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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Augusto Carballido: There may be extraterrestrial life in our solar system | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym: open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

plume

n. a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat

synonym: feather, honor, token

(1) **plume** of smoke, (2) **plume** of feathers

The bird had a beautiful **plume** on its head.

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.

titanic

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous,

corrosion-resistant metallic element)

synonym : colossal, massive, immense

(1) **titanic** battle, (2) **titanic** compound

The **titanic** ship sank on its maiden voyage.

astrobiology

n. the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life

(1) **astrobiology** finding, (2) valuable data for **astrobiology**

The discovery of liquid water on Mars has opened up new avenues for **astrobiology** research.

extraterrestrial

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

synonym : alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence

Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

hone

v. to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice

synonym : sharpen, refine, perfect

(1) **hone** abilities, (2) **hone** intuition

The athlete worked with a coach to **hone** her techniques and improve her performance.

biomolecule

n. a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

synonym : biochemical, molecule, protein

(1) **biomolecule** structure, (2) protein **biomolecule**

DNA is a complex **biomolecule** that contains the genetic information of an organism.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym : isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity

We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

icy

adj. covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness

synonym : frosty, cold, glacial

(1) **icy** clouds, (2) cast **icy** eyes

The **icy** surface of the pond was not safe for skating.

Jovian

adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

synonym : Jupiter, giant planet

(1) **Jovian** satellites, (2) **Jovian** planet

The **Jovian** moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.

deduce

v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning

synonym : conclude, infer, suppose

(1) **deduce** facts from the evidence, (2) **deduce** the meaning of a word

The researcher **deduced** the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.

nestle

v. to settle comfortably or cozily into a place

synonym : snuggle, cuddle, curl up

(1) **nestle** deeper against him, (2) **nestle** in a cozy spot

The cat **nestled** in my lap and fell asleep.

gulf

n. a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land

synonym : chasm, divide, abyss

(1) **gulf** war, (2) **gulf** stream

The **Gulf** of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United

States.

geyser

n. a natural hot spring that periodically ejects a column of boiling water and steam into the air; a device that produces a similar effect for decorative or practical purposes

synonym: hot spring, fumarole

(1) erupting **geyser**, (2) Yellowstone **geyser**

The **geyser's** hot water generates electricity for nearby towns and cities.

nurture

v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing

synonym: boost, cultivate, enable

(1) **nurture** love, (2) **nurture** his talents

Schools should **nurture** children's mutual interest spirit.

condense

v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated

synonym: compress, compact, shorten

(1) **condense** the text, (2) **condense** water vapor

I need to **condense** all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.

speculate

v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

synonym: assume, conjecture, infer

(1) **speculate** about the reason, (2) **speculate** on the outcome

He **speculated** that this investment would lead to success.

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.

biosignature

n. distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life

synonym: indicators, signs, evidence

(1) **biosignatures** detection, (2) **biosignatures** discovery
Scientists are searching for **biosignatures** on other planets that could indicate the presence of life.

sterilize

v. to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation

synonym: disinfect, sanitize, cleanse

(1) **sterilize** chemically, (2) **sterilize** surfaces

The nurse **sterilized** the instruments before the surgery to prevent any infections.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. i_y clouds *adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness
2. un___d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
3. ti____c compound *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
4. con_____te his ego *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
5. Yellowstone ge___r *n.* a natural hot spring that periodically ejects a column of boiling water and steam into the air; a device that produces a similar effect for decorative or practical purposes
6. erupting ge___r *n.* a natural hot spring that periodically ejects a column of boiling water and steam into the air; a device that produces a similar effect for decorative or practical purposes
7. h__e intuition *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
8. pl__e of smoke *n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat

ANSWERS: 1. icy, 2. unfold, 3. titanic, 4. contaminate, 5. geyser, 6. geyser, 7. hone, 8. plume

9. ext_____ial intelligence *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
10. cast i_y eyes *adj.* covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness
11. ext_____ial planet *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
12. nu_____e his talents *v.* to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing
13. in_____te the room from sound *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
14. bio_____le structure *n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer
15. g__f war *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
16. un____d the stroller *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

ANSWERS: 9. extraterrestrial, 10. icy, 11. extraterrestrial, 12. nurture, 13. insulate, 14. biomolecule, 15. gulf, 16. unfold

17. in_____te electricity *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
18. sp_____te on the outcome *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
19. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
20. sp_____te about the reason *v.* to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence
21. de___e the meaning of a word *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
22. Jo___n satellites *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
23. ti_____c battle *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
24. de___e facts from the evidence *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
25. bio_____ures discovery *n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
26. reduce me_____e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
27. con_____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
28. pl__e of feathers *n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat

ANSWERS: 17. insulate, 18. speculate, 19. microscopic, 20. speculate, 21. deduce, 22. Jovian, 23. titanic, 24. deduce, 25. biosignature, 26. methane, 27. contaminate, 28. plume

29. Jo___n planet *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
30. ne___e in a cozy spot *v.* to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
31. valuable data for ast_____ogy *n.* the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life
32. co_____se water vapor *v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
33. protein bio_____le *n.* a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer
34. g__f stream *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
35. mic_____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
36. bio_____ures detection *n.* distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
37. nu_____e love *v.* to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing
38. ast_____ogy finding *n.* the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life

ANSWERS: 29. Jovian, 30. nestle, 31. astrobiology, 32. condense, 33. biomolecule, 34. gulf, 35. microscopic, 36. biosignature, 37. nurture, 38. astrobiology

39. atmospheric me____e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
40. co____se the text *v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
41. h__e abilities *v.* to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
42. ne____e deeper against him *v.* to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
43. st____ze chemically *v.* to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation
44. st____ze surfaces *v.* to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation

ANSWERS: 39. methane, 40. condense, 41. hone, 42. nestle, 43. sterilize, 44. sterilize

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Schools should _____ children's mutual interest spirit.
 - v. to take care of, feed, and protect someone or something while they are growing and developing

2. He _____ that this investment would lead to success.
 - v. to form a theory or conjecture or guess about a subject without solid evidence

3. We had our bedroom _____ before winter came.
 - v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

4. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
 - adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

5. The _____ of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.
 - n. a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land

6. The _____ surface of the pond was not safe for skating.
 - adj. covered with ice or frost; very cold; lacking warmth or friendliness

7. The nurse _____ the instruments before the surgery to prevent any infections.
 - v. to make something free of all forms of life, especially bacteria or viruses, by using heat, chemicals, or radiation

8. The discovery of liquid water on Mars has opened up new avenues for _____ research.
 - n. the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life

ANSWERS: 1. nurture, 2. speculated, 3. insulated, 4. Jovian, 5. Gulf, 6. icy, 7. sterilized, 8. astrobiology

9. The cat _____ in my lap and fell asleep.
v. to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
10. The athlete worked with a coach to _____ her techniques and improve her performance.
v. to sharpen or perfect something; to improve a skill or ability through practice
11. The bird had a beautiful _____ on its head.
n. a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat
12. Scientists are searching for _____ on other planets that could indicate the presence of life.
n. distinctive chemical or physical features that indicate the presence of past or current life
13. The researcher _____ the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.
v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
14. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
15. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of _____ life in the universe.
adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

ANSWERS: 9. nestled, 10. hone, 11. plume, 12. biosignatures, 13. deduced, 14. unfolded, 15. extraterrestrial

16. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.

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

17. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

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

18. I need to _____ all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.

v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated

19. DNA is a complex _____ that contains the genetic information of an organism.

n. a molecule produced by a living organism, typically composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and other elements, plays a vital role in various biological processes such as metabolism, energy production, and genetic information transfer

20. 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

21. The _____ hot water generates electricity for nearby towns and cities.

n. a natural hot spring that periodically ejects a column of boiling water and steam into the air; a device that produces a similar effect for decorative or practical purposes

22. The _____ ship sank on its maiden voyage.

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

ANSWERS: 16. microscopic, 17. contaminate, 18. condense, 19. biomolecule, 20. methane, 21. geyser's, 22. titanic

ANSWERS: