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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Charles C. Mann: How will we survive when the population hits 10 billion? | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/charles_c_mann_how_will_we_survive_when_the_population_hits_10_billion



Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

well-being

- n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperoussynonym: health, welfare, happiness
- (1) the **well-being** of a nation, (2) a sense of **well-being** We are responsible for the care and **well-being** of all our employees.

longevity

 the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

synonym: seniority, endurance

(1) longevity crisis,(2) longevity genesHe is proud of the longevity of the business.

skit

 a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance

synonym: sketch, parody, routine

(1) comedy **skit**, (2) political **skit**

The comedy group performed a hilarious **skit** about life in quarantine.

photosynthesis

 the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

(1) oxygenic **photosynthesis**, (2) process of **photosynthesis**

In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

parasite

- an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
 synonym: hitchhiker, leech, saprophyte
- (1) blood-sucking **parasite**, (2) **parasite** disease Tapeworms are **parasites** that live in the intestines of humans and animals.

starfish

marine invertebrate that belongs to the phylum Echinodermata, characterized by a five-armed body shape that resembles a star, typically found on or near the seafloor

synonym: sea star, echinoderm, asteroid

(1) **starfish** arm, (2) **starfish** habitat

The **starfish's** unique shape helps it to escape from predators quickly.

zebra

 a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes

synonym: striped horse, wild horse

(1) **zebra** pattern, (2) **zebra** crossing

The **zebra's** distinctive black and white stripes help it blend into its surroundings in the wild.

mussel

 a type of shellfish that lives in freshwater or saltwater has a hard, elongated shell and is edible

synonym: clam, oyster, bivalve

(1) **mussel** shells, (2) **mussel** cultivation

I ordered the **mussels** in a white wine sauce for dinner.

spruce

 a type of evergreen tree with short, stiff needles and small cones, often used as a decorative or ornamental tree; (adjective) neat, clean, or tidy in appearance

synonym: fir, pine, (verb) clean

(1) **spruce** appearance, (2) **spruce** forest

The **spruce** tree was the perfect addition to the family's Christmas decorations.

bud

a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot

synonym: shoot, sprout, germ

(1) pinch off a **bud**, (2) **bud** grafting

The flower was starting to show its **bud** and would soon bloom into a beautiful blossom.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

hundredfold

adj. a hundred times as great or as much

(1) rise nearly **hundredfold**, (2) improve **hundredfold**The development team reported two **hundredfold** increases in performance.

protozoa

n. a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals

synonym: microorganism, unicellular organism, amoeba

(1) free-living protozoa, (2) protozoa species

The water in the lake was contaminated with high levels of **protozoa**, making it unsafe for swimming or drinking.

petri

- (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
- (1) **petri** dish test, (2) bacteria on **petri** dishes Glass **petri** dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

constrain

to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

synonym: restrict, limit, confine

- (1) **constrain** his freedom, (2) **constrain** information flow The political situation **constrained** the country's economic growth and foreign relations.
- to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym: douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

starve

drown

to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

doom

death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym: judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom** Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

transgress

to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something

synonym: trespass, violate, infringe

(1) transgress boundaries, (2) transgress against the rules

The company was fined for **transgressing** environmental regulations.

peril

- n. serious and great danger or risk
- synonym: hazard, danger, threat
- (1) the **peril** of the sea, (2) environmental **peril**

Due to hunger, the lives of the refugees were in **peril**.

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.

envision

- v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
- synonym: anticipate, foresee, picture
- (1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success We cannot **envision** her as President.

glitter

- v. to shine with bright, sparkling light; to reflect light in a way that sparkles and shines
- synonym: sparkle, glisten, shine
- (1) **glitter** against her skin, (2) **glitter** in her eyes Her dress **glittered** in the sunlight as she walked down the street.

megacity

- a huge city, especially with a population of more than 10 million people
- megacity pollution, (2) megacity project
 The fishing village grew rapidly into a bustling megacity.

untouched

adj. not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way

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synonym:

untarnished, pristine, intact

(1) **untouched** wilderness, (2) **untouched** landscape The abandoned house was **untouched** for years, with vines growing all over it.

materialize

- v. to become actual or real; to take physical form or shape;to appear or come into existence in a tangible waysynonym: appear, manifest, emerge
- (1) **materialize** a cease-fire, (2) **materialize** in the dimness The expected profits from their new venture did not **materialize** as predicted.

footprint

- n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surfacesynonym: footmark, imprint, impression
- (1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon footprint.

desalination

- *n.* the process of removing salt, especially from seawater
- (1) shut down a **desalination** plant, (2) water **desalination** He worked on improving the equipment using the freeze-**desalination** method.

aquifer

- an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water
- (1) **aquifer** soil, (2) subsurface **aquifer**Some areas melt snow by harnessing heat from underground **aquifers**.

urbanize

v. to make an area more urban in character or nature, often through the development and expansion of cities or towns

synonym: develop, modernize, city-build

(1) **urbanize** a region, (2) **urbanize** transportation systems The government plans to **urbanize** the rural area by building more housing units and improving transportation

infrastructure.

aspiration

 a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

synonym: ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

microbiome

 n. the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body

synonym: flora

(1) skin **microbiome**, (2) have a diverse **microbiome**The gut **microbiome** is a major producer of serotonin, which is necessary for human mental stability.

cesspit

 a pit or tank used for the disposal of human waste or sewage

synonym: latrine, sewer, privy

(1) **cesspit** cleaning, (2) stuck in the **cesspit**The public **cesspit** was overflowing and causing a major health hazard.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym: interlink, complect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now interconnect with other databases.

agrarian

adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

synonym: agricultural, farming, rural

(1) agrarian society, (2) agrarian reform

Most of the people in the **agrarian** community work in agriculture.

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.

endlessly

adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit

synonym: ceaselessly, interminably, unceasingly

(1) repeat **endlessly**, (2) worry **endlessly** about our future The procession of demonstrators was **endlessly** continuing.

regress

to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate

synonym: retrovert, deteriorate, decline

(1) regress to childhood, (2) regress in skills

The team's failure to win games has caused them to **regress** in confidence.

shunt

v. to redirect or transfer something, often a flow of liquid or gas, to an alternative path or conduit; to move someone or something aside or out of the way; (noun) a device used to divert or redirect the flow of something, usually electrical current or fluid

synonym: redirect, divert, reroute

(1) **shunt** surgery, (2) **shunt** the output wavelength

The railway workers had to **shunt** the train to a different track to clear the tracks.

unbridled

adj. lacking restraint or control; unrestrained; unchecked, used to describe behaviors, emotions, or actions that are wild, excessive, or uncontrolled

synonym: unrestrained, unchecked, unfettered

(1) unbridled power, (2) unbridled creativity

Her **unbridled** enthusiasm for the project helped to motivate the team.

illusory

adj. not real or true; based on or having the nature of an illusion

synonym: illusive, deceptive, delusional

(1) illusory wealth, (2) illusory hope

The promise of easy money turned out to be **illusory**.

leaky

adj. having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it

synonym: faulty, permeable, porous

(1) heal leaky gut, (2) leaky bucket

The boat had a **leaky** hull and needed to be patched.

contaminate

 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.

cape

 a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water

synonym: shawl, cloak, mantle

(1) cape cod, (2) red cape

The superhero wore a flowing cape as part of their costume.

nuke

v. (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile

synonym: blast, bomb, attack

(1) **nuke** a city, (2) **nuke** missile

The government threatened to **nuke** the enemy territory if they didn't surrender.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym: commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

yell

v. to shout in a sudden and loud way

synonym: shout, scream, cry

(1) **yell** for help, (2) **yell** as loud as we can

When I asked my father for more money, he became furious and **yelled** at me.

dwarf

 a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star

synonym: midget, lilliputian, pygmy

(1) a potted dwarf tree, (2) a wise old dwarf

The **dwarf** planet Pluto is much smaller than earth and orbits the sun.

hostility

n. aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behavior

synonym: antagonism, antipathy, estrangement

(1) an act of hostility, (2) bitter hostility

Her unconcealed **hostility** made us unpleasant.

rickety

adj. wobbly, unsteady, and likely to collapse

synonym: unstable, wobbly, shaky

(1) rickety structure, (2) rickety chair

The old wooden bridge was **rickety** and swayed with every step.

biome

 a major ecological community characterized by particular plant and animal species adapted to a specific climate and geographic region, such as desert, tundra, or rainforest

synonym: ecosystem, habitat, biota

(1) biome conservation, (2) marine biome

The rainforest is one of the most diverse **biomes** on the planet.

