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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Rob Knight: How our microbes make us who we are | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

afterlife

n. life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions

synonym: eternal life, immortality, hereafter

(1) **afterlife** name, (2) corporate **afterlife**

The belief in an **afterlife** comforted those mourning the loss of their loved ones.

mushy

adj. soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet

synonym: sappy, sentimental

(1) **mushy** romance, (2) **mushy** peas

The cake was **mushy** because I accidentally added too much milk to the batter.

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.

mosquito

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits

serious diseases such as malaria

synonym : insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

anecdotal

adj. based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence

synonym : hearsay, informal, unreliable

(1) **anecdotal** evidence, (2) **anecdotal** example

My friend shared an **anecdotal** story about her experience in customer service.

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.

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.

painkiller

n. medicine used to relieve physical pain

synonym : anesthetic, anodyne, analgesic

(1) a strong **painkiller**, (2) take a **painkiller** beforehand

Over-the-counter **painkillers** are less effective for patients who have taken many in the past.

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.

microbiome

n. the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body

synonym: flora

(1) skin **microbiome**, (2) have a diverse **microbiome**

The gut **microbiome** is a major producer of serotonin, which is necessary for human mental stability.

feces

n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement

synonym: poop, stool, excrement

(1) **feces** sample, (2) human **feces**

Proper disposal of **feces** is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.

outnumber

v. to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number

synonym: surpass, exceed

(1) **outnumber** our opponents, (2) **outnumber** males

The number of tourists in the city now **outnumbers** the locals.

symbiont

n. an organism that lives in symbiosis (= a close, prolonged association between two or more different species of organisms) with another organism

synonym: partner, associate, collaborator

(1) **symbiont** relationship, (2) intracellular **symbiont**

The **symbiont** in the plant's root system helps to provide the plant with nutrients.

rewind

v. to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning

synonym: wind back, back up, reverse

(1) **rewind** a film, (2) manually **rewind** the tape

Please **rewind** the thread onto the reel.

setback

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

synonym: obstacle, hindrance, difficulty

(1) major **setback**, (2) suffer a **setback**

The team experienced a **setback** when their star player was injured during the game.

stormy

adj. marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation

synonym: tempestuous, turbulent, choppy

(1) **stormy** relationship, (2) **stormy** weather

The city council meeting was **stormy**, as people argued about a controversial new policy.

ripple

n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym: wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water

Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

obese

adj. excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more

synonym: overweight, corpulent, plump

(1) **obese** individuals, (2) **obese** children

The doctor warned him that his **obese** condition put him at risk for numerous health problems.

degrade

- v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym : demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

embalm

- v. preserve a dead body by treating it with chemicals to delay decomposition and make it suitable for display at a funeral

synonym : preserve, treat, mummify

(1) **embalm** a corpse, (2) **embalm** the body

The funeral director **embalmed** the body to make it presentable for the wake.

sclerotic

- adj.* referring to the hardening or thickening of a tissue, organ, or other body parts, often due to infection, disease, or aging

synonym : hardened, rigid, stiff

(1) **sclerotic** lesion, (2) **sclerotic** plaques

The **sclerotic** arteries in his legs made it difficult for him to walk long distances.

correlate

- v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

synonym : associate, liken, connect

(1) **correlate** closely with the quality, (2) **correlate** to the size

We may frequently **correlate** age with the frequency of disease.

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.

inoculate

v. to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

synonym : vaccinate, immunize, protect

(1) **inoculate** against disease, (2) **inoculate** with a virus
The doctor **inoculated** the child with a vaccine.

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**.

kwashiorkor

n. a severe form of malnutrition, typically affecting young children in developing countries, caused by inadequate protein intake in the diet, characterized by swelling of the abdomen, muscle wasting, and other symptoms

synonym : protein-energy malnutrition, malnourishment

(1) **kwashiorkor** symptoms, (2) acute **kwashiorkor**

The child was diagnosed with severe **kwashiorkor** due to a lack of protein in their diet.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym : imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. vi_____ze data | v. | to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible |
| 2. acute kwa_____or | n. | a severe form of malnutrition, typically affecting young children in developing countries, caused by inadequate protein intake in the diet, characterized by swelling of the abdomen, muscle wasting, and other symptoms |
| 3. co_____te to the size | v. | to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another |
| 4. co_____te closely with the quality | v. | to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another |
| 5. em___m a corpse | v. | preserve a dead body by treating it with chemicals to delay decomposition and make it suitable for display at a funeral |
| 6. 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 |
| 7. 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 |
| 8. kwa_____or symptoms | n. | a severe form of malnutrition, typically affecting young children in developing countries, caused by inadequate protein intake in the diet, characterized by swelling of the abdomen, muscle wasting, and other symptoms |

ANSWERS: 1. visualize, 2. kwashiorkor, 3. correlate, 4. correlate, 5. embalm, 6. germ, 7. microbiology, 8. kwashiorkor

9. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
10. ob__e individuals *adj.* excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more
11. an_____al example *adj.* based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence
12. mi_____es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
13. pathogenic mi_____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
14. a ri___e of laughter *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
15. a g__m-free environment *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
16. fe__s sample *n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
17. sc_____ic lesion *adj.* referring to the hardening or thickening of a tissue, organ, or other body parts, often due to infection, disease, or aging

ANSWERS: 9. visualize, 10. obese, 11. anecdotal, 12. microbe, 13. microbe, 14. ripple, 15. germ, 16. feces, 17. sclerotic

18. 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
19. major se_____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
20. de_____e his public image *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
21. mo_____to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
22. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
23. human fe__s *n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
24. mu__y peas *adj.* soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet
25. ou_____er our opponents *v.* to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number
26. em___m the body *v.* preserve a dead body by treating it with chemicals to delay decomposition and make it suitable for display at a funeral

ANSWERS: 18. microbiology, 19. setback, 20. degrade, 21. mosquito, 22. medicinal, 23. feces, 24. mushy, 25. outnumber, 26. embalm

27. 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
28. manually re____d the tape *v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning
29. in_____te with a virus *v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease
30. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
31. corporate af_____fe *n.* life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions
32. an_____al evidence *adj.* based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence
33. skin mic_____me *n.* the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body
34. intracellular sy_____nt *n.* an organism that lives in symbiosis (= a close, prolonged association between two or more different species of organisms) with another organism
35. in_____te against disease *v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

ANSWERS: 27. malnutrition, 28. rewind, 29. inoculate, 30. medicinal, 31. afterlife, 32. anecdotal, 33. microbiome, 34. symbiont, 35. inoculate

36. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
37. a strong pai_____er *n.* medicine used to relieve physical pain
38. mu__y romance *adj.* soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet
39. af_____fe name *n.* life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions
40. ob__e children *adj.* excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more
41. de_____e environmental quality *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
42. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
43. sc_____ic plaques *adj.* referring to the hardening or thickening of a tissue, organ, or other body parts, often due to infection, disease, or aging
44. ri___e in the water *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

ANSWERS: 36. determinant, 37. painkiller, 38. mushy, 39. afterlife, 40. obese, 41. degrade, 42. determinant, 43. sclerotic, 44. ripple

45. sy____nt relationship *n.* an organism that lives in symbiosis (= a close, prolonged association between two or more different species of organisms) with another organism
46. st___y weather *adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
47. mo_____to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
48. have a diverse mic_____me *n.* the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body
49. 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
50. take a pai_____er beforehand *n.* medicine used to relieve physical pain
51. re___d a film *v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning
52. ou_____er males *v.* to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number

ANSWERS: 45. symbiont, 46. stormy, 47. mosquito, 48. microbiome, 49. malnutrition, 50. painkiller, 51. rewind, 52. outnumber

53. suffer a se____k

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

54. st____y relationship

adj. marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation

ANSWERS: 53. setback, 54. stormy

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ arteries in his legs made it difficult for him to walk long distances.
adj. referring to the hardening or thickening of a tissue, organ, or other body parts, often due to infection, disease, or aging
2. My friend shared an _____ story about her experience in customer service.
adj. based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence
3. 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
4. Over-the-counter _____ are less effective for patients who have taken many in the past.
n. medicine used to relieve physical pain
5. The child was diagnosed with severe _____ due to a lack of protein in their diet.
n. a severe form of malnutrition, typically affecting young children in developing countries, caused by inadequate protein intake in the diet, characterized by swelling of the abdomen, muscle wasting, and other symptoms
6. 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

ANSWERS: 1. sclerotic, 2. anecdotal, 3. germ, 4. painkillers, 5. kwashiorkor, 6. malnutrition

7. The cake was _____ because I accidentally added too much milk to the batter.
adj. soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet
8. Proper disposal of _____ is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.
n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
9. The belief in an _____ comforted those mourning the loss of their loved ones.
n. life after death, as believed in many cultures and religious traditions
10. The team experienced a _____ when their star player was injured during the game.
n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
11. The _____ in the plant's root system helps to provide the plant with nutrients.
n. an organism that lives in symbiosis (= a close, prolonged association between two or more different species of organisms) with another organism
12. 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
13. The funeral director _____ the body to make it presentable for the wake.
v. preserve a dead body by treating it with chemicals to delay decomposition and make it suitable for display at a funeral

ANSWERS: 7. mushy, 8. feces, 9. afterlife, 10. setback, 11. symbiont, 12. microbiology, 13. embalmed

14. The number of tourists in the city now _____ the locals.
- v.* to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number
15. The city council meeting was _____ as people argued about a controversial new policy.
- adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
16. We may frequently _____ age with the frequency of disease.
- v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
17. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.
- v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
18. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for _____.
- n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
19. Many businesses felt the _____ effect of the economy's decline.
- n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
20. The doctor warned him that his _____ condition put him at risk for numerous health problems.
- adj.* excessively overweight, particularly to the point of being a serious health risk; having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more

ANSWERS: 14. outnumber, 15. stormy, 16. correlate, 17. degrade, 18. mosquito, 19. ripple, 20. obese

21. 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
22. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
- adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
23. The doctor _____ the child with a vaccine.
- v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease
24. Please _____ the thread onto the reel.
- v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning
25. The gut _____ is a major producer of serotonin, which is necessary for human mental stability.
- n.* the community of microorganisms (= living things too small to be seen) that can usually be found living together in any given environment or the human body
26. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.
- v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
27. _____ 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

ANSWERS: 21. determinant, 22. medicinal, 23. inoculated, 24. rewind, 25. microbiome, 26. visualize, 27. Microbes