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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jill Tarter: Calculating the odds of intelligent alien life | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

astrobiology

n. the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life

(1) **astrobiology** finding, (2) valuable data for **astrobiology**

The discovery of liquid water on Mars has opened up new avenues for **astrobiology** research.

microbe

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

synonym : germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

Microbes thrive on the surface of the human skin.

Jovian

adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics

synonym : Jupiter, giant planet

(1) **Jovian** satellites, (2) **Jovian** planet

The **Jovian** moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.

hydrocarbon

n. an organic compound consisting entirely of hydrogen and carbon

(1) **hydrocarbon** production, (2) **hydrocarbon** molecules in crude oil

Burning **hydrocarbons** releases water vapor and carbon dioxide.

titanic

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

synonym : colossal, massive, immense

(1) **titanic** battle, (2) **titanic** compound

The **titanic** ship sank on its maiden voyage.

extraterrestrial

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

synonym : alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence

Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

earthling

n. a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets

synonym : human, terrestrial, inhabitant

(1) **earthling** species, (2) lonely **earthling**

The aliens visited Earth to observe the behavior of the **earthlings**.

cosmos

n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

synonym : universe, macrocosm

(1) exploration of **cosmos**, (2) origin of the **cosmos**

Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the **cosmos**.

habitable

adj. able to be lived in, suitable or fit for living in, providing sufficient conditions for survival and well-being

synonym : inhabitable, livable, viable

(1) **habitable** planet, (2) **habitable** space

The astronauts discovered a potentially **habitable** planet in the neighboring galaxy.

longevity

n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

synonym: seniority, endurance

(1) **longevity** crisis, (2) **longevity** genes

He is proud of the **longevity** of the business.

astronomer

n. a physicist who studies astronomy

synonym: stargazer, cosmologist, astrophysicist

(1) amateur **astronomer**, (2) solar **astronomer**

This question has fascinated solar **astronomers** for decades.

exoplanet

n. a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system

(1) the closest **exoplanet** to Earth, (2) **exoplanet** mission

The **exoplanet** Kepler-186f is located 500 light-years from Earth and is believed to be habitable.

ponder

v. to think deeply or carefully about something

synonym: think about, consider, reflect on

(1) **ponder** divine matters, (2) **ponder** life's meaning

She sat quietly, **pondering** the difficult decision.

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**.

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.

archaeology

n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**
She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax

His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. prehistoric arc_____gy | <i>n.</i> the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures |
| 2. solar ast_____er | <i>n.</i> a physicist who studies astronomy |
| 3. hu_____g sound | <i>adj.</i> producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee |
| 4. ea_____ng species | <i>n.</i> a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets |
| 5. lonely ea_____ng | <i>n.</i> a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets |
| 6. Jo____n satellites | <i>adj.</i> relating to Jupiter or its characteristics |
| 7. ex_____et mission | <i>n.</i> a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system |
| 8. st_____ze blood sugar levels | <i>v.</i> to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way |
| 9. mi_____es sterilizer | <i>n.</i> a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease |
| 10. st_____ze prices | <i>v.</i> to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way |

ANSWERS: 1. archaeology, 2. astronomer, 3. humming, 4. earthling, 5. earthling, 6. Jovian, 7. exoplanet, 8. stabilize, 9. microbe, 10. stabilize

11. ti____c compound *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
12. po____r divine matters *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
13. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
14. ext_____ial intelligence *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
15. valuable data for ast_____ogy *n.* the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life
16. ti____c battle *adj.* of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)
17. po____r life's meaning *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
18. ext_____ial planet *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
19. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

ANSWERS: 11. titanic, 12. ponder, 13. numb, 14. extraterrestrial, 15. astrobiology, 16. titanic, 17. ponder, 18. extraterrestrial, 19. physicist

20. ha_____le planet *adj.* able to be lived in, suitable or fit for living in, providing sufficient conditions for survival and well-being
21. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
22. hyd_____on molecules in crude oil *n.* an organic compound consisting entirely of hydrogen and carbon
23. ha_____le space *adj.* able to be lived in, suitable or fit for living in, providing sufficient conditions for survival and well-being
24. hyd_____on production *n.* an organic compound consisting entirely of hydrogen and carbon
25. origin of the co___s *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
26. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
27. amateur ast_____er *n.* a physicist who studies astronomy
28. exploration of co___s *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
29. inh_____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
30. the closest ex_____et to Earth *n.* a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system
31. lo_____ty crisis *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

ANSWERS: 20. habitable, 21. inhabitant, 22. hydrocarbon, 23. habitable, 24. hydrocarbon, 25. cosmos, 26. numb, 27. astronomer, 28. cosmos, 29. inhabitant, 30. exoplanet, 31. longevity

32. pathogenic mi_____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
33. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
34. lo_____ty genes *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
35. Jo____n planet *adj.* relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
36. the institute of arc_____gy *n.* the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
37. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
38. ast_____ogy finding *n.* the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life

ANSWERS: 32. microbe, 33. physicist, 34. longevity, 35. Jovian, 36. archaeology, 37. humming, 38. astrobiology

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He is proud of the _____ of the business.
n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
2. The astronauts discovered a potentially _____ planet in the neighboring galaxy.
adj. able to be lived in, suitable or fit for living in, providing sufficient conditions for survival and well-being
3. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
4. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of _____ life in the universe.
adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
5. The _____ Kepler-186f is located 500 light-years from Earth and is believed to be habitable.
n. a planet that orbits a star outside of the solar system
6. The discovery of liquid water on Mars has opened up new avenues for _____ research.
n. the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe, including the search for extraterrestrial life
7. _____ thrive on the surface of the human skin.
n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

ANSWERS: 1. longevity, 2. habitable, 3. physicist, 4. extraterrestrial, 5. exoplanet, 6. astrobiology, 7. Microbes

8. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
9. She sat quietly, _____ the difficult decision.
v. to think deeply or carefully about something
10. Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the _____.
n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
11. She teaches _____ at the local university.
n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
12. My left arm became _____.
adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
13. The _____ moon Europa is believed to have an ocean beneath its icy surface.
adj. relating to Jupiter or its characteristics
14. This question has fascinated solar _____ for decades.
n. a physicist who studies astronomy
15. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
16. The aliens visited Earth to observe the behavior of the _____.
n. a human being; a person who inhabits the planet Earth, often used in science fiction or in a humorous context to refer to humans in comparison to beings from other planets

ANSWERS: 8. humming, 9. pondering, 10. cosmos, 11. archaeology, 12. numb, 13. Jovian, 14. astronomers, 15. inhabitant, 16. earthlings

17. Burning _____ releases water vapor and carbon dioxide.

n. an organic compound consisting entirely of hydrogen and carbon

18. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

19. The _____ ship sank on its maiden voyage.

adj. of or having a great size, power, or influence; of or relating to Titanium (= a light, strong grey, lustrous, corrosion-resistant metallic element)

ANSWERS: 17. hydrocarbons, 18. stabilizes, 19. titanic