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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alexander Belcredi: How a long-forgotten virus could help us solve the antibiotics crisis | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

bacteriophage

n. (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria
synonym: phage, bacterial virus, bacteriovore

(1) DNA-containing **bacteriophage**, (2) **bacteriophage** infection

Scientists are studying the use of **bacteriophages** to combat bacterial infections.

amputate

v. to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery
synonym: cut off, cut away

(1) **amputate** both legs, (2) **amputate** below the knee

Finally, they had to **amputate** his foot to free him from the wrecked car.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

infect

v. to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

synonym: pollute, contaminate, affect

(1) **infect** other animal species, (2) **infect** a computer with a virus

Children often **infect** parents with this head cold.

hotbed

n. a place or situation where something, such as a particular activity or problem, is developing or becoming more intense

synonym: breeding ground, center, focus

(1) a **hotbed** of vice, (2) a **hotbed** of the drug trade

The city was a **hotbed** of political activism.

staphylococcus

n. (also staph) a type of bacteria that can cause various types of infections in humans, including skin infections, pneumonia, and food poisoning

synonym: bacteria, microbe, germ

(1) **staphylococcus aureus**, (2) **staphylococcus** bacteria

The patient was diagnosed with a **staphylococcus** infection.

aureus

n. a type of bacteria, particularly the species *Staphylococcus aureus*, that can cause a range of infections in humans and animals, often resistant to antibiotics and can be difficult to treat; (adjective, "golden" or "of gold" in Latin) relating to something that is gold-colored or has properties similar to gold

synonym: (adjective) golden

(1) **aureus** color, (2) **aureus** infection

Staphylococcus aureus is a type of bacteria that can cause skin infections.

lookout

n. a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence

synonym : watchman, sentinel, guard

(1) **lookout** team, (2) on the **lookout** for danger

The **lookout** tower provided a clear view of the surrounding area.

latch

n. a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt

synonym : lock, catch, bolt

(1) set the **latch**, (2) **latch** mechanism

The **latch** on the gate was broken, so the cows got loose.

inject

v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym : shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

reprogram

v. to modify or recreate a program

synonym : recreate, modify, revamp

(1) **reprogram** a device, (2) **reprogram** a database

He **reprogrammed** the computer's operating system to remove the safeguard.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

tandem

n. a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated

manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other

synonym: bicycle built for two, double, tandem bike

(1) **tandem** approach, (2) **tandem** skydiving

The **tandem** bike ride was fun for the couple to enjoy together.

yin

n. in Chinese philosophy, the feminine or passive principle characterized as darkness and the moon and associated with softness, wetness, and cold

synonym: feminine, negative, passive

(1) **yin** deficiency, (2) kidney **yin**

The concept of **yin** and yang is central to traditional Chinese philosophy.

yang

n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat

synonym: masculine, positive, active

(1) the **yang** principle, (2) embody **yang** energy

He saw the balance between the yin and **yang** as crucial for a harmonious life.

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.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

bacillus

n. a rod-shaped bacterium typically found in soil or water, some of which are responsible for causing disease in humans and animals

synonym : bacterium, microbe, germ

(1) **bacillus** infection, (2) aerobic **bacillus**

Scientists have discovered a new strain of the rod-shaped **bacillus** resistant to antibiotics.

dysentery

n. a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)

(1) amoebic **dysentery**, (2) **dysentery** epidemic

In some communities of the country, **dysentery** was the leading cause of death.

ingenious

adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill

synonym : creative, innovative, inventive

(1) **ingenious** device, (2) **ingenious** idea

I always look forward to reading his stories since they're so **ingenious**.

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.

microbiology

n. the study of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and algae, and their role in various fields such as medicine, agriculture, and the environment

(1) a specialist in **microbiology**, (2) **microbiology** laboratory

The field of **microbiology** includes the study of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microorganisms.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym : curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

penicillin

n. an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections

synonym: antibiotic, bacitracin

(1) **penicillin** allergy, (2) **penicillin** sensitivity testing

The doctor prescribed **penicillin** to treat the bacterial infection.

superbug

n. a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications

synonym: super bacteria, antibiotic-resistant bacteria

(1) **superbug** outbreak, (2) **superbug** infection

The hospital is battling a **superbug** that is resistant to antibiotics.

onslaught

n. a fierce or violent attack; a sudden and intense outburst of something, usually negative

synonym: attack, assault, charge

(1) **onslaught** of criticism, (2) urban **onslaught**

The village was unprepared for the sudden **onslaught** of the enemy army.

comp

v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment

synonym: waive, cover, provide

(1) **comp** their meal, (2) **comp** the employees with a bonus

The casino **comped** her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.

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**.

verge

n. the point at which something is about to happen or
where something begins; the edge or margin of
something, particularly a physical boundary or border
synonym: brink, edge, margin

(1) **verge** of bankruptcy, (2) on the **verge** of tears
He stood on the **verge** of a major discovery.

Renaissance

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything,
particularly art, literature, or music
synonym: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**
Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

depict

v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
synonym: illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation
His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

superhero

n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers
and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

(1) **superhero** movies, (2) **superhero** comics
Superman is a classic **superhero** known for his superhuman
strength and flying ability.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--|--|
| 1. on the ve__e of tears | <i>n.</i> the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border |
| 2. am____te both legs | <i>v.</i> to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery |
| 3. traditional me____al | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 4. ta___m approach | <i>n.</i> a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other |
| 5. urban on____ht | <i>n.</i> a fierce or violent attack; a sudden and intense outburst of something, usually negative |
| 6. in___t a personal opinion into a debate | <i>v.</i> to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube) |
| 7. a ho___d of the drug trade | <i>n.</i> a place or situation where something, such as a particular activity or problem, is developing or becoming more intense |
| 8. di____t a well-ordered condition | <i>v.</i> to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance |

ANSWERS: 1. verge, 2. amputate, 3. medicinal, 4. tandem, 5. onslaught, 6. inject, 7. hotbed, 8. disrupt

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 9. aerobic ba____us | <i>n.</i> a rod-shaped bacterium typically found in soil or water, some of which are responsible for causing disease in humans and animals |
| 10. serial qu____r | <i>n.</i> a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started |
| 11. ba____us infection | <i>n.</i> a rod-shaped bacterium typically found in soil or water, some of which are responsible for causing disease in humans and animals |
| 12. lo____t team | <i>n.</i> a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence |
| 13. in____us idea | <i>adj.</i> showing inventiveness and ability or skill |
| 14. re____am a database | <i>v.</i> to modify or recreate a program |
| 15. plant pa____en | <i>n.</i> a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease |
| 16. ta____m skydiving | <i>n.</i> a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other |
| 17. fa____te the public | <i>v.</i> to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly |
| 18. in____t other animal species | <i>v.</i> to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism |

ANSWERS: 9. bacillus, 10. quitter, 11. bacillus, 12. lookout, 13. ingenious, 14. reprogram, 15. pathogen, 16. tandem, 17. fascinate, 18. infect

19. di____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
20. sta_____cus bacteria *n.* (also staph) a type of bacteria that can cause various types of infections in humans, including skin infections, pneumonia, and food poisoning
21. su____ug outbreak *n.* a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications
22. a specialist in mic_____ogy *n.* the study of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and algae, and their role in various fields such as medicine, agriculture, and the environment
23. amoebic dy_____ry *n.* a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)
24. in___t a computer with a virus *v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
25. su_____ro movies *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
26. embody y__g energy *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
27. de___t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

ANSWERS: 19. disrupt, 20. staphylococcus, 21. superbug, 22. microbiology, 23. dysentery, 24. infect, 25. superhero, 26. yang, 27. depict

28. in___t under the skin *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
29. au___s infection *n.* a type of bacteria, particularly the species *Staphylococcus aureus*, that can cause a range of infections in humans and animals, often resistant to antibiotics and can be difficult to treat; (adjective, "golden" or "of gold" in Latin) relating to something that is gold-colored or has properties similar to gold
30. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
31. mic____ogy laboratory *n.* the study of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and algae, and their role in various fields such as medicine, agriculture, and the environment
32. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
33. pen____in sensitivity testing *n.* an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
34. kidney y_n *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the feminine or passive principle characterized as darkness and the moon and associated with softness, wetness, and cold
35. mic____ic inquiry *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

ANSWERS: 28. inject, 29. aureus, 30. creditor, 31. microbiology, 32. creditor, 33. penicillin, 34. yin, 35. microscopic

36. re_____am a device *v.* to modify or recreate a program
37. su_____ro comics *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
38. am_____te below the knee *v.* to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery
39. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
40. la__h mechanism *n.* a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt
41. y_n deficiency *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the feminine or passive principle characterized as darkness and the moon and associated with softness, wetness, and cold
42. pen_____in allergy *n.* an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
43. de___t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
44. on_____ht of criticism *n.* a fierce or violent attack; a sudden and intense outburst of something, usually negative
45. su_____ug infection *n.* a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications
46. au___s color *n.* a type of bacteria, particularly the species *Staphylococcus aureus*, that can cause a range of infections in humans and animals, often resistant to antibiotics and can be difficult to treat; (adjective, "golden" or "of gold" in Latin) relating to something that is gold-colored or has properties similar to gold

ANSWERS: 36. reprogram, 37. superhero, 38. amputate, 39. quitter, 40. latch, 41.

41. yin, 42. penicillin, 43. depict, 44. onslaught, 45. superbug, 46. aureus

47. c__p the employees with a bonus *v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
48. industrial ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
49. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
50. the pa_____en in the air *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
51. set the la__h *n.* a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt
52. sta_____cus aureus *n.* (also staph) a type of bacteria that can cause various types of infections in humans, including skin infections, pneumonia, and food poisoning
53. pathogenic mi_____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
54. the y__g principle *n.* in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
55. bac_____age infection *n.* (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria
56. DNA-containing bac_____age *n.* (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria
57. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

ANSWERS: 47. comp, 48. Renaissance, 49. medicinal, 50. pathogen, 51. latch, 52. staphylococcus, 53. microbe, 54. yang, 55. bacteriophage, 56. bacteriophage, 57. fascinate

58. ve__e of bankruptcy *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
59. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
60. artistic ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
61. a ho___d of vice *n.* a place or situation where something, such as a particular activity or problem, is developing or becoming more intense
62. c__p their meal *v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
63. dy_____ry epidemic *n.* a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)
64. in_____us device *adj.* showing inventiveness and ability or skill
65. mi_____es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
66. on the lo_____t for danger *n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence

ANSWERS: 58. verge, 59. microscopic, 60. Renaissance, 61. hotbed, 62. comp, 63. dysentery, 64. ingenious, 65. microbe, 66. lookout

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
2. The _____ on the gate was broken, so the cows got loose.
n. a device for holding a door or gate closed, typically a sliding bar or bolt
3. He _____ the computer's operating system to remove the safeguard.
v. to modify or recreate a program
4. In some communities of the country, _____ was the leading cause of death.
n. a disease of the bowels characterized by severe and bloody diarrhea (= frequent and watery bowel movements)
5. Scientists have discovered a new strain of the rod-shaped _____ resistant to antibiotics.
n. a rod-shaped bacterium typically found in soil or water, some of which are responsible for causing disease in humans and animals
6. The field of _____ includes the study of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microorganisms.
n. the study of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and algae, and their role in various fields such as medicine, agriculture, and the environment
7. Folk music is now experiencing a _____.
n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

ANSWERS: 1. medicinal, 2. latch, 3. reprogrammed, 4. dysentery, 5. bacillus, 6. microbiology, 7. renaissance

8. I always look forward to reading his stories since they're so _____.
adj. showing inventiveness and ability or skill
9. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
10. Staphylococcus _____ is a type of bacteria that can cause skin infections.
n. a type of bacteria, particularly the species *Staphylococcus aureus*, that can cause a range of infections in humans and animals, often resistant to antibiotics and can be difficult to treat; (adjective, "golden" or "of gold" in Latin) relating to something that is gold-colored or has properties similar to gold
11. Scientists are studying the use of _____ to combat bacterial infections.
n. (also "phage") a virus that infects and destroys bacteria
12. The concept of ____ and yang is central to traditional Chinese philosophy.
n. in Chinese philosophy, the feminine or passive principle characterized as darkness and the moon and associated with softness, wetness, and cold
13. The village was unprepared for the sudden _____ of the enemy army.
n. a fierce or violent attack; a sudden and intense outburst of something, usually negative
14. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
15. The _____ bike ride was fun for the couple to enjoy together.
n. a device or arrangement that allows two or more things to be connected or work together in a coordinated manner; a bicycle built for two people to ride in a line, with one behind the other

ANSWERS: 8. ingenious, 9. depicted, 10. aureus, 11. bacteriophages, 12. yin, 13. onslaught, 14. microscopic, 15. tandem

16. He stood on the _____ of a major discovery.

- n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

17. _____ 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

18. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

- n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

19. The _____ tower provided a clear view of the surrounding area.

- n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence

20. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.

- n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

21. Superman is a classic _____ known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.

- n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

22. The hospital is battling a _____ that is resistant to antibiotics.

- n.* a strain of bacteria that is resistant to multiple types of antibiotics, making it difficult or impossible to treat with traditional medications

23. mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated _____.

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

ANSWERS: 16. verge, 17. Microbes, 18. creditor, 19. lookout, 20. quitter, 21. superhero, 22. superbug, 23. pathogens

24. Finally, they had to _____ his foot to free him from the wrecked car.
- v. to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery
25. He saw the balance between the yin and _____ as crucial for a harmonious life.
- n. in Chinese philosophy, the masculine or active principle characterized as light and the sun and associated with hardness, dryness, and heat
26. Children often _____ parents with this head cold.
- v. to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
27. The city was a _____ of political activism.
- n. a place or situation where something, such as a particular activity or problem, is developing or becoming more intense
28. The casino _____ her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.
- v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
29. Let's try to _____ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
- v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
30. The doctor prescribed _____ to treat the bacterial infection.
- n. an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
31. The magic tricks _____ the children.
- v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
32. The patient was diagnosed with a _____ infection.
- n. (also staph) a type of bacteria that can cause various types of infections in humans, including skin infections, pneumonia, and food poisoning

ANSWERS: 24. amputate, 25. yang, 26. infect, 27. hotbed, 28. comped, 29. inject, 30. penicillin, 31. fascinated, 32. staphylococcus

33. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.

- v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 33. disrupt