cynical

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

synonym: skeptical, mistrustful, doubtful

(1) cynical remarks, (2) cynical worldview

He was very **cynical** and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

Session 2: Spelling

- 1. sp___e appearance
- 2. ri____y chair
- 3. comedy s_t
- 4. pe__i dish test
- 5. en____on the project's success
- 6. repeat en____ly
- 7. shut down a des ion plant
- 8. de___e all of my energies
- 9. ag an reform

- a type of evergreen tree with short, stiff needles and small cones, often used as a decorative or ornamental tree; (adjective) neat, clean, or tidy in appearance
- adj. wobbly, unsteady, and likely to collapse
- n. a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
- n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
- v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
- adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
- n. the process of removing salt, especially from seawater
- v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
- adj. relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals;
 characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance

ANSWERS: 1. spruce, 2. rickety, 3. skit, 4. petri, 5. envision, 6. endlessly, 7. desalination, 8. devote, 9. agrarian

10.	bie conservation	n.	a major ecological community characterized by particular plant and animal species adapted to a specific climate and geographic region, such as desert, tundra, or rainforest
11.	political st	n.	a short, often humorous performative piece or act, typically performed in a comic or satirical tone or style, as part of a variety show or a theatrical or musical performance
12.	the welng of a nation	n.	the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
13.	the fonts of an earlier civilization	n.	a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
14.	rise nearly hunld	adj.	a hundred times as great or as much
15.	dee my own life	v.	to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
16.	glr in her eyes	<i>v</i> .	to shine with bright, sparkling light; to reflect light in a way that sparkles and shines
17.	stsh arm	n.	marine invertebrate that belongs to the phylum Echinodermata, characterized by a five-armed body shape that resembles a star, typically found on or near the seafloor
18.	prophet of dm	n.	death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
19.	trass boundaries	ν.	to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something

ANSWERS: 10. biome, 11. skit, 12. well-being, 13. footprint, 14. hundredfold, 15. devote, 16. glitter, 17. starfish, 18. doom, 19. transgress

20.	ley bucket	adj.	having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it
21.	coin information flow	v.	to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
22.	the peI of the sea	n.	serious and great danger or risk
23.	cet cleaning	n.	a pit or tank used for the disposal of human waste or sewage
24.	b_d grafting	n.	a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
25.	pinch off a b_d	n.	a small swelling on a plant stem or twig containing an undeveloped shoot
26.	directly intect with those systems	ν.	to connect similar things
27.	zea pattern	n.	a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes
28.	ce cod	n.	a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
29.	loty genes	n.	the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
30.	conte his ego	v.	to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
31.	have a diverse micme	n.	the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human

а

ANSWERS: 20. leaky, 21. constrain, 22. peril, 23. cesspit, 24. bud, 25. bud, 26. interconnect, 27. zebra, 28. cape, 29. longevity, 30. contaminate, 31. microbiome

body

ANSWERS: 32. footprint, 33. aquifer, 34. materialize, 35. explode, 36. biome, 37. hostility, 38. untouched, 39. megacity, 40. interconnect, 41. materialize, 42. agrarian

sustenance

ANSWERS: 43. microbiome, 44. transgress, 45. parasite, 46. aquifer, 47. drown, 48. peril, 49. starve, 50. endlessly, 51. illusory, 52. conserve, 53. yell

ν.

53. y las loud as we can

to shout in a sudden and loud way

58. re___e milk packaging into new paper

59. a potted dw__f tree

60. co____ve coal resources

61. asp____on into the lungs

62. mu___l cultivation

63. heal le y gut

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

n. a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star

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

n. a strong desire to achieve something;the action or process of drawing breath

 a type of shellfish that lives in freshwater or saltwater has a hard, elongated shell and is edible

adj. having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it

ANSWERS: 54. aspiration, 55. unbridled, 56. parasite, 57. explode, 58. recycle, 59. dwarf, 60. conserve, 61. aspiration, 62. mussel, 63. leaky

- 64. il____ry wealth 65. a sense of wel ng 66. me____ty project 67. st___sh habitat 68. ri y structure 69. bacteria on pe i dishes 70. stuck in the ce t 71. en on the future 72. ze a crossing 73. con____te with a disease 74. sh t surgery
- adj. not real or true; based on or having the nature of an illusion
- n. the state of being happy and healthy and prosperous
- n. a huge city, especially with a population of more than 10 million people
- marine invertebrate that belongs to the phylum Echinodermata, characterized by a five-armed body shape that resembles a star, typically found on or near the seafloor
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- a pit or tank used for the disposal of human waste or sewage
- v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
- a wild, horse-like mammal native to Africa with distinctive black-and-white stripes
- v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
- v. to redirect or transfer something, often a flow of liquid or gas, to an alternative path or conduit; to move someone or something aside or out of the way; (noun) a device used to divert or redirect the flow of something, usually electrical current or fluid

ANSWERS: 64. illusory, 65. well-being, 66. megacity, 67. starfish, 68. rickety, 69. petri, 70. cesspit, 71. envision, 72. zebra, 73. contaminate, 74. shunt

75. cyI remarks	adj.	believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
76. ree the cardboard boxes	v.	to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
77. improve hunId	adj.	a hundred times as great or as much
78. red ce	n.	a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
79. uned landscape	adj.	not touched or disturbed by anyone or anything; not having been altered, changed, or affected in any way
80. spe forest	n.	a type of evergreen tree with short, stiff needles and small cones, often used as a decorative or ornamental tree; (adjective) neat, clean, or tidy in appearance
81. ste for a victory	v.	to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
82. loty crisis	n.	the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
83. ne a city	<i>v</i> .	(derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear

weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as

a nuclear bomb or missile

ANSWERS: 75. cynical, 76. recycle, 77. hundredfold, 78. cape, 79. untouched, 80. spruce, 81. starve, 82. longevity, 83. nuke

ANSWERS: 84. protozoa, 85. urbanize, 86. mussel, 87. nuke, 88. desalination, 89. urbanize, 90. glitter, 91. photosynthesis

- 92. economic d__m
- 93. cy____I worldview
- 94. bitter ho____ty
- 95. re___s to childhood
- 96. y_l for help
- 97. co____in his freedom
- 98. un ed power
- 99. a wise old dw__f
- 100. I was dr__ned in work
- 101. sh__t the output wavelength

- death, destruction, or some other
 terrible situation that cannot be avoided
- adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
- aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behavior
- v. to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate
- v. to shout in a sudden and loud way
- v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
- adj. lacking restraint or control; unrestrained; unchecked, used to describe behaviors, emotions, or actions that are wild, excessive, or uncontrolled
- n. a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
- v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater
- v. to redirect or transfer something, often a flow of liquid or gas, to an alternative path or conduit; to move someone or something aside or out of the way; (noun) a device used to divert or redirect the flow of something, usually electrical current or fluid

ANSWERS: 92. doom, 93. cynical, 94. hostility, 95. regress, 96. yell, 97. constrain, 98. unbridled, 99. dwarf, 100. drown, 101. shunt

- 102. re___s in skills

 103. process of pho____sis

 104. pr___oa species
- v. to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate
- n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
- n. a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals

ANSWERS: 102. regress, 103. photosynthesis, 104. protozoa

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular tas or purpose
2. If you don't eat soon, you're going to
v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
3. Tapeworms are that live in the intestines of humans and animals.
 an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
4. The procession of demonstrators was continuing.
adv. in a way that continues for a long time or seems to have no end or limit
5. He is proud of the of the business.
n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
6. The old wooden bridge was and swayed with every step.
adj. wobbly, unsteady, and likely to collapse
7. Due to hunger, the lives of the refugees were in
n. serious and great danger or risk
8. We cannot her as President.
v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
ANSWERS: 1. devoted, 2. starve, 3. parasites, 4. endlessly, 5. longevity, 6. rickety, peril, 8. envision

18.	The planet Pluto is much smaller than earth and orbits the sun.
n.	a person or animal that is much smaller than usual or expected for its type; a celestial body, especially a planet, that is smaller and less massive than a star
	He was very and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.
adj.	believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
20.	Most of the people in the community work in agriculture.
adj.	relating to the cultivation of land or the raising of crops and animals; characterized by a society that relies on agriculture as its primary means of sustenance
21.	The government threatened to the enemy territory if they didn't surrender.
v.	(derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile
22.	The company was fined for environmental regulations.
ν.	to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something
23.	The superhero wore a flowing as part of their costume.
n.	a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
24.	Some areas melt snow by harnessing heat from underground
n.	an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water
	SWERS: 18. dwarf, 19. cynical, 20. agrarian, 21. nuke, 22. transgressing, 23. e, 24. aquifers

desalination