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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Matilda Ho: The future of good food in China | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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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.

magician

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

synonym: illusionist, conjurer, wizard

(1) **magician's** hat, (2) street **magician**

The children were delighted with the **magician's** clever tricks.

tuxedo

n. (also "tux") a formal suit of clothing for men, typically consisting of a black jacket with satin lapels and trousers with a stripe down the side, worn with a bow tie

synonym: black tie, dinner jacket, formalwear

(1) black **tuxedo**, (2) **tuxedo** jacket

The waiter wore a freshly pressed **tuxedo** to serve at the upscale restaurant.

outperform

v. to be or do something compared to others of a similar type

synonym: beat, exceed, surpass

(1) **outperform** other countries, (2) **outperform** the human brain

They consistently **outperformed** other teams in the league.

circumvent

v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle

synonym: evade, bypass, outsmart

(1) **circumvent** rules, (2) **circumvent** authority

I took a back road to work on time to **circumvent** the traffic jam.

impatience

n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

synonym: impatience, restlessness, agitation

(1) **impatience** with delays, (2) business **impatience**

The doctor advised him to manage his **impatience** as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.

spoil

v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

synonym: rot, decay, deteriorate

(1) **spoil** a person's sport, (2) **spoil** the surprise

If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will **spoil**.

overused

adj. used too often or too much, to the point of becoming clichéd; lacking originality

synonym: overworked, overutilized, exhausted

(1) **overused** common, (2) **overused** cliché

The concept of time travel has become **overused** in science fiction and fantasy, with many movies and books exploring the idea.

- rev** *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
synonym: revolution, RPM, speed
(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd
He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.
- alarming** *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
synonym: forbidding, concerning, disturbing
(1) **alarming** news, (2) **alarming** statistics
The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite **alarming**.
- dismal** *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
synonym: gloomy, depressing, dreary
(1) **dismal** failure, (2) **dismal** performance
The weather was so **dismal** that we decided to stay indoors all day.
- villager** *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
synonym: resident, inhabitant, countryperson
(1) **villager** community, (2) local **villager**
The rural **villagers** were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.
- roam** *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
synonym: wander, ramble, meander
(1) **roam** freely, (2) **roam** the countryside
I love to **roam** around the city and discover new neighborhoods.

biodegrade

v. to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

(1) **biodegrade** by the microorganism, (2) bioplastic designed to **biodegrade**

The company's plastic products are easily **biodegraded** thanks to a unique manufacturing process.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

edible

adj. fit or safe to be eaten; able to be consumed as food
synonym: esculent, comestible, digestible

(1) non- **edible** ingredients, (2) **edible** vegetables

I made sure to pick only **edible** mushrooms for our dinner.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym: obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sp__l the surprise v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
2. cir_____nt authority v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
3. out_____rm the human brain v. to be or do something compared to others of a similar type
4. low-r_v engine n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
5. tu___o jacket n. (also "tux") a formal suit of clothing for men, typically consisting of a black jacket with satin lapels and trousers with a stripe down the side, worn with a bow tie
6. ma_____an's hat n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
7. fo_____nts in the snow n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
8. r__m freely v. to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

ANSWERS: 1. spoil, 2. circumvent, 3. outperform, 4. rev, 5. tuxedo, 6. magician, 7. footprint, 8. roam

9. r__m the countryside *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
10. imp_____ce with delays *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
11. in_____t ancestral property *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
12. ov_____ed common *adj.* used too often or too much, to the point of becoming cliched; lacking originality
13. non-ed___e ingredients *adj.* fit or safe to be eaten; able to be consumed as food
14. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
15. di___l failure *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
16. out_____rm other countries *v.* to be or do something compared to others of a similar type
17. local vi_____er *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
18. in_____t estate *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
19. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
20. sp__l a person's sport *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

ANSWERS: 9. roam, 10. impatience, 11. inherit, 12. overused, 13. edible, 14. obsess, 15. dismal, 16. outperform, 17. villager, 18. inherit, 19. rev, 20. spoil

21. di___l performance *adj.* depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair
22. vi_____er community *n.* a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
23. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
24. ed___e vegetables *adj.* fit or safe to be eaten; able to be consumed as food
25. ov_____ed cliché *adj.* used too often or too much, to the point of becoming cliched; lacking originality
26. black tu___o *n.* (also "tux") a formal suit of clothing for men, typically consisting of a black jacket with satin lapels and trousers with a stripe down the side, worn with a bow tie
27. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
28. bio_____de by the microorganism *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
29. cir_____nt rules *v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
30. al_____ng statistics *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
31. bioplastic designed to bio_____de *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

ANSWERS: 21. dismal, 22. villager, 23. footprint, 24. edible, 25. overused, 26. tuxedo, 27. ancestor, 28. biodegrade, 29. circumvent, 30. alarming, 31. biodegrade

32. al_____ng news *adj.* causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing
33. street ma_____an *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
34. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
35. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
36. business imp_____ce *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

ANSWERS: 32. alarming, 33. magician, 34. obsess, 35. ancestor, 36. impatience

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud ____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

2. The company's plastic products are easily _____ thanks to a unique manufacturing process.
v. to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

3. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.
v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

4. They consistently _____ other teams in the league.
v. to be or do something compared to others of a similar type

5. The children were delighted with the _____ clever tricks.
n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

6. The sudden rise in crime rates in our neighborhood is quite _____.
adj. causing concern or apprehension; causing a feeling of danger, harm, or emergency; unsettling or disturbing

7. The concept of time travel has become _____ in science fiction and fantasy, with many movies and books exploring the idea.
adj. used too often or too much, to the point of becoming cliched; lacking originality

ANSWERS: 1. rev, 2. biodegraded, 3. obsessed, 4. outperformed, 5. magician's, 6. alarming, 7. overused

8. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
9. The rural _____ were saddened by the destruction of their homes in the natural disaster.
n. a person who lives in a village or small rural community; a person who is part of a close-knit and traditional community
10. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
11. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
12. If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will _____.
v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
13. I made sure to pick only _____ mushrooms for our dinner.
adj. fit or safe to be eaten; able to be consumed as food
14. I took a back road to work on time to _____ the traffic jam.
v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
15. The waiter wore a freshly pressed _____ to serve at the upscale restaurant.
n. (also "tux") a formal suit of clothing for men, typically consisting of a black jacket with satin lapels and trousers with a stripe down the side, worn with a bow tie

ANSWERS: 8. inherited, 9. villagers, 10. footprint, 11. ancestor, 12. spoil, 13. edible, 14. circumvent, 15. tuxedo

16. I love to _____ around the city and discover new neighborhoods.

v. to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

17. The doctor advised him to manage his _____ as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.

n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

18. The weather was so _____ that we decided to stay indoors all day.

adj. depressing or dreary; causing or showing unhappiness or despair

ANSWERS: 16. roam, 17. impatience, 18. dismal