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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David MacKay: A reality check on renewables | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

fluff

n. soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public

synonym: down, fuzz, lint

(1) **fluff** ball, (2) **fluff** formation

The teddy bear's fur was so soft and full of **fluff**.

greenwashing

n. the practice of making deceptive or exaggerated claims about the environmental benefits of a product or service to appeal to eco-conscious consumers

(1) **greenwashing** campaign, (2) **greenwashing** accusations

Many companies engage in **greenwashing** to appeal to environmentally conscious consumers without actually making significant changes to their products or practices.

mislead

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

synonym: misinform, delude, belie

(1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy

Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

clap

v. to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

synonym: applaud, spat, acclaim

(1) **clap** my hands, (2) **clap** a book shut

We **clapped** along with the singer's song.

envelop

v. to surround and cover completely; to encase

synonym: wrap, cover, surround

(1) **envelop** the whole world, (2) **envelop** her in a bear hug

The fog **enveloped** the city, making it difficult to see.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym: dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

biofuel

n. a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels

synonym: renewable energy, green fuel, alternative fuel

(1) **biofuel** production, (2) **biofuel** technology

The airplane was powered by a **biofuel** made from plant-based materials.

verge

n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

synonym: brink, edge, margin

(1) **verge** of bankruptcy, (2) on the **verge** of tears

He stood on the **verge** of a major discovery.

plantation

n. a large farm or estate, typically in a tropical or subtropical country, used for growing cash crops

synonym: estate, farm, manor

(1) a rubber **plantation**, (2) **plantation** house

The former **plantation** owner struggled to adjust to life without the enslaved people that once worked for him.

hectare

n. a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters

(1) **hectare** land, (2) housing per **hectare**

The farm spans over 100 **hectares** of land.

perpetual

adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted

synonym: enduring, unchanging, incessant

(1) **perpetual** motion machine, (2) **perpetual** struggle

The company employs a **perpetual** inventory system.

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.

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.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

synonym: footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

embody

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

synonym: represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity

The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

ax

n. a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials

synonym: hatchet, chopper, tomahawk

(1) chop wood with an **ax**, (2) an **ax** in the toolbox

He used an **ax** to chop the firewood for the campfire.

logarithmic

adj. of or relating to logarithms (= the exponent that shows how many times a number has to be multiplied by itself to produce a given number)

synonym: exponential, logarithmical

(1) a **logarithmic** table, (2) **logarithmic** function

The **logarithmic** scale of the graph made it easier to compare the different values.

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.

capita

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

synonym: head, headcount, person

(1) per **capita** sales, (2) the agricultural yield per **capita**
GDP per **capita** shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

diffuse

adj. spread out widely; not concentrated in one place

synonym : spread, scatter

(1) **diffuse** bleeding, (2) **diffuse** cloud

Direct lighting is preferable to **diffuse** lighting when reading.

intrude

v. to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something

synonym : impose, obtrude, interlope

(1) **intrude** on his personal space, (2) **intrude** on other people's conversations

The loud music from the party next door **intruded** into my peaceful evening at home.

effigy

n. a representation of a person or thing, especially in the form of sculpture

synonym : statue, sculpture, representation

(1) wax **effigy**, (2) a material **effigy**

The king's **effigy** was carved into the throne to symbolize his authority.

windmill

n. a machine that uses wind power to generate mechanical energy or electricity

synonym : wind turbine, aerogenerator

(1) **windmill** blades, (2) **windmill** energy

The countryside was dotted with picturesque **windmills**.

supple

adj. flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas

synonym : flexible, pliable, bendable

(1) **supple** muscles, (2) **supple** leather

The ballerina's **supple** movements left the audience mesmerized.

politely

adv. in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others

synonym : courteously, respectfully, graciously

(1) **politely** ask, (2) nodded **politely**

She **politely** declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.

crappy

adj. of poor quality; not satisfactory

synonym: poor, unsatisfactory, inferior

(1) **crappy** service, (2) **crappy** Spanish

The food at the restaurant was **crappy** and overpriced.

thermostat

n. a device that automatically regulates temperature by controlling the heating or cooling system based on the temperature in a room or building

synonym: thermoregulator, climate control

(1) **thermostat** settings, (2) smart **thermostat**

The digital **thermostat** has a programmable feature, and it can be controlled through your smartphone.

leaky

adj. having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it

synonym: faulty, permeable, porous

(1) heal **leaky** gut, (2) **leaky** bucket

The boat had a **leaky** hull and needed to be patched.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

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.

hundredfold

adj. a hundred times as great or as much

(1) rise nearly **hundredfold**, (2) improve **hundredfold**

The development team reported two **hundredfold** increases in performance.

threefold

adj. three times as great or as many

synonym: three, triple, three times

(1) rise nearly **threefold**, (2) **threefold** increase

The price of the item was reduced **threefold** after the sale.

hexagon

n. a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length

synonym: hexahedron, six-sided figure, six-gon

(1) **hexagon** head bolt, (2) **hexagon** pattern

The honeycomb structure of a beehive is made up of **hexagons**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. he_____n head bolt | <i>n.</i> a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length |
| 2. rise nearly hun_____ld | <i>adj.</i> a hundred times as great or as much |
| 3. improve hun_____ld | <i>adj.</i> a hundred times as great or as much |
| 4. chop wood with an ax | <i>n.</i> a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials |
| 5. housing per he_____e | <i>n.</i> a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters |
| 6. fl__f ball | <i>n.</i> soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public |
| 7. talented ph_____st | <i>n.</i> a scientist who specializes in the field of physics |
| 8. pl_____ting sales | <i>v.</i> to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply |
| 9. wi_____ll energy | <i>n.</i> a machine that uses wind power to generate mechanical energy or electricity |

ANSWERS: 1. hexagon, 2. hundredfold, 3. hundredfold, 4. ax, 5. hectare, 6. fluff, 7. physicist, 8. plummet, 9. windmill

10. pe_____al struggle *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
11. le__y bucket *adj.* having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it
12. em___y my goal *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
13. wax ef___y *n.* a representation of a person or thing, especially in the form of sculpture
14. su___e leather *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
15. per ca___a sales *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
16. po_____ly ask *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
17. in_____e on other people's conversations *v.* to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something
18. gre_____ing accusations *n.* the practice of making deceptive or exaggerated claims about the environmental benefits of a product or service to appeal to eco-conscious consumers
19. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command

ANSWERS: 10. perpetual, 11. leaky, 12. embody, 13. effigy, 14. supple, 15. capita, 16. politely, 17. intrude, 18. greenwashing, 19. writ

20. pe_____al motion machine *adj.* continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
21. ti___r with the settings *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
22. pl_____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
23. c__p a book shut *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
24. en_____p the whole world *v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
25. 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
26. ti___r with the bill *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
27. fo_____nts in the snow *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
28. bi_____l technology *n.* a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
29. cr___y service *adj.* of poor quality; not satisfactory
30. log_____ic function *adj.* of or relating to logarithms (= the exponent that shows how many times a number has to be multiplied by itself to produce a given number)

ANSWERS: 20. perpetual, 21. tinker, 22. plummet, 23. clap, 24. envelop, 25. electrify, 26. tinker, 27. footprint, 28. biofuel, 29. crappy, 30. logarithmic

31. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
32. sub_____an countries *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
33. he_____e land *n.* a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
34. fl__f formation *n.* soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public
35. wi_____ll blades *n.* a machine that uses wind power to generate mechanical energy or electricity
36. pla_____on house *n.* a large farm or estate, typically in a tropical or subtropical country, used for growing cash crops
37. 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
38. mi_____d the enemy *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
39. di_____e cloud *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
40. th_____ld increase *adj.* three times as great or as many

ANSWERS: 31. writ, 32. sub-Saharan, 33. hectare, 34. fluff, 35. windmill, 36. plantation, 37. electrify, 38. mislead, 39. diffuse, 40. threefold

41. mi____d him into trusting her *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
42. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
43. sub_____an Africa *adj.* of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
44. a material ef___y *n.* a representation of a person or thing, especially in the form of sculpture
45. su___e muscles *adj.* flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
46. di_____e bleeding *adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
47. ve__e of bankruptcy *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
48. an ax in the toolbox *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
49. on the ve__e of tears *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
50. heal le__y gut *adj.* having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it

ANSWERS: 41. mislead, 42. physicist, 43. sub-Saharan, 44. effigy, 45. supple, 46. diffuse, 47. verge, 48. ax, 49. verge, 50. leaky

51. bi____l production *n.* a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
52. a rubber pla_____on *n.* a large farm or estate, typically in a tropical or subtropical country, used for growing cash crops
53. smart the_____at *n.* a device that automatically regulates temperature by controlling the heating or cooling system based on the temperature in a room or building
54. the_____at settings *n.* a device that automatically regulates temperature by controlling the heating or cooling system based on the temperature in a room or building
55. a log_____ic table *adj.* of or relating to logarithms (= the exponent that shows how many times a number has to be multiplied by itself to produce a given number)
56. gre_____ing campaign *n.* the practice of making deceptive or exaggerated claims about the environmental benefits of a product or service to appeal to eco-conscious consumers
57. qu_____fy the results *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
58. qu_____fy blood flow *v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
59. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 51. biofuel, 52. plantation, 53. thermostat, 54. thermostat, 55. logarithmic, 56. greenwashing, 57. quantify, 58. quantify, 59. numb

60. in_____e on his personal space *v.* to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something
61. the agricultural yield per ca____a *n.* a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone
62. c__p my hands *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
63. em____y a spirit of charity *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
64. he_____n pattern *n.* a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length
65. nodded po_____ly *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
66. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
67. en_____p her in a bear hug *v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
68. rise nearly th_____ld *adj.* three times as great or as many
69. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
70. cr____y Spanish *adj.* of poor quality; not satisfactory
71. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

ANSWERS: 60. intrude, 61. capita, 62. clap, 63. embody, 64. hexagon, 65. politely, 66. numb, 67. envelop, 68. threefold, 69. footprint, 70. crappy, 71. embarrass

72. em_____ss political enemy

v. to cause someone to feel awkward,
worried, or ashamed

ANSWERS: 72. embarrass

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The farm spans over 100 _____ of land.
n. a unit of area equal to 10,000 square meters
2. The ballerina's _____ movements left the audience mesmerized.
adj. flexible and easy to bend or move; gracefully agile; adaptable or responsive to change or new ideas
3. The company employs a _____ inventory system.
adj. continuing for an extended period in the same way without stopping or being interrupted
4. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command
5. The food at the restaurant was _____ and overpriced.
adj. of poor quality; not satisfactory
6. He spent the afternoon _____ with his car engine.
v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
7. He used an ___ to chop the firewood for the campfire.
n. a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
8. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

ANSWERS: 1. hectares, 2. supple, 3. perpetual, 4. writ, 5. crappy, 6. tinkering, 7. ax, 8. plummeted

9. The digital _____ has a programmable feature, and it can be controlled through your smartphone.
- n.* a device that automatically regulates temperature by controlling the heating or cooling system based on the temperature in a room or building
10. The former _____ owner struggled to adjust to life without the enslaved people that once worked for him.
- n.* a large farm or estate, typically in a tropical or subtropical country, used for growing cash crops
11. The countryside was dotted with picturesque _____.
- n.* a machine that uses wind power to generate mechanical energy or electricity
12. The loud music from the party next door _____ into my peaceful evening at home.
- v.* to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something
13. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
- n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
14. The king's _____ was carved into the throne to symbolize his authority.
- n.* a representation of a person or thing, especially in the form of sculpture
15. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
16. Many companies engage in _____ to appeal to environmentally conscious consumers without actually making significant changes to their products or practices.
- n.* the practice of making deceptive or exaggerated claims about the environmental benefits of a product or service to appeal to eco-conscious consumers

ANSWERS: 9. thermostat, 10. plantation, 11. windmills, 12. intruded, 13. physicist, 14. effigy, 15. embarrass, 16. greenwashing

17. The development team reported two _____ increases in performance.

adj. a hundred times as great or as much

18. The _____ scale of the graph made it easier to compare the different values.

adj. of or relating to logarithms (= the exponent that shows how many times a number has to be multiplied by itself to produce a given number)

19. She _____ declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.

adv. in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others

20. He stood on the _____ of a major discovery.

n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

21. 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

22. The boat had a _____ hull and needed to be patched.

adj. having a hole or crack that allows liquids or gases to pass through it

23. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

24. The teddy bear's fur was so soft and full of _____.

n. soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public

ANSWERS: 17. hundredfold, 18. logarithmic, 19. politely, 20. verge, 21. sub-Saharan, 22. leaky, 23. mislead, 24. fluff

25. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
- n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
26. Direct lighting is preferable to _____ lighting when reading.
- adj.* spread out widely; not concentrated in one place
27. The airplane was powered by a _____ made from plant-based materials.
- n.* a fuel produced from organic matter, such as crops or waste material, that can be used to replace or supplement traditional fossil fuels
28. 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
29. The fog _____ the city, making it difficult to see.
- v.* to surround and cover completely; to encase
30. We _____ along with the singer's song.
- v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
31. He tried to _____ the amount of product that was needed to complete the job.
- v.* to express or measure something in numerical terms
32. The company's new products _____ the values of innovation and sustainability.
- v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

ANSWERS: 25. footprint, 26. diffuse, 27. biofuel, 28. electrify, 29. enveloped, 30. clapped, 31. quantify, 32. embody

33. The price of the item was reduced _____ after the sale.

adj. three times as great or as many

34. The honeycomb structure of a beehive is made up of _____.

n. a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length

35. My left arm became _____.

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

36. GDP per _____ shrunk by almost 10 percent for the third consecutive year.

n. a Latin word meaning "head," used to express the amount for each person; any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone

ANSWERS: 33. threefold, 34. hexagons, 35. numb, 36. capita