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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

T. Boone Pickens: Let's transform energy -- with natural gas | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

disbeliever

n. a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea

synonym: non-believer, skeptic, doubter

(1) persuade a **disbeliever**, (2) stubborn **disbeliever**

Despite the evidence, she remained a **disbeliever** in the theory of evolution.

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym: chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

octane

n. a hydrocarbon compound (C₈H₁₈) that is a component of gasoline and is used as a measure of fuel quality, with higher octane ratings indicating better performance and

greater resistance to engine knock

synonym : fuel, gas, gasoline

(1) **octane** compound, (2) low- **octane** fuel

Premium gas has a higher **octane** rating, which makes it more expensive than regular gasoline.

refinery

n. a facility that is used to process, purify, and refine raw materials such as oil or metal into a more useful or valuable form

synonym : plant, factory, processing plant

(1) hydrogen **refinery**, (2) **refinery** operations

The oil **refinery** was shut down due to safety concerns after a major accident.

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.

theorist

n. a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation

synonym : philosopher, academic, scholar

(1) scientific **theorist**, (2) conspiracy **theorist**

The feminist **theorist** criticized traditional models of gender roles and argued for greater equality between the sexes.

methane

n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

(1) atmospheric **methane**, (2) reduce **methane** emissions

The ignition of **methane** gas in the plant killed five employees.

hydrate

v. to add water or moisture to something; to drink enough fluids to maintain proper moisture; (noun) any compound that contains water of crystallization

synonym: moisturize, water, rehydrate

(1) **hydrate** my skin, (2) acid **hydrate**

She drank water to **hydrate** her body.

frack

v. to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them

synonym: extract, drill, mine

(1) **frack** the land, (2) **frack** multiple wells

The energy company plans to **frack** the shale deposit to extract natural gas.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym: detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

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.

nutshell

n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something

synonym: summary, essence, covering

(1) move into a **nutshell**, (2) **nutshell** version

Can you explain your argument in a **nutshell**?

shale

n. a sedimentary rock formed from the accumulation of fine-grained clay, silt, or mud, often used in construction or as a source of fuel

synonym : rock, sedimentary rock

(1) **shale** rock, (2) **shale** gas

The geologist studied the **shale** layers in the rock formations to determine their age.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym : conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

reformer

n. a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it

synonym : inciter, innovator, agitator

(1) education **reformer**, (2) catalytic **reformer**

He is regarded as a passionate social **reformer**.

nuke

v. (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile

synonym : blast, bomb, attack

(1) **nuke** a city, (2) **nuke** missile

The government threatened to **nuke** the enemy territory if they didn't surrender.

tease

v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

synonym : bully, annoy, provoke

(1) **tease** the children, (2) **tease** wool

This ad is intended to **tease** a competing product.

aquifer

n. an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water

(1) **aquifer** soil, (2) subsurface **aquifer**

Some areas melt snow by harnessing heat from underground **aquifers**.

boon

n. something that is helpful or beneficial for the quality of life

synonym: benefit, favor, blessing

(1) a **boon** companion, (2) prove a great **boon**

The increased demand for semiconductors worldwide has been a significant **boon** for the country's economy.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. subsurface aq_____r | <i>n.</i> an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water |
| 2. acid hy_____e | <i>v.</i> to add water or moisture to something; to drink enough fluids to maintain proper moisture; (noun) any compound that contains water of crystallization |
| 3. n__e missile | <i>v.</i> (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile |
| 4. hydrogen re_____ry | <i>n.</i> a facility that is used to process, purify, and refine raw materials such as oil or metal into a more useful or valuable form |
| 5. atmospheric me_____e | <i>n.</i> a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH ₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel |
| 6. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 7. te__e wool | <i>v.</i> to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing |
| 8. a b__n companion | <i>n.</i> something that is helpful or beneficial for the quality of life |

ANSWERS: 1. aquifer, 2. hydrate, 3. nuke, 4. refinery, 5. methane, 6. industrious, 7. tease, 8. boon

9. reduce me____e emissions *n.* a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel
10. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
11. fr__k multiple wells *v.* to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them
12. aq____r soil *n.* an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water
13. low-oc____e fuel *n.* a hydrocarbon compound (C₈H₁₈) that is a component of gasoline and is used as a measure of fuel quality, with higher octane ratings indicating better performance and greater resistance to engine knock
14. hy____e my skin *v.* to add water or moisture to something; to drink enough fluids to maintain proper moisture; (noun) any compound that contains water of crystallization
15. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
16. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
17. ex____e in anger *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

ANSWERS: 9. methane, 10. industrious, 11. frack, 12. aquifer, 13. octane, 14. hydrate, 15. doe, 16. doe, 17. explode

18. oc___e compound *n.* a hydrocarbon compound (C₈H₁₈) that is a component of gasoline and is used as a measure of fuel quality, with higher octane ratings indicating better performance and greater resistance to engine knock
19. n__e a city *v.* (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile
20. catalytic re_____er *n.* a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it
21. scientific th_____st *n.* a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation
22. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
23. sh__e gas *n.* a sedimentary rock formed from the accumulation of fine-grained clay, silt, or mud, often used in construction or as a source of fuel
24. education re_____er *n.* a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it
25. te__e the children *v.* to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing

ANSWERS: 18. octane, 19. nuke, 20. reformer, 21. theorist, 22. blob, 23. shale, 24. reformer, 25. tease

26. stubborn dis_____er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
27. conspiracy th_____st *n.* a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation
28. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
29. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
30. sh__e rock *n.* a sedimentary rock formed from the accumulation of fine-grained clay, silt, or mud, often used in construction or as a source of fuel
31. persuade a dis_____er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
32. move into a nu_____ll *n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
33. pl_____ting sales *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
34. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
35. re_____ry operations *n.* a facility that is used to process, purify, and refine raw materials such as oil or metal into a more useful or valuable form

ANSWERS: 26. disbeliever, 27. theorist, 28. overwhelm, 29. overwhelm, 30. shale, 31. disbeliever, 32. nutshell, 33. plummet, 34. blob, 35. refinery

36. prove a great b__n *n.* something that is helpful or beneficial for the quality of life
37. ex____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
38. nu____ll version *n.* the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
39. pl____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
40. fr__k the land *v.* to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them

ANSWERS: 36. boon, 37. explode, 38. nutshell, 39. plummet, 40. frack

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.
 - v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

2. The government threatened to _____ the enemy territory if they didn't surrender.
 - v. (derived from "nuclear") to attack or destroy a place or target with a nuclear weapon; to cook food in a microwave oven; (noun) a nuclear weapon, such as a nuclear bomb or missile

3. The oil _____ was shut down due to safety concerns after a major accident.
 - n. a facility that is used to process, purify, and refine raw materials such as oil or metal into a more useful or valuable form

4. He is regarded as a passionate social _____.
 - n. a person who makes changes to a system or law to improve it

5. Hunters use a whistle that makes the _____ sound to lure stags.
 - n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

6. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.
 - v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

7. The ignition of _____ gas in the plant killed five employees.
 - n. a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH₄ with no smell or color, often used as a fuel

ANSWERS: 1. overwhelm, 2. nuke, 3. refinery, 4. reformer, 5. doe, 6. exploded, 7. methane

8. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
9. Despite the evidence, she remained a _____ in the theory of evolution.
n. a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
10. The feminist _____ criticized traditional models of gender roles and argued for greater equality between the sexes.
n. a person who develops or formulates theories about a particular subject, especially in the sciences or social sciences; someone who engages in theoretical thinking or speculation
11. Can you explain your argument in a _____
n. the hard, outer covering or protective casing that encloses the kernel or fruit of certain types of nuts, such as walnuts or acorns; a concise and condensed summary or explanation of something
12. 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
13. Some areas melt snow by harnessing heat from underground _____.
n. an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water
14. This ad is intended to _____ a competing product.
v. to make fun of someone or make jokes about them, either in a playful way or to upset them; to separate the fibers of something; to ruffle a person's or animal's hair by combing
15. The increased demand for semiconductors worldwide has been a significant _____ for the country's economy.
n. something that is helpful or beneficial for the quality of life

ANSWERS: 8. industrious, 9. disbeliever, 10. theorist, 11. nutshell?, 12. plummeted, 13. aquifers, 14. tease, 15. boon

16. Premium gas has a higher _____ rating, which makes it more expensive than regular gasoline.
- n.* a hydrocarbon compound (C₈H₁₈) that is a component of gasoline and is used as a measure of fuel quality, with higher octane ratings indicating better performance and greater resistance to engine knock
17. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
- n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
18. The geologist studied the _____ layers in the rock formations to determine their age.
- n.* a sedimentary rock formed from the accumulation of fine-grained clay, silt, or mud, often used in construction or as a source of fuel
19. She drank water to _____ her body.
- v.* to add water or moisture to something; to drink enough fluids to maintain proper moisture; (noun) any compound that contains water of crystallization
20. The energy company plans to _____ the shale deposit to extract natural gas.
- v.* to inject water and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock and release the gas or oil, especially to extract them

ANSWERS: 16. octane, 17. blob, 18. shale, 19. hydrate, 20. frack