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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michael Shellenberger: How fear of nuclear power is hurting the environment | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

comeback

n. a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult

synonym : return, resurgence, revival

(1) political **comeback**, (2) career **comeback**

The musician made an impressive **comeback** with their latest album.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym : doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym : wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

canyon

n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

synonym: gorge, valley, ravine

(1) twisty **canyon** road, (2) **canyon** of skyscrapers

The Grand **Canyon** has an awe-inspiring sight.

topaz

n. a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance

(1) **topaz** jewelry, (2) pink **topaz**

She wore a stunning necklace adorned with a large **topaz** gemstone.

dung

n. solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

synonym: excrement, droppings, manure

(1) ball of **dung**, (2) **dung** the land

You can see the horse **dung** on the country road.

stride

v. to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress

synonym: step, walk, march

(1) **stride** across a room, (2) **stride** down a slope

She **strides** confidently across the stage to accept her award.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym: bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

methane

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
(1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions
The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

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.

thorium

n. a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Th and atomic number 90 that is silvery-white in color and is used as fuel in some nuclear reactors
synonym: Th, radioactive element
(1) **thorium** deposit, (2) **thorium** reactor
Certain isotopes of **thorium** are used in medicine for treating liver cancer.

crank

n. a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
synonym: eccentric, oddball, kook
(1) **crank** handle, (2) **crank** caller
The fishing reel had a **crank** that made it easy to reel in the catch.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict
Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

molten

adj. in a liquid state as a result of being heated
synonym: melted, liquefied, fused
(1) a **molten** image, (2) **molten** lava

The **molten** metal was poured into the mold.

polluted

adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
synonym : contaminated, poisoned, unclean

(1) **polluted** air, (2) cadmium- **polluted** area

The river was **polluted** with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.

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.

bulky

adj. taking up much space or being difficult to move because of its size or weight; large and unwieldy

synonym : large, cumbersome, unwieldy

(1) **bulky** material, (2) **bulky** packaging

The **bulky** furniture made it difficult to move around the small room.

offline

adj. not connected to the internet

synonym : disconnected, not connected, unplugged

(1) **offline** course, (2) **offline** mode

The computer is **offline** and cannot be accessed at the moment.

startling

adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying

synonym : alarming, astonishing, shocking

(1) **startling** earthquake shocks, (2) **startling** discovery

He describes the story with **startling** reality.

lancet

n. a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures

synonym : scalpel, blade, surgical instrument

(1) **lancet** device, (2) surgical **lancet**

The doctor used a **lancet** for a small incision on the patient's skin.

poisonous

adj. containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction

synonym: toxic, venomous, deadly

(1) **poisonous** plants, (2) **poisonous** chemicals

Some species of **poisonous snakes** can be deadly to humans if bitten.

plutonium

n. a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts

synonym: Pu, radioactive metal

(1) **plutonium** reactor, (2) **plutonium** contamination

The disposal of **plutonium** waste is a major environmental challenge.

warhead

n. the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation

synonym: payload, explosive

(1) **warhead** missile, (2) nuclear **warhead**

The missile launch was successful, and the **warhead** hit its intended target.

Session 2: Spelling

1. po_____us plants *adj.* containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
2. to__z jewelry *n.* a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance
3. mo___n lava *adj.* in a liquid state as a result of being heated
4. la___t device *n.* a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures
5. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
6. pl_____um contamination *n.* a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts
7. surgical la___t *n.* a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures

ANSWERS: 1. poisonous, 2. topaz, 3. molten, 4. lancet, 5. electrify, 6. plutonium, 7. lancet

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 8. a g__m-free environment | <i>n.</i> a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one |
| 9. sk_____al scientists | <i>adj.</i> doubting that something is accurate or useful |
| 10. th_____m reactor | <i>n.</i> a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Th and atomic number 90 that is silvery-white in color and is used as fuel in some nuclear reactors |
| 11. reduce me_____e emissions | <i>n.</i> a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH ₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel |
| 12. bu__y packaging | <i>adj.</i> taking up much space or being difficult to move because of its size or weight; large and unwieldy |
| 13. nuclear wa_____d | <i>n.</i> the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation |
| 14. sma_____ne addict | <i>n.</i> a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet |
| 15. st___e across a room | <i>v.</i> to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress |
| 16. a sk_____al attitude | <i>adj.</i> doubting that something is accurate or useful |
| 17. cr__k handle | <i>n.</i> a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person |

ANSWERS: 8. germ, 9. skeptical, 10. thorium, 11. methane, 12. bulky, 13. warhead, 14. smartphone, 15. stride, 16. skeptical, 17. crank

18. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
19. of_____e mode *adj.* not connected to the internet
20. twisty ca___n road *n.* a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
21. pink to__z *n.* a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance
22. com_____ize idea *v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale
23. of_____e course *adj.* not connected to the internet
24. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
25. bu__y material *adj.* taking up much space or being difficult to move because of its size or weight; large and unwieldy
26. a mo___n image *adj.* in a liquid state as a result of being heated
27. po_____us chemicals *adj.* containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
28. ball of d__g *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement

ANSWERS: 18. excite, 19. offline, 20. canyon, 21. topaz, 22. commercialize, 23. offline, 24. smartphone, 25. bulky, 26. molten, 27. poisonous, 28. dung

29. wa____d missile *n.* the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
30. ca____n of skyscrapers *n.* a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
31. st____e down a slope *v.* to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress
32. po____ed air *adj.* contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
33. cadmium-po____ed area *adj.* contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
34. career co____ck *n.* a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult
35. atmospheric me____e *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
36. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
37. political co____ck *n.* a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult

ANSWERS: 29. warhead, 30. canyon, 31. stride, 32. polluted, 33. polluted, 34. comeback, 35. methane, 36. germ, 37. comeback

38. st_____ng discovery *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
39. st_____ng earthquake shocks *adj.* extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying
40. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
41. pl_____um reactor *n.* a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts
42. cr__k caller *n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
43. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
44. d__g the land *n.* solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
45. th_____m deposit *n.* a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Th and atomic number 90 that is silvery-white in color and is used as fuel in some nuclear reactors
46. com_____ize my patents *v.* to make something available for sale or use on a large scale

ANSWERS: 38. startling, 39. startling, 40. electrify, 41. plutonium, 42. crank, 43. excite, 44. dung, 45. thorium, 46. commercialize

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ignition of _____ gas in the plant killed five employees.
n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
2. She wore a stunning necklace adorned with a large _____ gemstone.
n. a precious gemstone that is typically colorless or pale yellow in its pure form but can also be found in various colors, often used in jewelry and valued for its clarity and brilliance
3. You can see the horse _____ on the country road.
n. solid waste from animals, especially from large animals such as cattle and horses; (verb) to fertilize or dress with animals' excrement
4. Some species of _____ can be deadly to humans if bitten.
adj. containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
5. The missile launch was successful, and the _____ hit its intended target.
n. the explosive or destructive part of a missile, rocket, or other weapons that are designed to explode on impact or detonation
6. The disposal of _____ waste is a major environmental challenge.
n. a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Pu and atomic number 94 used in nuclear reactors and weapons, which is produced from uranium in nuclear reactors and occurs naturally in trace amounts
7. The company is trying to _____ its new product.
v. to make something available for sale or use on a large scale

ANSWERS: 1. methane, 2. topaz, 3. dung, 4. poisonous snakes, 5. warhead, 6. plutonium, 7. commercialize

8. The _____ metal was poured into the mold.

adj. in a liquid state as a result of being heated

9. Certain isotopes of _____ are used in medicine for treating liver cancer.

n. a radioactive chemical element with the symbol Th and atomic number 90 that is silvery-white in color and is used as fuel in some nuclear reactors

10. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

11. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

12. The doctor used a _____ for a small incision on the patient's skin.

n. a sharp, pointed surgical instrument used for making incisions or punctures, typically in medical procedures

13. The computer is _____ and cannot be accessed at the moment.

adj. not connected to the internet

14. The Grand _____ has an awe-inspiring sight.

n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

15. The musician made an impressive _____ with their latest album.

n. a return to popularity, success, or performance after a decline or period of inactivity; a quick, witty response to a criticism or insult

ANSWERS: 8. molten, 9. thorium, 10. skeptical, 11. electrify, 12. lancet, 13. offline, 14. Canyon, 15. comeback

16. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
17. She _____ confidently across the stage to accept her award.
v. to walk with long steps in a particular direction; (noun) an important and positive progress
18. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.
n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
19. The _____ furniture made it difficult to move around the small room.
adj. taking up much space or being difficult to move because of its size or weight; large and unwieldy
20. The fishing reel had a _____ that made it easy to reel in the catch.
n. a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
21. The river was _____ with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.
adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
22. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
23. He describes the story with _____ reality.
adj. extremely surprising, astonishing, and sometimes worrying

ANSWERS: 16. excited, 17. strides, 18. germ, 19. bulky, 20. crank, 21. polluted, 22. smartphones, 23. startling

ANSWERS: