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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mike Biddle: We can recycle plastic | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

recycle

v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

synonym: reclaim, reuse, reprocess

(1) **recycle** the cardboard boxes, (2) **recycle** milk packaging into new paper

We largely **recycle** the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.

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.

widen

v. to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive

synonym: broaden, enlarge, extend

(1) **widen** in excitement, (2) **widen** a narrowed heart valve

He **widened** his investigation into a medical clinic.

incinerate

v. to burn something, especially waste material completely

synonym: burn

(1) **incinerate** waste, (2) the power to **incinerate** nations

For safety reasons, we must completely **incinerate** contaminated protective clothing.

arbitrage

n. the practice of buying and selling goods, securities, or currencies in different markets or locations to make a profit from the differences in price between them

synonym: trading, speculation, hedging

(1) **arbitrage** opportunity, (2) volatility **arbitrage**

The hedge fund manager used **arbitrage** strategies to profit from the price differences between securities.

rooftop

n. the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

synonym: roof, terrace, deck

(1) **rooftop** live, (2) **rooftop** deck

They held the dinner party on the **rooftop** terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.

slum

n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect

synonym: shantytown, slumdwelling, ghetto

(1) **slum** area, (2) **slum** dwellers

The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in **slums**.

sniff

v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

synonym: smell, inhale, scent

(1) **sniff** the air, (2) **sniff** the perfume

The dog stopped to **sniff** around the tree, looking for something interesting.

fume

v. to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance,

usually as a result of heating or combustion

synonym : smoke, vaporize, emit

(1) **fume** with anger, (2) acrid **fumes**

The angry customer began to **fume** when their order was delayed.

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.

tinker

v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

synonym : fiddle, play, fix

(1) **tinker** with the bill, (2) **tinker** with the settings

He spent the afternoon **tinkering** with his car engine.

enlist

v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization

synonym : join, sign up, appoint

(1) **enlist** in a cause, (2) **enlist** for a soldier

He decided to **enlist** in the military after graduating from high school.

recreate

v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

synonym : renovate, vivify, revive

(1) **recreate** a single country, (2) **recreate** the feeling of the 1920s

She **recreated** the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.

petrochemical

n. a chemical compound derived from petroleum or natural gas, used as a raw material in the manufacture of plastics, synthetic fibers, and other products

synonym : oil-based, chemical-based, refinery product

(1) **petrochemical** complex, (2) **petrochemical** plant

The town's economy relies heavily on the **petrochemical** industry.

recombine

v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)

(1) **recombine** at the surface, (2) ability to **recombine**

Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially **recombined**.

plop

n. a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water

synonym : drop, flop, plunk

(1) loud **plop**, (2) **plop** of water

The ball fell into the water with a **plop**.

shred

v. to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

synonym : rip up, tear up, cut

(1) **shred** paper into little pieces, (2) **shred** lettuce for a salad

There is not a **shred** of evidence that he is guilty.

sieve

n. a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully

synonym : strainer, colander, tamis

(1) **sieve** tissue, (2) molecular **sieve**

The baker sifted the flour through a **sieve** to remove any lumps.

grind

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

synonym : mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

fingernail

n. the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger

synonym : claw, paw

(1) **fingernail** biting, (2) fake **fingernail**

The car body scraped off with a **fingernail**.

flake

n. a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

synonym : chip, bit, shred

(1) **flakes** of snow, (2) **flake** graphite

She found a paint **flake** on the wall and realized it was time to repaint the room.

silo

n. a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others

synonym : storage, warehouse, barn

(1) nuclear **silo**, (2) **silo** organization

The farmer used a **silo** to store feed for the animals.

extrude

v. to force, push, or press out through a narrow opening or nozzle, often in a continuous fashion; to shape materials by squeezing them through a die or mold

synonym : squeeze, force, press out

(1) **extrude** rubber, (2) **extrude** metal

The artist used a pasta machine to **extrude** clay into intricate shapes.

chop

v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife

synonym : cut, hack, slice

(1) **chop** wood, (2) **chop** a meet with a knife

The cook **chopped** the vegetables for the soup.

pellet

n. a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic

synonym : bead, ball, bullet

(1) the form of a small **pellet**, (2) **pellet** stove

The **pellet** gun was used to shoot small metal balls.

hillside

n. the sloping side of a hill or mountain; a landscape feature characterized by a natural gradient or incline

synonym : slope, incline

(1) **hillside** landscape, (2) **hillside** vineyard

The hikers were stunned by the beautiful wildflowers on the **hillside**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. ro____p live | <i>n.</i> the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes |
| 2. ti___r with the settings | <i>v.</i> to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way |
| 3. environmental det_____nt | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 4. molecular si__e | <i>n.</i> a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully |
| 5. gr__d your teeth | <i>v.</i> to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time |
| 6. sn__f the perfume | <i>v.</i> to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath |
| 7. nuclear s__o | <i>n.</i> a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others |

ANSWERS: 1. rooftop, 2. tinker, 3. determinant, 4. sieve, 5. grind, 6. sniff, 7. silo

18. ar_____ge opportunity *n.* the practice of buying and selling goods, securities, or currencies in different markets or locations to make a profit from the differences in price between them
19. fake fin_____il *n.* the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger
20. loud p__p *n.* a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water
21. pet_____cal plant *n.* a chemical compound derived from petroleum or natural gas, used as a raw material in the manufacture of plastics, synthetic fibers, and other products
22. s__m area *n.* a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
23. s__o organization *n.* a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others
24. volatility ar_____ge *n.* the practice of buying and selling goods, securities, or currencies in different markets or locations to make a profit from the differences in price between them

ANSWERS: 18. arbitrage, 19. fingernail, 20. plop, 21. petrochemical, 22. slum, 23. silo, 24. arbitrage

25. hi____de vineyard *n.* the sloping side of a hill or mountain; a landscape feature characterized by a natural gradient or incline
26. wi__n in excitement *v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
27. c__p wood *v.* to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
28. re____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
29. the form of a small pe____t *n.* a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic
30. fin_____il biting *n.* the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger
31. f__e with anger *v.* to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion
32. ti____r with the bill *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
33. ex____e metal *v.* to force, push, or press out through a narrow opening or nozzle, often in a continuous fashion; to shape materials by squeezing them through a die or mold
34. re____e milk packaging into new paper *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again

ANSWERS: 25. hillside, 26. widen, 27. chop, 28. recycle, 29. pellet, 30. fingernail, 31. fume, 32. tinker, 33. extrude, 34. recycle

35. sh__d paper into little pieces v. to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount
36. ex_____e rubber v. to force, push, or press out through a narrow opening or nozzle, often in a continuous fashion; to shape materials by squeezing them through a die or mold
37. the power to inc_____te nations v. to burn something, especially waste material completely
38. pe___t stove n. a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic
39. re_____te the feeling of the 1920s v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
40. acrid f__es v. to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion
41. en___t in a cause v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
42. s__m dwellers n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
43. p__p of water n. a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water

ANSWERS: 35. shred, 36. extrude, 37. incinerate, 38. pellet, 39. recreate, 40. fume, 41. enlist, 42. slum, 43. plop

44. en___t for a soldier *v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
45. si__e tissue *n.* a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully
46. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
47. re_____ne at the surface *v.* to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)
48. ro_____p deck *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
49. 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
50. fl__es of snow *n.* a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent
51. pet_____cal complex *n.* a chemical compound derived from petroleum or natural gas, used as a raw material in the manufacture of plastics, synthetic fibers, and other products
52. re_____te a single country *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

ANSWERS: 44. enlist, 45. sieve, 46. industrious, 47. recombine, 48. rooftop, 49. determinant, 50. flake, 51. petrochemical, 52. recreate

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The baker sifted the flour through a _____ to remove any lumps.
n. a utensil with a mesh bottom or fine holes, used for separating larger objects from smaller ones or for straining liquids; (verb) to check and sort carefully

2. He spent the afternoon _____ with his car engine.
v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

3. Some scientists argue that the genes in food should not be artificially _____.
v. to combine or put together again or differently; to cause genetic recombination (= the process by which genetic material is broken and joined to other genetic material)

4. He decided to _____ in the military after graduating from high school.
v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization

5. There is not a _____ of evidence that he is guilty.
v. to tear or cut something into a small pieces; (noun) a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

6. She had to _____ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

7. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 1. sieve, 2. tinkering, 3. recombined, 4. enlist, 5. shred, 6. grind, 7. industrious

8. The angry customer began to _____ when their order was delayed.
- v.* to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion
9. The hikers were stunned by the beautiful wildflowers on the _____.
- n.* the sloping side of a hill or mountain; a landscape feature characterized by a natural gradient or incline
10. The farmer used a _____ to store feed for the animals.
- n.* a tall, cylindrical structure, usually made of concrete or steel, that is used for storing grain, feed, or other dry materials; a system or structure that is isolated or separate from others
11. They held the dinner party on the _____ terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.
- n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
12. The artist used a pasta machine to _____ clay into intricate shapes.
- v.* to force, push, or press out through a narrow opening or nozzle, often in a continuous fashion; to shape materials by squeezing them through a die or mold
13. The _____ gun was used to shoot small metal balls.
- n.* a small, round piece of compressed material, such as wood or plastic
14. The cook _____ the vegetables for the soup.
- v.* to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife

ANSWERS: 8. fume, 9. hillside, 10. silo, 11. rooftop, 12. extrude, 13. pellet, 14. chopped

15. The ball fell into the water with a _____.
- n.* a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water
16. 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
17. The hedge fund manager used _____ strategies to profit from the price differences between securities.
- n.* the practice of buying and selling goods, securities, or currencies in different markets or locations to make a profit from the differences in price between them
18. The dog stopped to _____ around the tree, looking for something interesting.
- v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath
19. The car body scraped off with a _____.
- n.* the hard, slightly curved part that covers the outer tip of each finger
20. She _____ the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.
- v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
21. He _____ his investigation into a medical clinic.
- v.* to become or make something broader, wider, more extensive
22. The town's economy relies heavily on the _____ industry.
- n.* a chemical compound derived from petroleum or natural gas, used as a raw material in the manufacture of plastics, synthetic fibers, and other products

ANSWERS: 15. plop, 16. determinant, 17. arbitrage, 18. sniff, 19. fingernail, 20. recreated, 21. widened, 22. petrochemical

23. We largely _____ the circuit board of cell phones because they contain a lot of valuable metals.
- v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
24. The government needs to invest more in affordable housing options to reduce the number of people living in _____.
- n. a heavily populated urban area characterized by poor, run-down housing and infrastructure, often associated with poverty and social neglect
25. For safety reasons, we must completely _____ contaminated protective clothing.
- v. to burn something, especially waste material completely
26. She found a paint _____ on the wall and realized it was time to repaint the room.
- n. a small, thin piece or layer of something, often with a flat or irregular shape; a person who is unreliable or inconsistent

ANSWERS: 23. recycle, 24. slums, 25. incinerate, 26. flake