inspectors noticed \_\_\_\_\_ cracks in the submarine's hull.
- adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ menu offered options for everyone, from meat-eaters to vegetarians.
- adj.* characterized by diversity or variety; having different forms or types
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ fossils provide important clues about the early evolution of life on Earth.
- n.* a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution
20. The dinosaur bones were so old that they had been wholly \_\_\_\_\_ turning to stone over millions of years.
- adj.* transformed into a fossil (= something preserved in rock for a very long period) or preserved in the form of a fossil; antiquated or inflexible
21. The mistake was \_\_\_\_\_ and did not significantly impact the outcome.
- adj.* of little or no importance or significance; trivial or negligible
22. Global \_\_\_\_\_ plays a critical role in the formation of mountain ranges and the movement of Earth's crustal plates.
- n.* the study of the processes that shape the Earth's surface, including the movements of tectonic plates, earthquakes, and volcanic activity

ANSWERS: 16. volcano, 17. microscopic, 18. diversified, 19. stromatolite, 20. fossilized, 21. inconsequential, 22. tectonics

23. The company is looking to gain a \_\_\_\_\_ in the emerging market.
- n.* a secure or reliable position in a particular situation, allowing for further progress or expansion; a firm grip or support on a surface
24. In a \_\_\_\_\_ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.
- adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
25. The political party \_\_\_\_\_ after much internal fighting.
- v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
26. The optimal solution that would \_\_\_\_\_ all these elements has yet to be proposed.
- v.* to surround or cover something completely; to include a large number of or different types of things entirely
27. The plane was just a \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky.
- n.* a very small spot, piece, or amount
28. She decided to \_\_\_\_\_ her role as the leader of the group.
- v.* to give up power, control, or possession

ANSWERS: 23. foothold, 24. probabilistic, 25. dissolved, 26. encompass, 27. speck, 28. relinquish