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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Joe Madiath: Better toilets, better life | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

aroma

n. a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

synonym : fragrance, scent, smell

(1) **aroma** therapy, (2) coffee **aroma**

The **aroma** of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.

digestive

adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food

(1) **digestive** juices, (2) a **digestive** enzyme

A nutritious diet improves **digestive** functions.

revolting

adj. causing strong disgust or repugnance; obscene, offensive, or morally unappealing

synonym : disgusting, repulsive, nauseating

(1) **revolting** sight, (2) **revolting** behavior

The sight and smell of the rotting garbage were **revolting**.

biogas

n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel

(1) **biogas** plant, (2) **biogas** digester

The **biogas** produced from organic waste was used to generate electricity.

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.

abysmal

adj. extremely bad or unsuccessful, to the degree of being bottomless or unfathomable

synonym : dreadful, terrible, appalling

(1) **abysmal** performance, (2) **abysmal** living conditions

The company's **abysmal** sales performance led to layoffs and budget cuts.

pitiable

adj. deserving or arousing compassion, sympathy, or pity; evoking feelings of sadness or sorrow

synonym : deplorable, pathetic, lamentable

(1) **pitiable** situation, (2) **pitiable** story

The **pitiable** condition of the homeless man touched the hearts of many passersby.

defecate

v. to excrete waste material from the body through the anus; to pass feces

synonym : excrete

(1) cause an impulse to **defecate**, (2) **defecate** out in the open

It is important to clean up after your pet when they **defecate** in public areas.

rampant

adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

synonym : prevalent, dense, uncontrolled

(1) **rampant** growth of weeds, (2) **rampant** corruption

In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be **rampant**.

exposition

n. a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display

synonym: explanation, description, account

(1) an international **exposition**, (2) rational **exposition**

The **exposition** in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.

pristine

adj. new and completely free from dirt or contamination

synonym: chaste, pure, immaculate

(1) **pristine** beach, (2) maintain the **pristine** condition

It is terrific to camp in **pristine** nature.

mantra

n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation

synonym: hymn, chant, phrase

(1) campaign **mantra**, (2) chant the **mantra** of structural reform

She repeated her personal **mantra** to herself to stay motivated.

elevate

v. to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position

synonym: lift, heighten, promote

(1) **elevate** educational standards, (2) **elevate** a close relationship

Eating food in a hurry **elevates** blood glucose levels.

bureaucracy

n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

synonym: administration, government, system

(1) government **bureaucracy**, (2) arbitrary **bureaucracy**

The bumbling **bureaucracy** made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

humiliate

v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

synonym : shame, embarrass, degrade

(1) **humiliate** him publicly, (2) **humiliate** the heckler in the audience

The boss **humiliated** her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.

rubble

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

synonym : debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road

After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

commode

n. a piece of furniture that typically has drawers or shelves for storage and a removable container for human waste, often used in a bedroom or bathroom setting

synonym : toilet, potty, chamber pot

(1) bedside **commode**, (2) wooden **commode**

I need to buy a new **commode** for the bathroom renovation project.

unskilled

adj. lacking the knowledge, training, or specialized skills required for a particular job or task; not having developed or cultivated a particular ability or expertise

synonym : inexperienced, untrained, amateur

(1) **unskilled** salesperson, (2) **unskilled** job

The **unskilled** worker struggled to keep up with the fast-paced manufacturing job.

laborer

n. a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks

synonym : worker, employee, operative

(1) **laborer** job, (2) skilled **laborer**

The construction site hired many **laborers** to help with the heavy lifting.

landless

adj. lacking ownership or possession of land or property; without a fixed or permanent home or residence

synonym: land-free, homeless

(1) **landless** peasants, (2) **landless** laborer

Many **landless** farmers struggle to make ends meet.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

mason

n. a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete

synonym: bricklayer, stonemason, masonry worker

(1) **mason** jar, (2) the craft of a **mason**

The accomplished **mason** expertly crafted the stone walls of the castle.

plumber

n. a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system

synonym: pipefitter, pipeline engineer

(1) **plumber's** wrench, (2) licensed **plumber**

I had to call a **plumber** to fix the leaky faucet in my bathroom.

leach

v. to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock

synonym: drain, filter, strain

(1) **leach** into the brewed coffee, (2) **leach** calcium from the bones

The chemicals from the landfill have begun to **leach** into the

groundwater.

muck

n. dense, wet, and dirty matter or waste, often found in soil or on the ground; animal waste

synonym : dirt, mud, droppings

(1) construction **muck**, (2) **muck** on clothes

The horses waded through the **muck** in the field after the rainstorm.

papaya

n. tropical fruit with a soft orange or yellow flesh and black seeds, often used in salads, smoothies, and other culinary dishes for its sweet and slightly tangy flavor

synonym : pawpaw, melon tree, carica

(1) **papaya** smoothie, (2) ripe **papaya**

I love eating fresh **papaya** for breakfast.

periphery

n. the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people

synonym : edge, border, margin

(1) around the **periphery**, (2) **periphery** countries

The factory was located on the city's **periphery**, away from residential areas.

illiterate

adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing

synonym : unlettered, uneducated, unschooled

(1) **illiterate** population, (2) computer- **illiterate**

Despite attending school, he remained **illiterate** and unable to read or write.

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.

airborne

adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
synonym : flying, aerial, floating

(1) **airborne** troop, (2) **airborne** particles

The amount of **airborne** pollen this year is higher than usual.

sibling

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

synonym : brother, sister, relative

(1) have a **sibling** quarrel, (2) play with my **siblings**

Children often copy their parents or elder **siblings**.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

armament

n. weapons and other military equipment that a country or organization possesses or maintains for defense or offense

synonym : weaponry, munitions, arms

(1) **armament** race, (2) naval **armament**

The government is poised to increase its **armament** budget for the coming fiscal year.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. wooden co_____e | <i>n.</i> a piece of furniture that typically has drawers or shelves for storage and a removable container for human waste, often used in a bedroom or bathroom setting |
| 2. alien sp_____ip | <i>n.</i> (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space |
| 3. el_____e a close relationship | <i>v.</i> to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position |
| 4. around the pe_____ry | <i>n.</i> the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people |
| 5. chant the ma____a of structural reform | <i>n.</i> a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation |
| 6. op_____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 7. le__h into the brewed coffee | <i>v.</i> to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock |
| 8. licensed pl_____r | <i>n.</i> a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system |

ANSWERS: 1. commode, 2. spaceship, 3. elevate, 4. periphery, 5. mantra, 6. opportune, 7. leach, 8. plumber

9. pa___a smoothie *n.* tropical fruit with a soft orange or yellow flesh and black seeds, often used in salads, smoothies, and other culinary dishes for its sweet and slightly tangy flavor
10. m__k on clothes *n.* dense, wet, and dirty matter or waste, often found in soil or on the ground; animal waste
11. bi___s digester *n.* a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
12. ab____l living conditions *adj.* extremely bad or unsuccessful, to the degree of being bottomless or unfathomable
13. coffee ar__a *n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object
14. ai____ne particles *adj.* moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
15. un_____ed job *adj.* lacking the knowledge, training, or specialized skills required for a particular job or task; not having developed or cultivated a particular ability or expertise
16. po_____ed air *adj.* contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
17. ra____t corruption *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled

ANSWERS: 9. papaya, 10. muck, 11. biogas, 12. abysmal, 13. aroma, 14. airborne, 15. unskilled, 16. polluted, 17. rampant

18. ill_____te population *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
19. a di_____ve enzyme *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
20. a sp_____ip to survey the moon *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
21. la_____ss laborer *adj.* lacking ownership or possession of land or property; without a fixed or permanent home or residence
22. ripe pa____a *n.* tropical fruit with a soft orange or yellow flesh and black seeds, often used in salads, smoothies, and other culinary dishes for its sweet and slightly tangy flavor
23. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
24. government bur_____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
25. bedside co_____e *n.* a piece of furniture that typically has drawers or shelves for storage and a removable container for human waste, often used in a bedroom or bathroom setting

ANSWERS: 18. illiterate, 19. digestive, 20. spaceship, 21. landless, 22. papaya, 23. sect, 24. bureaucracy, 25. commode

26. hu_____te him publicly *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
27. construction m__k *n.* dense, wet, and dirty matter or waste, often found in soil or on the ground; animal waste
28. la_____ss peasants *adj.* lacking ownership or possession of land or property; without a fixed or permanent home or residence
29. pi_____le story *adj.* deserving or arousing compassion, sympathy, or pity; evoking feelings of sadness or sorrow
30. naval ar_____nt *n.* weapons and other military equipment that a country or organization possesses or maintains for defense or offense
31. skilled la_____r *n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
32. pi_____le situation *adj.* deserving or arousing compassion, sympathy, or pity; evoking feelings of sadness or sorrow
33. computer-ill_____te *adj.* unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
34. rational exp_____on *n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display

ANSWERS: 26. humiliate, 27. muck, 28. landless, 29. pitiable, 30. armament, 31. laborer, 32. pitiable, 33. illiterate, 34. exposition

35. un_____ed salesperson *adj.* lacking the knowledge, training, or specialized skills required for a particular job or task; not having developed or cultivated a particular ability or expertise
36. clear away ru___e *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
37. hu_____te the heckler in the audience *v.* to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information
38. di_____ve juices *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
39. re_____ng sight *adj.* causing strong disgust or repugnance; obscene, offensive, or morally unappealing
40. ab_____l performance *adj.* extremely bad or unsuccessful, to the degree of being bottomless or unfathomable
41. pl_____r's wrench *n.* a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system
42. arbitrary bur_____cy *n.* a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

ANSWERS: 35. unskilled, 36. rubble, 37. humiliate, 38. digestive, 39. revolting, 40. abysmal, 41. plumber, 42. bureaucracy

43. have a si____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
44. ru___e-strewn road *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
45. ma__n jar *n.* a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete
46. le__h calcium from the bones *v.* to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock
47. de_____te out in the open *v.* to excrete waste material from the body through the anus; to pass feces
48. re_____ng behavior *adj.* causing strong disgust or repugnance; obscene, offensive, or morally unappealing
49. el_____e educational standards *v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
50. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
51. 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: 43. sibling, 44. rubble, 45. mason, 46. leach, 47. defecate, 48. revolting, 49. elevate, 50. opportune, 51. dung

52. maintain the pr____ne condition *adj.* new and completely free from dirt or contamination
53. 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
54. cause an impulse to de____te *v.* to excrete waste material from the body through the anus; to pass feces
55. ra____t growth of weeds *adj.* (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
56. pr____ne beach *adj.* new and completely free from dirt or contamination
57. ai____ne troop *adj.* moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
58. play with my si____gs *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
59. ar__a therapy *n.* a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object
60. ar____nt race *n.* weapons and other military equipment that a country or organization possesses or maintains for defense or offense
61. la____r job *n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
62. the craft of a ma__n *n.* a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete

ANSWERS: 52. pristine, 53. dung, 54. defecate, 55. rampant, 56. pristine, 57. airborne, 58. sibling, 59. aroma, 60. armament, 61. laborer, 62. mason

63. cadmium-po____ed area *adj.* contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
64. an international exp_____on *n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
65. campaign ma____a *n.* a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
66. bi____s plant *n.* a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
67. pe_____ry countries *n.* the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
68. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

ANSWERS: 63. polluted, 64. exposition, 65. mantra, 66. biogas, 67. periphery, 68. sect

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ produced from organic waste was used to generate electricity.
n. a type of gas that is produced from organic matter such as crops, animal waste, or sewage, often used as a source of energy or fuel
2. The factory was located on the city's _____ away from residential areas.
n. the outer edge or margin of something, especially a geographical area or a group of people
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. The horses waded through the _____ in the field after the rainstorm.
n. dense, wet, and dirty matter or waste, often found in soil or on the ground; animal waste
5. She repeated her personal _____ to herself to stay motivated.
n. a word or phrase, often repeated, that is used as a focus for the mind during meditation
6. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
7. The chemicals from the landfill have begun to _____ into the groundwater.
v. to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock

ANSWERS: 1. biogas, 2. periphery, 3. dung, 4. muck, 5. mantra, 6. siblings, 7. leach

8. The government is poised to increase its _____ budget for the coming fiscal year.
- n.* weapons and other military equipment that a country or organization possesses or maintains for defense or offense
9. The _____ in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.
- n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
10. Eating food in a hurry _____ blood glucose levels.
- v.* to raise something from a lower to a higher position; to give a promotion to or assign to a higher position
11. The construction site hired many _____ to help with the heavy lifting.
- n.* a person who works hard physically, typically doing unskilled or manual labor; a worker or employee who performs physically demanding tasks
12. In an overly protective industry, violations of the ethics rules tend to be _____.
adj. (especially of something bad or unwelcome) flourishing or spreading everywhere in a way that cannot be controlled
13. I had to call a _____ to fix the leaky faucet in my bathroom.
- n.* a person who installs and repairs the pipes and fixtures of a water supply, heating system, or drainage system
14. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 8. armament, 9. exposition, 10. elevates, 11. laborers, 12. rampant, 13. plumber, 14. opportune

15. Many _____ farmers struggle to make ends meet.

adj. lacking ownership or possession of land or property; without a fixed or permanent home or residence

16. A nutritious diet improves _____ functions.

adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food

17. It is terrific to camp in _____ nature.

adj. new and completely free from dirt or contamination

18. After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of _____.

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

19. The bumbling _____ made it difficult to get the permits we needed.

n. a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives

20. The _____ condition of the homeless man touched the hearts of many passersby.

adj. deserving or arousing compassion, sympathy, or pity; evoking feelings of sadness or sorrow

21. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

22. The company's _____ sales performance led to layoffs and budget cuts.

adj. extremely bad or unsuccessful, to the degree of being bottomless or unfathomable

ANSWERS: 15. landless, 16. digestive, 17. pristine, 18. rubble, 19. bureaucracy, 20. pitiable, 21. sect, 22. abysmal

23. Despite attending school, he remained _____ and unable to read or write.
adj. unable to read or write; lacking basic education and knowledge in reading and writing
24. The sight and smell of the rotting garbage were _____.
adj. causing strong disgust or repugnance; obscene, offensive, or morally unappealing
25. The amount of _____ pollen this year is higher than usual.
adj. moved or conveyed by or through the air; in the air
26. They launched a crewless _____ into space.
n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
27. The accomplished _____ expertly crafted the stone walls of the castle.
n. a skilled worker who builds structures with stone, brick, or concrete
28. The river was _____ with chemicals, causing harm to the wildlife.
adj. contaminated with harmful or poisonous substances
29. I love eating fresh _____ for breakfast.
n. tropical fruit with a soft orange or yellow flesh and black seeds, often used in salads, smoothies, and other culinary dishes for its sweet and slightly tangy flavor
30. The boss _____ her employee by belittling her in front of her colleagues.
v. to cause someone to feel ashamed, embarrassed, or degraded, especially in public or through revealing personal information

ANSWERS: 23. illiterate, 24. revolting, 25. airborne, 26. spaceship, 27. mason, 28. polluted, 29. papaya, 30. humiliated

31. I need to buy a new _____ for the bathroom renovation project.

n. a piece of furniture that typically has drawers or shelves for storage and a removable container for human waste, often used in a bedroom or bathroom setting

32. The _____ worker struggled to keep up with the fast-paced manufacturing job.

adj. lacking the knowledge, training, or specialized skills required for a particular job or task; not having developed or cultivated a particular ability or expertise

33. It is important to clean up after your pet when they _____ in public areas.

v. to excrete waste material from the body through the anus; to pass feces

34. The _____ of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen.

n. a distinctive, usually pleasant smell, often of a specific food, plant, or object

ANSWERS: 31. commode, 32. unskilled, 33. defecate, 34. aroma