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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Suzanne Lee: *Grow your own clothes | TED Talk*

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

kombucha

n. a fermented beverage made by adding a culture of bacteria and yeast to sweetened tea, resulting in a slightly effervescent, tart, and tea-like flavored drink, often consumed for its potential health benefits

synonym: fermented tea, probiotic drink

(1) **kombucha** tea, (2) homemade **kombucha**

I enjoy drinking flavored **kombucha** as a refreshing and probiotic-rich beverage.

symbiotic

adj. involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist

(1) **symbiotic** economy, (2) **symbiotic** bacteria

We have a mutually **symbiotic** connection with them.

cellulose

n. a complex carbohydrate that is the main structural component of plant cell walls and fibers; a substance used to make paper, textiles, and other materials

synonym: fiber, paper, wood pulp

(1) **cellulose** acetate, (2) **cellulose** insulation

The **cellulose** content in fruits and vegetables contributes to their dietary fiber.

fermentation

n. the chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms, typically involving effervescence and the giving off of the heat

synonym : brewing, culturing, pickling

(1) oxidative **fermentation**, (2) **fermentation** tank

The process of **fermentation** is used to make beer, wine, and many other products.

brew

v. to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water

synonym : make, prepare

(1) **brew** a cup of tea, (2) **brew** beer

I am going to **brew** some coffee this morning.

dissolve

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

synonym : disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

acetic

adj. relating to vinegar or containing acetic acid (= a colorless, pungent-smelling liquid organic compound with the chemical formula CH₃COOH); having a sour or sharp taste or smell resembling vinegar

synonym : sour, acidic, tart

(1) **acetic** fermentation, (2) **acetic** smell

Adding **acetic** acid to a solution can lower its pH.

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.

ferment

v. to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases;
(noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements

synonym: ripen, simmer, (noun) agitation

(1) **ferment** sugar into ethanol, (2) political **ferment**

The dough was left to **ferment** overnight to give the bread its distinctive flavor.

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.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

nanoscale

adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

synonym: vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

compress

v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space

synonym : condense, constrict, squeeze

(1) **compress** the chest, (2) **compress** gas

She **compressed** the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.

sew

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym : stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

conventionally

adv. in a way that follows accepted customs, rules, or standards; in a way that is typical or traditional

synonym : traditionally, customarily, conventionally

(1) **conventionally** dressed, (2) **conventionally** grown crops

Conventionally, doctors recommend getting at least 8 hours of sleep per night for optimal health.

seam

n. a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil

synonym : stitch, seam, joint

(1) uneven **seam**, (2) the **seam** on the shoulder

She took the dress to the tailor to fix the torn **seam**.

intrigue

v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone

synonym : attract, captivate, charm

(1) **intrigue** him, (2) **intrigue** against his rival

The artist's innovative style of work **intrigues** me.

indigo

adj. a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye

synonym : blue, purplish-blue, violet-blue

(1) **indigo** fabric, (2) **indigo** plant

The **indigo** dye made the fabric a beautiful shade of blue.

hydrophobic

adj. tending to repel or be unreactive towards the water;
lacking affinity for water

synonym : water-repelling, aquaphobic, water-resistant

(1) **hydrophobic** molecules, (2) **hydrophobic** amino acids

The **hydrophobic** coating on the fabric repels water, keeping the wearer dry in a downpour.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym : thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

biodegrade

v. to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

(1) **biodegrade** by the microorganism, (2) bioplastic designed to **biodegrade**

The company's plastic products are easily **biodegraded** thanks to a unique manufacturing process.

peel

v. to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables

synonym : pare, unclothe, disrobe

(1) **peel** a fruit, (2) **peel** off easily

The storm had **peeled** all paint off the siding.

degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym : demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use

you.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. mi_____es sterilizer | <i>n.</i> a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease |
| 2. na_____le device | <i>adj.</i> on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale |
| 3. con_____lly grown crops | <i>adv.</i> in a way that follows accepted customs, rules, or standards; in a way that is typical or traditional |
| 4. fe_____t sugar into ethanol | <i>v.</i> to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases; (noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements |
| 5. b__w a cup of tea | <i>v.</i> to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water |
| 6. sy_____ic economy | <i>adj.</i> involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist |
| 7. hyd_____ic amino acids | <i>adj.</i> tending to repel or be unreactive towards the water; lacking affinity for water |
| 8. ce_____se acetate | <i>n.</i> a complex carbohydrate that is the main structural component of plant cell walls and fibers; a substance used to make paper, textiles, and other materials |

ANSWERS: 1. microbe, 2. nanoscale, 3. conventionally, 4. ferment, 5. brew, 6. symbiotic, 7. hydrophobic, 8. cellulose

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|
| 9. p__l off easily | v. | to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables |
| 10. bio_____de by the microorganism | v. | to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi |
| 11. uneven s__m | n. | a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil |
| 12. s_w with thread | v. | to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle |
| 13. ev_____te the water | v. | to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually |
| 14. de_____e his public image | v. | to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others |
| 15. in___o plant | adj. | a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye |
| 16. in___o fabric | adj. | a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye |
| 17. hyd_____ic molecules | adj. | tending to repel or be unreactive towards the water; lacking affinity for water |
| 18. the s__m on the shoulder | n. | a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil |

ANSWERS: 9. peel, 10. biodegrade, 11. seam, 12. sew, 13. evaporate, 14. degrade, 15. indigo, 16. indigo, 17. hydrophobic, 18. seam

19. fer_____ion tank *n.* the chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms, typically involving effervescence and the giving off of the heat
20. re_____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
21. oxidative fer_____ion *n.* the chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms, typically involving effervescence and the giving off of the heat
22. co_____ss the chest *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
23. ex_____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
24. p__l a fruit *v.* to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables
25. di_____ve the sugar *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
26. officially di_____ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
27. things at the na_____le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
28. ex_____e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

ANSWERS: 19. fermentation, 20. recycle, 21. fermentation, 22. compress, 23. excite, 24. peel, 25. dissolve, 26. dissolve, 27. nanoscale, 28. excite

29. ac___c fermentation *adj.* relating to vinegar or containing acetic acid (= a colorless, pungent-smelling liquid organic compound with the chemical formula CH₃COOH); having a sour or sharp taste or smell resembling vinegar
30. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
31. b__w beer *v.* to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water
32. 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
33. 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
34. ev_____te almost overnight *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
35. ce_____se insulation *n.* a complex carbohydrate that is the main structural component of plant cell walls and fibers; a substance used to make paper, textiles, and other materials
36. ac___c smell *adj.* relating to vinegar or containing acetic acid (= a colorless, pungent-smelling liquid organic compound with the chemical formula CH₃COOH); having a sour or sharp taste or smell resembling vinegar

ANSWERS: 29. acetic, 30. aft, 31. brew, 32. recycle, 33. thermostat, 34. evaporate, 35. cellulose, 36. acetic

37. political fe____t *v.* to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases; (noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements
38. s_w a button *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
39. bioplastic designed to bio_____de *v.* to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi
40. ko____ha tea *n.* a fermented beverage made by adding a culture of bacteria and yeast to sweetened tea, resulting in a slightly effervescent, tart, and tea-like flavored drink, often consumed for its potential health benefits
41. homemade ko____ha *n.* a fermented beverage made by adding a culture of bacteria and yeast to sweetened tea, resulting in a slightly effervescent, tart, and tea-like flavored drink, often consumed for its potential health benefits
42. in____ue him *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
43. sy_____ic bacteria *adj.* involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist

ANSWERS: 37. ferment, 38. sew, 39. biodegrade, 40. kombucha, 41. kombucha, 42. intrigue, 43. symbiotic

44. pathogenic mi____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
45. 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
46. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
47. co____ss gas *v.* to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
48. con_____lly dressed *adv.* in a way that follows accepted customs, rules, or standards; in a way that is typical or traditional
49. in____ue against his rival *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
50. de____e environmental quality *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

ANSWERS: 44. microbe, 45. thermostat, 46. aft, 47. compress, 48. conventionally, 49. intrigue, 50. degrade

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ____ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
2. She took the dress to the tailor to fix the torn _____.
n. a line of stitching or joining where two pieces of fabric or material are united; also, a narrow furrow or fissure in rock or soil
3. She _____ the files into a single ZIP archive to save space on her computer.
v. to press or squeeze together to make something take up less space
4. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the _____ lattice structure of the metal.
adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
5. 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
6. _____ doctors recommend getting at least 8 hours of sleep per night for optimal health.
adv. in a way that follows accepted customs, rules, or standards; in a way that is typical or traditional

ANSWERS: 1. aft, 2. seam, 3. compressed, 4. nanoscale, 5. thermostat, 6. Conventionally,

7. The political party _____ after much internal fighting.
- v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
8. I am going to _____ some coffee this morning.
- v. to make beer or tea by mixing a substance with hot water
9. _____ 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
10. I enjoy drinking flavored _____ as a refreshing and probiotic-rich beverage.
- n. a fermented beverage made by adding a culture of bacteria and yeast to sweetened tea, resulting in a slightly effervescent, tart, and tea-like flavored drink, often consumed for its potential health benefits
11. The storm had _____ all paint off the siding.
- v. to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables
12. The dough was left to _____ overnight to give the bread its distinctive flavor.
- v. to experience a chemical change or action that results in the production of alcohol or effervescence of gases; (noun) a state of agitated activity or change, especially in the context of social or political movements
13. Adding _____ acid to a solution can lower its pH.
- adj. relating to vinegar or containing acetic acid (= a colorless, pungent-smelling liquid organic compound with the chemical formula CH_3COOH); having a sour or sharp taste or smell resembling vinegar
14. The _____ dye made the fabric a beautiful shade of blue.
- adj. a deep blue or purple-blue color; also, the plant that yields Indigo dye

ANSWERS: 7. dissolved, 8. brew, 9. Microbes, 10. kombucha, 11. peeled, 12. ferment, 13. acetic, 14. indigo

15. The artist's innovative style of work _____ me.
- v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
16. The sun will _____ the mist.
- v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
17. The _____ content in fruits and vegetables contributes to their dietary fiber.
- n. a complex carbohydrate that is the main structural component of plant cell walls and fibers; a substance used to make paper, textiles, and other materials
18. My mother taught me how to ____.
- v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
19. The news of her promotion _____ her.
- v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
20. The process of _____ is used to make beer, wine, and many other products.
- n. the chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms, typically involving effervescence and the giving off of the heat
21. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.
- v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
22. 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

ANSWERS: 15. intrigues, 16. evaporate, 17. cellulose, 18. sew, 19. excited, 20. fermentation, 21. degrade, 22. recycle

23. The _____ coating on the fabric repels water, keeping the wearer dry in a downpour.

adj. tending to repel or be unreactive towards the water; lacking affinity for water

24. We have a mutually _____ connection with them.

adj. involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist

25. The company's plastic products are easily _____ thanks to a unique manufacturing process.

v. to decay naturally by microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi

ANSWERS: 23. hydrophobic, 24. symbiotic, 25. biodegraded