

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Gwynne Shotwell: SpaceX's plan to fly you across the globe in 30 minutes | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/gwynne_shotwell_spacex_s_plan_to_fly_you_across_the_globe_in_30_minutes

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

liftoff

n. the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor

synonym: takeoff, launching, ascent

(1) **liftoff** time, (2) **liftoff** procedure

The spacecraft had a successful **liftoff**, launching into the atmosphere.

falcon

n. a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight

synonym: hawk, eagle, kestrel

(1) **falcon** feathers, (2) peregrine **falcon**

The **falcon's** keen eyesight makes it an excellent hunter.

conceive

v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

synonym: imagine, envision, concoct

(1) **conceive** of an idea, (2) **conceive** a child

I can't **conceive** he'd want to harm us.

booster

n. something or someone that supports, promotes, or enhances; a device or substance that improves the

performance or effectiveness of something

synonym : promoter, supporter, advocate

(1) metabolism **booster**, (2) morale **booster**

The energy drink is marketed as a **booster** to help athletes perform better.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

nerd

n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.

synonym : geek, techie, wonk

(1) a computer **nerd**, (2) **nerd** neck

He was, by nature, a cyber **nerd**.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

sleeplessness

n. the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping

synonym : insomnia, wakefulness, restlessness

(1) **sleeplessness** disorder, (2) beat **sleeplessness**

He tried various treatments for his **sleeplessness**, but nothing seemed to work.

spaceship

n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space

synonym : starship, rocket, spacecraft

(1) a **spaceship** to survey the moon, (2) alien **spaceship**

They launched a crewless **spaceship** into space.

propellant

n. a substance that provides the force to propel (= to cause something to move forwards) something, such as a rocket or spray can

synonym : fuel, driving force, impelling agent

(1) **propellant** mixture, (2) **propellant** tank

The **propellant** in the rocket provided the force needed to reach outer space.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym : drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

musky

adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss

synonym : musty, earthy, pungent

(1) **musky** aroma, (2) **musky** perfume

The **musky** scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.

puzzled

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

synonym : confused, perplexed, bewildered

(1) **puzzled** expression, (2) **puzzled** by the question

She was **puzzled** by the strange behavior of her cat.

intermediary

n. a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings

synonym : middleman, mediator, agent

(1) financial **intermediary**, (2) **intermediary** role

The **intermediary** between the buyer and the seller helped them agree.

blurt

v. to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally

synonym : blab, spill, reveal

(1) **blurt** about the inside story, (2) **blurt** in frustration

I didn't mean to **blurt** out the answer, but it came out before I could stop.

rumor

n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym : gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false **rumor**, (2) **rumor** mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

constellation

n. a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people

synonym : asterism, array, pattern

(1) the stars of the Scorpion **constellation**, (2) northern **constellation**

Navigators still use the Little Bear **constellation** at sea.

cheaply

adv. in a stingy or inexpensive manner

synonym : inexpensively, tattily, stingily

(1) **cheaply** available, (2) buy stock **cheaply**

You can live very **cheaply** in Southeast Asia.

spew

v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

synonym : vomit, spout, discharge

(1) **spew** carbon dioxide, (2) **spew** insults

The volcano started to **spew** lava and ash, causing panic among residents.

carcass

n. the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food

synonym : corpse, remains, body

(1) examine a **carcass**, (2) **carcass** disposal

The animal's **carcass** was found in the forest, most likely killed by a predator.

steward

n. a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.

synonym: caretaker, manager, custodian

(1) **steward** duties, (2) **steward** service

The **steward** on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.

earthling

n. a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets

synonym: human, terrestrial, inhabitant

(1) **earthling** species, (2) lonely **earthling**

The aliens visited Earth to observe the behavior of the **earthlings**.

incomer

n. a person or thing that comes into a particular place; someone who moves to a new area or place of work, particularly in the context of rural communities or small towns

synonym: newcomer, immigrant, outsider

(1) **incomer** to the software industry, (2) rural **incomer**

The local community welcomed the seasonal **incomer** with open arms and offered assistance finding housing and employment.

maneuver

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

synonym: gimmick, trick, action

(1) political **maneuvers**, (2) made a great **maneuver**
In this class, we learn the basic **maneuver** of the plane.

refuel

v. to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.

(1) **refuel** air-to-air, (2) **refuel** bombers in flight

Our plane stopped in the country to **refuel**.

subvert

v. to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within

synonym: overthrow, undermine, sabotage

(1) **subvert** power, (2) **subvert** expectations

The rebels could **subvert** the government's plans by leaking classified information.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. morale bo_____r | <i>n.</i> something or someone that supports, promotes, or enhances; a device or substance that improves the performance or effectiveness of something |
| 2. ca_____s disposal | <i>n.</i> the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food |
| 3. ru__r mill | <i>n.</i> a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth |
| 4. a sp_____ip to survey the moon | <i>n.</i> (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space |
| 5. li_____f procedure | <i>n.</i> the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor |
| 6. ea_____ng species | <i>n.</i> a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets |
| 7. pu_____d by the question | <i>adj.</i> confused or uncertain because you do not understand something |
| 8. pro_____nt mixture | <i>n.</i> a substance that provides the force to propel (= to cause something to move forwards) something, such as a rocket or spray can |

ANSWERS: 1. booster, 2. carcass, 3. rumor, 4. spaceship, 5. liftoff, 6. earthling, 7. puzzled, 8. propellant

9. lonely ea_____ng *n.* a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets
10. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
11. alien sp_____ip *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
12. li_____f time *n.* the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor
13. co_____ve of an idea *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
14. pro_____nt tank *n.* a substance that provides the force to propel (= to cause something to move forwards) something, such as a rocket or spray can
15. bl__t about the inside story *v.* to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally
16. pr___l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
17. the stars of the Scorpion
con_____ion *n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people

ANSWERS: 9. earthling, 10. industrious, 11. spaceship, 12. liftoff, 13. conceive, 14. propellant, 15. blurt, 16. propel, 17. constellation

18. political ma_____ers *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
19. st_____d service *n.* a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
20. metabolism bo_____r *n.* something or someone that supports, promotes, or enhances; a device or substance that improves the performance or effectiveness of something
21. fa_____n feathers *n.* a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight
22. a computer n__d *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
23. sle_____ess disorder *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
24. examine a ca_____s *n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food
25. st_____d duties *n.* a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.

ANSWERS: 18. maneuver, 19. steward, 20. booster, 21. falcon, 22. nerd, 23. sleeplessness, 24. carcass, 25. steward

26. financial int_____ary *n.* a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings
27. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
28. pu_____d expression *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
29. pr___l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
30. su_____t power *v.* to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within
31. beat sle_____ess *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
32. ch_____y available *adv.* in a stingy or inexpensive manner
33. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
34. re___l bombers in flight *v.* to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.
35. in_____r to the software industry *n.* a person or thing that comes into a particular place; someone who moves to a new area or place of work, particularly in the context of rural communities or small towns

ANSWERS: 26. intermediary, 27. excite, 28. puzzled, 29. propel, 30. subvert, 31. sleeplessness, 32. cheaply, 33. industrious, 34. refuel, 35. incomer

36. bl__t in frustration *v.* to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally
37. made a great ma_____er *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
38. n__d neck *n.* a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
39. buy stock ch_____y *adv.* in a stingy or inexpensive manner
40. co_____ve a child *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
41. rural in_____r *n.* a person or thing that comes into a particular place; someone who moves to a new area or place of work, particularly in the context of rural communities or small towns
42. ex_____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
43. mu__y perfume *adj.* having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
44. northern con_____ion *n.* a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people
45. int_____ary role *n.* a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings

ANSWERS: 36. blurt, 37. maneuver, 38. nerd, 39. cheaply, 40. conceive, 41. incomer, 42. excite, 43. musky, 44. constellation, 45. intermediary

46. re___l air-to-air *v.* to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.
47. s__w carbon dioxide *v.* to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts
48. peregrine fa___n *n.* a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight
49. mu__y aroma *adj.* having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
50. su_____t expectations *v.* to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within
51. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
52. s__w insults *v.* to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

ANSWERS: 46. refuel, 47. spew, 48. falcon, 49. musky, 50. subvert, 51. rumor, 52. spew

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She was _____ by the strange behavior of her cat.
adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
2. He was, by nature, a cyber _____.
n. a person who is very interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject such as computers, mathematics, chess, etc.
3. The rebels could _____ the government's plans by leaking classified information.
v. to undermine, overthrow, or weaken the established order, system, or authority; to bring about fundamental change or revolution from within
4. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
5. The _____ between the buyer and the seller helped them agree.
n. a person or organization that acts as a go-between or mediator in negotiations or transactions between two or more parties; a middleman, a broker, or an agent who facilitates communication, trade, or dealings
6. The _____ scent of the old book filled the air of the dusty library.
adj. having a strong, earthy smell that is often reminiscent of musk or moss
7. There was a baseless _____ that the company was going bankrupt.
n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

ANSWERS: 1. puzzled, 2. nerd, 3. subvert, 4. industrious, 5. intermediary, 6. musky, 7. rumor

8. You can live very _____ in Southeast Asia.

adv. in a stingy or inexpensive manner

9. The volcano started to _____ lava and ash, causing panic among residents.

v. to eject forcefully and abundantly; to flow out rapidly and in large amounts

10. The _____ on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.

n. a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.

11. I can't _____ he'd want to harm us.

v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

12. In this class, we learn the basic _____ of the plane.

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

13. Navigators still use the Little Bear _____ at sea.

n. a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern and have a name; a group of related or similar ideas, things, or people

14. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

15. The news of her promotion _____ her.

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 8. cheaply, 9. spew, 10. steward, 11. conceive, 12. maneuver, 13. constellation, 14. propel, 15. excited

16. The _____ in the rocket provided the force needed to reach outer space.
n. a substance that provides the force to propel (= to cause something to move forwards) something, such as a rocket or spray can
17. He tried various treatments for his _____ but nothing seemed to work.
n. the condition of being unable to sleep or having difficulty sleeping
18. I didn't mean to _____ out the answer, but it came out before I could stop.
v. to utter suddenly and impulsively, without prior thought or consideration; to let something slip out unintentionally
19. Our plane stopped in the country to _____.
v. to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.
20. The aliens visited Earth to observe the behavior of the _____.
n. a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets
21. The local community welcomed the seasonal _____ with open arms and offered assistance finding housing and employment.
n. a person or thing that comes into a particular place; someone who moves to a new area or place of work, particularly in the context of rural communities or small towns
22. The _____ keen eyesight makes it an excellent hunter.
n. a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight

ANSWERS: 16. propellant, 17. sleeplessness, 18. blurt, 19. refuel, 20. earthlings, 21. incomer, 22. falcon's

23. The energy drink is marketed as a _____ to help athletes perform better.
- n.* something or someone that supports, promotes, or enhances; a device or substance that improves the performance or effectiveness of something
24. They launched a crewless _____ into space.
- n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
25. The spacecraft had a successful _____ launching into the atmosphere.
- n.* the moment when a spacecraft or other vehicle takes off and lifts off the ground; the act or process of launching or beginning an endeavor
26. The animal's _____ was found in the forest, most likely killed by a predator.
- n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food

ANSWERS: 23. booster, 24. spaceship, 25. liftoff, 26. carcass