

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Romain Lacombe: A personal air-quality tracker that lets you know what you're breathing | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/romain_lacombe_a_personal_air_quality_tracker_that_lets_you_know_what_you_re_breathing

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear

He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

synonym: collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

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.

outdo

v. to do better than someone; to surpass

synonym : excel, surpass, outshine

(1) **outdo** him in trickery, (2) **outdo** the competition

He tried to **outdo** his rival by breaking the world record.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

stroll

v. to walk somewhere in a slow, relaxed way and with no apparent aim

synonym : amble, roam, mope

(1) **stroll** across a street, (2) **stroll** through the countryside

We could **stroll** into town if you like.

particulate

adj. consisting of small particles, especially those that are suspended in a fluid or air

synonym : granular, dusty

(1) **particulate** size, (2) **particulate** pollution

Smoke from forest fires is causing an increase in **particulate** matter in the air.

bloodstream

n. the blood flowing through the body

(1) **bloodstream** in an artery, (2) **bloodstream** to the brain

Cancer cells are often carried throughout the body by the **bloodstream**.

commuter

n. a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car

synonym : traveler, passenger

(1) **commuter** shuttle, (2) daily **commuter**

The **commuter** train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.

crowdsourcing

n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

(1) **crowdsourcing** apps, (2) **crowdsourcing** in climate policy

The company used this **crowdsourcing** platform to gather ideas for its next product.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym : authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

secondhand

adj. having been previously owned or used by someone else

synonym : used, pre-owned, recycled

(1) **secondhand** car, (2) **secondhand** information

He was excited to find a vintage suit at the **secondhand** shop for a fraction of the price of a new one.

automaker

n. a company or manufacturer that produces automobiles, cars, and other motor vehicles

synonym : carmaker, vehicle maker, automobilist

(1) Japanese **automaker**, (2) luxury **automaker**

The **automaker's** sales have increased by 10% this quarter, thanks to strong consumer demand.

congest

v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid

synonym: clog, choke, crowd

(1) **congest** in a vein, (2) **congest** a highway

The roads to the airport were heavily **congested**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cro_____ing apps
n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
2. par_____te size
adj. consisting of small particles, especially those that are suspended in a fluid or air
3. a worthless wr__k
n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
4. st___l through the countryside
v. to walk somewhere in a slow, relaxed way and with no apparent aim
5. ob___s over her weight
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
6. co_____t a highway
v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
7. daily co_____er
n. a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
8. blo_____am to the brain
n. the blood flowing through the body
9. em_____r the secretary to do the same
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
10. Japanese au_____er
n. a company or manufacturer that produces automobiles, cars, and other motor vehicles

ANSWERS: 1. crowdsourcing, 2. particulate, 3. wreck, 4. stroll, 5. obsess, 6. congest, 7. commuter, 8. bloodstream, 9. empower, 10. automaker

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11. ou__o the competition | <i>v.</i> to do better than someone; to surpass |
| 12. water po_____nt | <i>n.</i> a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil |
| 13. par_____te pollution | <i>adj.</i> consisting of small particles, especially those that are suspended in a fluid or air |
| 14. cro_____ing in climate policy | <i>n.</i> the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet |
| 15. he is ob___sed with the fear | <i>v.</i> to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else |
| 16. the house was a wr__k | <i>n.</i> a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident |
| 17. an op_____ne remark | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 18. luxury au_____er | <i>n.</i> a company or manufacturer that produces automobiles, cars, and other motor vehicles |
| 19. st___l across a street | <i>v.</i> to walk somewhere in a slow, relaxed way and with no apparent aim |
| 20. sec_____nd information | <i>adj.</i> having been previously owned or used by someone else |
| 21. em_____r my life | <i>v.</i> to give someone the power or authority to do something |

ANSWERS: 11. outdo, 12. pollutant, 13. particulate, 14. crowdsourcing, 15. obsess, 16. wreck, 17. opportune, 18. automaker, 19. stroll, 20. secondhand, 21. empower

22. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
23. co_____t in a vein *v.* to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
24. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
25. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
26. sec_____nd car *adj.* having been previously owned or used by someone else
27. noxious po_____nt *n.* a substance or agent that pollutes or contaminates the environment, typically through release into the air, water, or soil
28. ou__o him in trickery *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
29. co_____er shuttle *n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
30. blo_____am in an artery *n.* the blood flowing through the body

ANSWERS: 22. opportune, 23. congest, 24. smartphone, 25. smartphone, 26. secondhand, 27. pollutant, 28. outdo, 29. commuter, 30. bloodstream

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He tried to _____ his rival by breaking the world record.
v. to do better than someone; to surpass
2. The _____ sales have increased by 10% this quarter, thanks to strong consumer demand.
n. a company or manufacturer that produces automobiles, cars, and other motor vehicles
3. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.
n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
4. 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
5. Cancer cells are often carried throughout the body by the _____.
n. the blood flowing through the body
6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. The roads to the airport were heavily _____.
v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid

ANSWERS: 1. outdo, 2. automaker's, 3. wreck, 4. pollutant, 5. bloodstream, 6. opportune, 7. congested

8. He was excited to find a vintage suit at the _____ shop for a fraction of the price of a new one.

adj. having been previously owned or used by someone else

9. The _____ train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.

n. a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car

10. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

11. Smoke from forest fires is causing an increase in _____ matter in the air.

adj. consisting of small particles, especially those that are suspended in a fluid or air

12. The company used this _____ platform to gather ideas for its next product.

n. the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

13. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

14. We could _____ into town if you like.

v. to walk somewhere in a slow, relaxed way and with no apparent aim

15. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

ANSWERS: 8. secondhand, 9. commuter, 10. smartphones, 11. particulate, 12. crowdsourcing, 13. obsessed, 14. stroll, 15. empowered

ANSWERS: