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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Bill Ford: A future beyond traffic gridlock | TED Talk
https://www.ted.com/talks/bill_ford_a_future_beyond_traffic_gridlock

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

quadruple

v. to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many

(1) **quadruple** the amount, (2) **quadruple** the price of gold

His stock earnings **quadrupled**.

sneak

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

synonym: creep, tiptoe, smuggle

(1) **sneak** a cigarette, (2) **sneak** out of danger

The children tried to **sneak** out and eat the candy.

mustang

n. a small, hardy breed of horse found in the American West that typically has a stocky build, short mane, and a wild or untamed temperament

(1) a group of **mustangs**, (2) saddle up his trusty **mustang**

The wild **mustang** galloped across the open plains, its mane flowing in the wind.

hideous

adj. very ugly or visually repulsive; extremely unpleasant or offensive to the senses

synonym : repulsive, abhorrent, horrifying

(1) **hideous** appearance, (2) **hideous** crime

The monster in the movie was depicted as a **hideous** creature with gnarled teeth and glowing eyes.

firefly

n. a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark

(1) the glow of a **firefly**, (2) sparkle like **firefly**

In that country, there is a culture of eating live **firefly** squid.

resonate

v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound

synonym : echo, reverberate, resound

(1) deeply **resonate** with the consumers, (2) **resonate** in the same frequency

The sound **resonates** well in this theater.

abbey

n. a monastery or convent, especially for monks or nuns

synonym : monastery, convent

(1) ruined **abbey**, (2) **abbey** church

The venerable **abbey** was founded in the 12th century.

profess

v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm

synonym : declare, claim, confess

(1) **profess** innocence, (2) **profess** law

He **professes** his love for her every day, showering her with gifts and affection.

smog

n. a type of air pollution that forms a mixture of smoke and fog resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels, industrial activity, and motor vehicle emissions in urban areas

synonym : smog, haze, pollution

(1) **smog** alert, (2) toxic **smog**

The heavy **smog** in the city was causing health issues for the residents.

environmentalist

n. a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment

synonym : conservationist

(1) dedicated **environmentalist**, (2) an **environmentalist** political party

The **environmentalist** lobby changed the mindset of many conservative politicians.

powertrain

n. the components of a vehicle that generate and transfer power to the wheels, including the engine, transmission, and drive shafts

synonym : engine, propulsion system, drive train

(1) hybrid **powertrain**, (2) e- **powertrain**

The company invested significant funds in developing a more fuel-efficient **powertrain** for its commercial vehicles.

monstrous

adj. extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance

synonym : grotesque, huge, deformed

(1) a **monstrous** iceberg, (2) **monstrous** behavior

The giant wave was **monstrous** and destroyed the small boat.

loom

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym : appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon

The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

gridlock

n. a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making

synonym : traffic jam, standstill, impasse

(1) **gridlock** situation, (2) political **gridlock**

The rush hour traffic in the city often leads to **gridlock** on the highways.

commute

v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

synonym: travel, journey, trip

(1) **commute** to work, (2) daily **commute**

He had to **commute** two hours each way to get to work.

inconvenient

adj. causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable

synonym: troublesome, difficult, awkward

(1) face an **inconvenient** truth, (2) **inconvenient** for shopping

It was **inconvenient** for her to go out of her way to pick up the package.

stifle

v. to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation

synonym: smother, suppress, suffocate

(1) **stifle** a laugh, (2) **stifle** creativity

The oppressive regime tried to **stifle** free speech and dissent.

walkway

n. a path or trail for people to walk on, typically in a park or garden

synonym: pathway, footpath, trail

(1) install a **walkway**, (2) **walkway** bridge

The **walkway** through the park was a popular spot for joggers and walkers.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

octopus

n. a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)

synonym : devilfish

(1) giant **octopus**, (2) venomous **octopus**

He experienced nausea after eating live **octopus**.

congest

v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid

synonym : clog, choke, crowd

(1) **congest** in a vein, (2) **congest** a highway

The roads to the airport were heavily **congested**.

arbor

n. a shady place or a shelter formed by trees, vines, or climbing plants; a lattice framework or trellis that supports climbing plants; a seating area or shelter made of woven branches or vines; (of medicine, also "arbor vitae") the white matter of the cerebellum in the brain

synonym : mandrel, pergola, bower

(1) grape **arbor**, (2) **arbor** vitae

The wooden bench beneath the **arbor** was a peaceful place to read a book.

crapshoot

n. a risky undertaking, situation, or venture that has unpredictable or haphazard outcomes; something relying mostly on luck rather than skill or strategy

synonym : gamble, chance, toss-up

(1) financial **crapshoot**, (2) **crapshoot** outcome

Without reading reviews first, selecting a good book to read can be a **crapshoot** choice.

freeway

n. a major highway designed for high-speed traffic, with no stoplights or grade crossings and having interchanges or access roads to other highways

synonym : highway, expressway, motorway

(1) **freeway** exit, (2) expanded **freeway**

We got stuck in a traffic jam on the **freeway** for over an hour.

reroute

v. to redirect or change the course or direction of something

synonym: redirect, divert, detour

(1) **reroute** traffic, (2) **reroute** path

Due to the traffic, the delivery truck had to **reroute** to avoid the congested roads.

limitless

adj. without end, limit, or boundary; infinite

synonym: boundless, infinite, unrestricted

(1) for a **limitless** time, (2) **limitless** potential

The possibilities for scientific discovery are **limitless**.

hail

v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

synonym: greet, salute, welcome

(1) **hail** the victorious team with cheers, (2) **hail** forecast

People in the area were forced to **hail** a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.

confer

v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym: interlink, complect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

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.

policymaker

n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.

synonym : lawmaker, legislator

(1) education **policymaker**, (2) regional **policymaker**

Policymakers struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.

regress

v. to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate

synonym : retrovert, deteriorate, decline

(1) **regress** to childhood, (2) **regress** in skills

The team's failure to win games has caused them to **regress** in confidence.

ingenuity

n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

synonym : creativity, invention, originality

(1) the infinite **ingenuity** of man, (2) abound in **ingenuity**

Creativity and **ingenuity** are often brought about by extreme concentration.

effortless

adj. requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish

synonym : easy, simple, uncomplicated

(1) **effortless** victory, (2) **effortless** beauty

The dancer made her performance look **effortless** and graceful.

envision

v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

synonym : anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success
We cannot **envision** her as President.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. regional pol_____er | <i>n.</i> a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc. |
| 2. ruined ab__y | <i>n.</i> a monastery or convent, especially for monks or nuns |
| 3. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 4. cr_____ot outcome | <i>n.</i> a risky undertaking, situation, or venture that has unpredictable or haphazard outcomes; something relying mostly on luck rather than skill or strategy |
| 5. sn__k out of danger | <i>v.</i> to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily |
| 6. de_____te a few hours | <i>v.</i> to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use |
| 7. st___e a laugh | <i>v.</i> to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation |
| 8. en_____on the future | <i>v.</i> to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future |
| 9. the glow of a fi_____y | <i>n.</i> a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark |

ANSWERS: 1. policymaker, 2. abbey, 3. industrious, 4. crapshoot, 5. sneak, 6. dedicate, 7. stifle, 8. envision, 9. firefly

10. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
11. l__m over the global economy *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
12. ar__r vitae *n.* a shady place or a shelter formed by trees, vines, or climbing plants; a lattice framework or trellis that supports climbing plants; a seating area or shelter made of woven branches or vines; (of medicine, also "arbor vitae") the white matter of the cerebellum in the brain
13. for a li_____ss time *adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
14. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
15. hi_____s appearance *adj.* very ugly or visually repulsive; extremely unpleasant or offensive to the senses
16. pr_____s innocence *v.* to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
17. ab__y church *n.* a monastery or convent, especially for monks or nuns
18. re_____e path *v.* to redirect or change the course or direction of something
19. toxic s__g *n.* a type of air pollution that forms a mixture of smoke and fog resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels, industrial activity, and motor vehicle emissions in urban areas

ANSWERS: 10. confer, 11. loom, 12. arbor, 13. limitless, 14. confer, 15. hideous, 16. profess, 17. abbey, 18. reroute, 19. smog

20. fr____y exit *n.* a major highway designed for high-speed traffic, with no stoplights or grade crossings and having interchanges or access roads to other highways
21. mo_____us behavior *adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
22. e-pow_____in *n.* the components of a vehicle that generate and transfer power to the wheels, including the engine, transmission, and drive shafts
23. qu_____le the price of gold *v.* to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
24. re_____s to childhood *v.* to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate
25. dedicated env_____ist *n.* a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment
26. en_____on the project's success *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
27. directly int_____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
28. install a wa_____y *n.* a path or trail for people to walk on, typically in a park or garden
29. inc_____ent for shopping *adj.* causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable
30. eff_____ss beauty *adj.* requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish

ANSWERS: 20. freeway, 21. monstrous, 22. powertrain, 23. quadruple, 24. regress, 25. environmentalist, 26. envision, 27. interconnect, 28. walkway, 29. inconvenient, 30. effortless

31. human activities int_____ect with the environment *v.* to connect similar things
32. giant oc_____s *n.* a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
33. qu_____le the amount *v.* to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
34. li_____ss potential *adj.* without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
35. financial cr_____ot *n.* a risky undertaking, situation, or venture that has unpredictable or haphazard outcomes; something relying mostly on luck rather than skill or strategy
36. h__l the victorious team with cheers *v.* to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
37. saddle up his trusty mu_____g *n.* a small, hardy breed of horse found in the American West that typically has a stocky build, short mane, and a wild or untamed temperament
38. sn__k a cigarette *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
39. hi_____s crime *adj.* very ugly or visually repulsive; extremely unpleasant or offensive to the senses

ANSWERS: 31. interconnect, 32. octopus, 33. quadruple, 34. limitless, 35. crapshoot, 36. hail, 37. mustang, 38. sneak, 39. hideous

40. venomous oc____s *n.* a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
41. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
42. gr_____ck situation *n.* a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making
43. hybrid pow_____in *n.* the components of a vehicle that generate and transfer power to the wheels, including the engine, transmission, and drive shafts
44. sparkle like fi_____y *n.* a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark
45. wa_____y bridge *n.* a path or trail for people to walk on, typically in a park or garden
46. deeply re_____te with the consumers *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
47. eff_____ss victory *adj.* requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish
48. the infinite in_____ty of man *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
49. pr_____s law *v.* to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
50. co_____e to work *v.* to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work

ANSWERS: 40. octopus, 41. opportune, 42. gridlock, 43. powertrain, 44. firefly, 45. walkway, 46. resonate, 47. effortless, 48. ingenuity, 49. profess, 50. commute

51. co____t in a vein *v.* to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
52. an env_____ist political party *n.* a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment
53. s__g alert *n.* a type of air pollution that forms a mixture of smoke and fog resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels, industrial activity, and motor vehicle emissions in urban areas
54. co____t a highway *v.* to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
55. face an inc_____ent truth *adj.* causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable
56. de____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
57. l__m on the horizon *v.* to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
58. re____e traffic *v.* to redirect or change the course or direction of something
59. a mo_____us iceberg *adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
60. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 51. congest, 52. environmentalist, 53. smog, 54. congest, 55. inconvenient, 56. dedicate, 57. loom, 58. reroute, 59. monstrous, 60. opportune

61. h__l forecast
- v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky
62. education pol_____er
- n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
63. st___e creativity
- v. to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation
64. daily co_____e
- v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
65. political gr_____ck
- n. a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making
66. abound in in_____ty
- n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
67. ind_____us student
- adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
68. re_____s in skills
- v. to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate

ANSWERS: 61. hail, 62. policymaker, 63. stifle, 64. commute, 65. gridlock, 66. ingenuity, 67. industrious, 68. regress

69. re____te in the same frequency *v.* to be filled with a deep echoing sound
70. grape ar__r *n.* a shady place or a shelter formed by trees, vines, or climbing plants; a lattice framework or trellis that supports climbing plants; a seating area or shelter made of woven branches or vines; (of medicine, also "arbor vitae") the white matter of the cerebellum in the brain
71. a group of mu____gs *n.* a small, hardy breed of horse found in the American West that typically has a stocky build, short mane, and a wild or untamed temperament
72. expanded fr____y *n.* a major highway designed for high-speed traffic, with no stoplights or grade crossings and having interchanges or access roads to other highways

ANSWERS: 69. resonate, 70. arbor, 71. mustang, 72. freeway

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ through the park was a popular spot for joggers and walkers.
n. a path or trail for people to walk on, typically in a park or garden
2. We got stuck in a traffic jam on the _____ for over an hour.
n. a major highway designed for high-speed traffic, with no stoplights or grade crossings and having interchanges or access roads to other highways
3. It was _____ for her to go out of her way to pick up the package.
adj. causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable
4. The company invested significant funds in developing a more fuel-efficient _____ for its commercial vehicles.
n. the components of a vehicle that generate and transfer power to the wheels, including the engine, transmission, and drive shafts
5. The monster in the movie was depicted as a _____ creature with gnarled teeth and glowing eyes.
adj. very ugly or visually repulsive; extremely unpleasant or offensive to the senses
6. Due to the traffic, the delivery truck had to _____ to avoid the congested roads.
v. to redirect or change the course or direction of something
7. The heavy _____ in the city was causing health issues for the residents.
n. a type of air pollution that forms a mixture of smoke and fog resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels, industrial activity, and motor vehicle emissions in urban areas

ANSWERS: 1. walkway, 2. freeway, 3. inconvenient, 4. powertrain, 5. hideous, 6. reroute, 7. smog

8. _____ struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.
- n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
9. The giant wave was _____ and destroyed the small boat.
- adj.* extremely large or evil, or having a frightening appearance
10. Without reading reviews first, selecting a good book to read can be a _____ choice.
- n.* a risky undertaking, situation, or venture that has unpredictable or haphazard outcomes; something relying mostly on luck rather than skill or strategy
11. In that country, there is a culture of eating live _____ squid.
- n.* a flying nocturnal insect common in warm regions with a tail that shines in the dark
12. The _____ lobby changed the mindset of many conservative politicians.
- n.* a person who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the natural environment
13. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. The rush hour traffic in the city often leads to _____ on the highways.
- n.* a situation in which traffic or progress is obstructed due to congestion, blockage, or a lack of movement; a deadlock or impasse in negotiations or decision-making

ANSWERS: 8. Policymakers, 9. monstrous, 10. crapshoot, 11. firefly, 12. environmentalist, 13. opportune, 14. gridlock

15. The team's failure to win games has caused them to _____ in confidence.
v. to move or develop backward; to return to an earlier or less advanced state or condition; to decline or deteriorate
16. We cannot _____ her as President.
v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
17. He _____ his love for her every day, showering her with gifts and affection.
v. to declare openly, often publicly or formally, that one has a particular skill, belief, or feeling; to admit or affirm
18. The oppressive regime tried to _____ free speech and dissent.
v. to suppress or restrain something, particularly a feeling, emotion, or action; to suffocate or prevent proper breathing or ventilation
19. The venerable _____ was founded in the 12th century.
n. a monastery or convent, especially for monks or nuns
20. The possibilities for scientific discovery are _____.
adj. without end, limit, or boundary; infinite
21. Creativity and _____ are often brought about by extreme concentration.
n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
22. The children tried to _____ out and eat the candy.
v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
23. He experienced nausea after eating live _____.
n. a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)

ANSWERS: 15. regress, 16. envision, 17. professes, 18. stifle, 19. abbey, 20. limitless, 21. ingenuity, 22. sneak, 23. octopus

24. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
- v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
25. The wooden bench beneath the _____ was a peaceful place to read a book.
- n. a shady place or a shelter formed by trees, vines, or climbing plants; a lattice framework or trellis that supports climbing plants; a seating area or shelter made of woven branches or vines; (of medicine, also "arbor vitae") the white matter of the cerebellum in the brain
26. He had to _____ two hours each way to get to work.
- v. to regularly travel a particular journey, especially between one's home and place of work; (noun) a regular journey of some distance to and from your place of work
27. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
- v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
28. Our system can now _____ with other databases.
- v. to connect similar things
29. His stock earnings _____.
- v. to consist of four items or people; to become four times as great or many
30. People in the area were forced to _____ a taxi due to the lack of public transportation options.
- v. to call out to someone to get their attention, often from a distance; to greet or welcome someone, especially with enthusiasm or admiration; (noun) precipitation in the form of small balls or lumps of ice that fall from the sky

ANSWERS: 24. loomed, 25. arbor, 26. commute, 27. confer, 28. interconnect, 29. quadrupled, 30. hail

31. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
32. The dancer made her performance look _____ and graceful.
adj. requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish
33. The wild _____ galloped across the open plains, its mane flowing in the wind.
n. a small, hardy breed of horse found in the American West that typically has a stocky build, short mane, and a wild or untamed temperament
34. The roads to the airport were heavily _____.
v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
35. The sound _____ well in this theater.
v. to be filled with a deep echoing sound
36. He _____ his life to helping others.
v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

ANSWERS: 31. industrious, 32. effortless, 33. mustang, 34. congested, 35. resonates, 36. dedicated