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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sara Menker: A global food crisis may be less than a decade away | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

reframe

v. to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way

synonym: redefine, restructure, reposition

(1) **reframe** resource allocation, (2) **reframe** problem

The therapist tried to **reframe** his negative thoughts.

dotcom

n. a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry

synonym: website, online business, e-commerce

(1) successful **dotcom**, (2) **dotcom** millionaire

The **dotcom** boom of the late 1990s changed the landscape of the tech industry forever.

surpass

v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something

synonym: excel, outdo, outperform

(1) **surpass** imagination, (2) **surpass** \$20 billion in sales
The athlete's record-breaking performance **surpassed** all expectations.

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.

starve

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

synonym: famish, hunger

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

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**
Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

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.

quantify

v. to express or measure something in numerical terms

synonym: measure, express, determine

(1) **quantify** the results, (2) **quantify** blood flow

He tried to **quantify** the amount of product that was needed

to complete the job.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

ox

n. a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavysset body

synonym: cow, bullock, steer

(1) **ox** cart, (2) water **ox**

The sacrifice of an **ox** was a common religious ritual in ancient cultures.

firsthand

adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

synonym: direct

(1) hear customer's voices **firsthand**, (2) conduct **firsthand** research

The manager tried to hear customers' voices **firsthand**.

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.

greet

v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone

synonym: welcome, salute, acknowledge

(1) **greet** a customer, (2) **greet** an idea

He **greeted** his friends with a warm smile and a hug.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

malnutrition

n. the condition of having an improper or inadequate diet, typically resulting in weakness, illness, and developmental problems; the state of being undernourished or lacking essential nutrients

synonym : undernourishment, starvation, hunger

(1) severe **malnutrition**, (2) childhood **malnutrition**

The doctor advised the patient to eat a balanced diet to avoid **malnutrition**.

self-sufficient

adj. able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others

synonym : independent, self-reliant, self-sustaining

(1) **self-sufficient** economy, (2) **self-sufficient** renewable energy

He was determined to become **self-sufficient** and not rely on anyone else.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym : extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

powerhouse

n. an electrical generating station; a person, organization, or thing that is extremely successful or influential

synonym : center of power, fireball, human dynamo

(1) **powerhouse** actors, (2) **powerhouse** economy

The company has become a **powerhouse** in the tech

industry with its innovative products and services.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym: course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

amplification

n. the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea

synonym: enlargement, expansion, intensification

(1) **amplification** system, (2) sound **amplification**

The political debate was an **amplification** of the candidates' views on key issues.

overtake

v. to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else

synonym: surpass, outstrip, catch up with

(1) **overtake** a rival, (2) **overtake** a milestone

The race car driver knew he had to **overtake** the other drivers to win the race.

crossover

n. a work or artist that blends elements of different genres, styles, or cultures; a type of vehicle that combines the features of an SUV (sport utility vehicle) and a car; (of music) a work that successfully appeals to multiple audiences

synonym: fusion, blend, mixture

(1) **crossover** artist, (2) a **crossover** between a sedan and an SUV

The **crossover** between country and pop music is becoming increasingly popular.

deforestation

n. the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area
synonym : clear-cutting, desertification

(1) **deforestation** of the tropics, (2) the lowest **deforestation** rate

Large-scale **deforestation** also has a significant impact on marine ecosystems in the area.

unproductive

adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results

synonym : fruitless, ineffective, idle

(1) in an **unproductive** manner, (2) **unproductive** industries

The negotiations between labor and management were **unproductive**.

constrain

v. 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.

sub-Saharan

adj. of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

(1) **sub-Saharan** Africa, (2) **sub-Saharan** countries

The coffee producers in **sub-Saharan** countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.

commercialize

v. to make something available for sale or use on a large scale

synonym : monetize, capitalize, marketize

(1) **commercialize** my patents, (2) **commercialize** idea

The company is trying to **commercialize** its new product.

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.

coexist

v. to live or exist together at the same time in the same place

synonym: cohabit, accompany, synchronize

(1) **coexist** with nature, (2) **coexist** with diversity

The different species can **coexist** in the same ecosystem by filling different niches and using different resources.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pow_____se economy *n.* an electrical generating station; a person, organization, or thing that is extremely successful or influential
2. su_____s \$20 billion in sales *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
3. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
4. cr_____er artist *n.* a work or artist that blends elements of different genres, styles, or cultures; a type of vehicle that combines the features of an SUV (sport utility vehicle) and a car; (of music) a work that successfully appeals to multiple audiences
5. com_____ize idea *v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale
6. ex_____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
7. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
8. conduct fi_____nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
9. successful do____m *n.* a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry

ANSWERS: 1. powerhouse, 2. surpass, 3. empower, 4. crossover, 5. commercialize, 6. excite, 7. determinant, 8. firsthand, 9. dotcom

10. amp_____ion system *n.* the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea
11. pow_____se actors *n.* an electrical generating station; a person, organization, or thing that is extremely successful or influential
12. childhood mal_____ion *n.* the condition of having an improper or inadequate diet, typically resulting in weakness, illness, and developmental problems; the state of being undernourished or lacking essential nutrients
13. the lowest def_____ion rate *n.* the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area
14. severe mal_____ion *n.* the condition of having an improper or inadequate diet, typically resulting in weakness, illness, and developmental problems; the state of being undernourished or lacking essential nutrients
15. a cr_____er between a sedan and an SUV *n.* a work or artist that blends elements of different genres, styles, or cultures; a type of vehicle that combines the features of an SUV (sport utility vehicle) and a car; (of music) a work that successfully appeals to multiple audiences
16. co_____in his freedom *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

ANSWERS: 10. amplification, 11. powerhouse, 12. malnutrition, 13. deforestation, 14. malnutrition, 15. crossover, 16. constrain

26. do___m millionaire *n.* a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry
27. sel_____ent economy *adj.* able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others
28. sel_____ent renewable energy *adj.* able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others
29. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
30. st___e to death *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
31. co_____t with nature *v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
32. sound amp_____ion *n.* the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea
33. dr_____c measures *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
34. in an unp_____ive manner *adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
35. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

ANSWERS: 26. dotcom, 27. self-sufficient, 28. self-sufficient, 29. industrious, 30. starve, 31. coexist, 32. amplification, 33. drastic, 34. unproductive, 35. confer

36. re_____e resource allocation *v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
37. qu_____fy the results *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
38. ov_____ke a milestone *v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
39. national ob_____on *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
40. gr__t an idea *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
41. gr__t a customer *v.* to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
42. sub_____an countries *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
43. hear customer's voices fi_____nd *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
44. re_____e problem *v.* to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
45. em_____r my life *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
46. water ox *n.* a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body

ANSWERS: 36. reframe, 37. quantify, 38. overtake, 39. obsession, 40. greet, 41. greet, 42. sub-Saharan, 43. firsthand, 44. reframe, 45. empower, 46. ox

47. def_____ion of the tropics *n.* the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area
48. sub_____an Africa *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
49. ob_____on with character *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
50. ex_____e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
51. com_____ize my patents *v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale
52. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
53. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
54. su_____s imagination *v.* to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
55. ox cart *n.* a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body
56. qu_____fy blood flow *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
57. co_____in information flow *v.* to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something

ANSWERS: 47. deforestation, 48. sub-Saharan, 49. obsession, 50. explode, 51. commercialize, 52. trajectory, 53. dedicate, 54. surpass, 55. ox, 56. quantify, 57. constrain

58. co____t with diversity *v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
59. de____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
60. make dr____c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

ANSWERS: 58. coexist, 59. dedicate, 60. drastic

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company has become a _____ in the tech industry with its innovative products and services.
 - n.* an electrical generating station; a person, organization, or thing that is extremely successful or influential
2. The _____ between country and pop music is becoming increasingly popular.
 - n.* a work or artist that blends elements of different genres, styles, or cultures; a type of vehicle that combines the features of an SUV (sport utility vehicle) and a car; (of music) a work that successfully appeals to multiple audiences
3. 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
4. The race car driver knew he had to _____ the other drivers to win the race.
 - v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
5. The company is trying to _____ its new product.
 - v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale
6. The negotiations between labor and management were _____.
 - adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
7. Large-scale _____ also has a significant impact on marine ecosystems in the area.
 - n.* the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area

ANSWERS: 1. powerhouse, 2. crossover, 3. starve, 4. overtake, 5. commercialize, 6. unproductive, 7. deforestation

8. He tried to _____ the amount of product that was needed to complete the job.
- v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
9. The _____ boom of the late 1990s changed the landscape of the tech industry forever.
- n.* a company or business that primarily operates on the Internet or has a web-based presence, particularly during the late 1990s and early 2000s when the Internet was a new and rapidly growing industry
10. The coffee producers in _____ countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.
- adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
11. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
12. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
- v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
13. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.
- v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
14. The different species can _____ in the same ecosystem by filling different niches and using different resources.
- v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place

ANSWERS: 8. quantify, 9. dotcom, 10. sub-Saharan, 11. determinant, 12. confer, 13. exploded, 14. coexist

15. The sacrifice of an ___ was a common religious ritual in ancient cultures.
n. a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body
16. 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
17. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
18. The manager tried to hear customers' voices _____.
adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
19. The athlete's record-breaking performance _____ all expectations.
v. to be or do better than someone or something; to excel or go beyond the limits or standards of something
20. The political situation _____ the country's economic growth and foreign relations.
v. to restrict or limit someone or something's freedom or ability to do something
21. He _____ his life to helping others.
v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
22. The political debate was an _____ of the candidates' views on key issues.
n. the process of increasing the volume or intensity of something; the expansion or elaboration of a concept or idea

ANSWERS: 15. ox, 16. empowered, 17. industrious, 18. firsthand, 19. surpassed, 20. constrained, 21. dedicated, 22. amplification

23. He _____ his friends with a warm smile and a hug.
v. to say hello to someone; to express welcome on meeting someone
24. He was determined to become _____ and not rely on anyone else.
adj. able to provide for one's own needs without assistance from others
25. The doctor advised the patient to eat a balanced diet to avoid _____.
n. the condition of having an improper or inadequate diet, typically resulting in weakness, illness, and developmental problems; the state of being undernourished or lacking essential nutrients
26. The therapist tried to _____ his negative thoughts.
v. to reinterpret, rephrase, or redefine an issue, situation, or question in a different way
27. The global community is undergoing _____ changes at present.
adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
28. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space
29. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
30. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.
n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

ANSWERS: 23. greeted, 24. self-sufficient, 25. malnutrition, 26. reframe, 27. drastic, 28. trajectory, 29. excited, 30. obsession