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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Nathan Wolfe: What's left to explore? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

uncharted

adj. not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action

synonym : unknown, unexplored, undiscovered

(1) **uncharted** wilderness, (2) **uncharted** waters

The explorer ventured into **uncharted** territory, not knowing what to expect.

intimidate

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

synonym : frighten, threaten, terrify

(1) **intimidate** an opponent, (2) effectively **intimidate** a thief

The boss tried to **intimidate** his subordinate with threats.

unseen

adj. not seen or noticed; not perceived

synonym : invisible, hidden, undercover

(1) **unseen** danger, (2) an **unseen** force

The consequences of the pandemic remain **unseen** as scientists continue to research the virus.

infect

v. to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

synonym : pollute, contaminate, affect

(1) **infect** other animal species, (2) **infect** a computer with a virus

Children often **infect** parents with this head cold.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth
He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

eradicate

v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

synonym: destroy, eliminate, exterminate

(1) **eradicate** the deficit, (2) **eradicate** racial discrimination
We are trying to **eradicate** this disease from the world.

smallpox

n. a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

synonym: variola

(1) **smallpox** epidemic, (2) **smallpox** vaccine
An outbreak of **smallpox** occurred in the 1920s.

papillomavirus

n. a family of viruses that cause the growth of warts and can lead to the development of certain cancers; transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, usually during sexual activity

synonym: HPV

(1) human **papillomavirus**, (2) **papillomavirus-related** disease

The **papillomavirus** vaccine has been proven effective in preventing certain types of cancer.

skim

v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface

synonym: glance, scan, skitter

(1) **skim** off the top, (2) **skim** the surface of the water

I like to **skim** the newspaper headlines in the morning to catch up on the news.

teem

v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
synonym: brim, swarm, overflow

(1) **teem** with activity, (2) **teem** down

The city **teems** with traffic on holiday.

microorganism

n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

synonym: germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microorganism**, (2) **microorganisms** in his gut

This **microorganism** is a producer of respiratory disease.

swab

n. a small piece of soft material used by a doctor, nurse, etc., for cleaning a cut or taking a sample from somebody's body for testing; (verb) apply, usually a liquid, to a surface

synonym: mop, scrub, daub

(1) alcohol **swab**, (2) cotton **swab**

He took a **swab** of his ear.

fungus

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym: mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

sterile

adj. free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

synonym: clean, germ-free, hygienic

(1) **sterile** environment, (2) a **sterile** man

Surgeons must use **sterile** instruments to prevent infection during an operation.

artifact

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

synonym: antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**

The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

infancy

n. the state or period of being a baby or very young child

synonym: childhood, babyhood, juvenescence

(1) **infancy** stage, (2) in early **infancy**

The technology is still in its **infancy** and has much room for improvement.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

afflict

v. to cause pain, suffering, or distress to someone or something

synonym: trouble, distress, bother

(1) **afflict** with the plague, (2) **afflict** the economy

The disease can **afflict** both humans and animals.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym: wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

mammal

n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

(1) a primitive **mammal**, (2) a sort of **mammal**

Marine **mammal** populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a st____e man *adj.* free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing
2. un____n danger *adj.* not seen or noticed; not perceived
3. a primitive ma____l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
4. human pap______rus *n.* a family of viruses that cause the growth of warts and can lead to the development of certain cancers; transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, usually during sexual activity
5. t__m down *v.* to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily
6. sm____ox epidemic *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
7. af____t the economy *v.* to cause pain, suffering, or distress to someone or something
8. Peruvian ar____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
9. un____ed waters *adj.* not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action
10. effectively int____te a thief *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

ANSWERS: 1. sterile, 2. unseen, 3. mammal, 4. papillomavirus, 5. teem, 6. smallpox, 7. afflict, 8. artifact, 9. uncharted, 10. intimidate

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 11. an un___n force | <i>adj.</i> not seen or noticed; not perceived |
| 12. alcohol s__b | <i>n.</i> a small piece of soft material used by a doctor, nurse, etc., for cleaning a cut or taking a sample from somebody's body for testing; (verb) apply, usually a liquid, to a surface |
| 13. in____y stage | <i>n.</i> the state or period of being a baby or very young child |
| 14. a ma___l of beauty | <i>n.</i> someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise |
| 15. t__m with activity | <i>v.</i> to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily |
| 16. s__m the surface of the water | <i>v.</i> to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface |
| 17. paleolithic ar____cts | <i>n.</i> a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest |
| 18. un____r a potential problem | <i>v.</i> to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden |
| 19. int____te an opponent | <i>v.</i> to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do |
| 20. fu___s infection | <i>n.</i> a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive |

ANSWERS: 11. unseen, 12. swab, 13. infancy, 14. marvel, 15. teem, 16. skim, 17. artifact, 18. uncover, 19. intimidate, 20. fungus

21. symbiotic fu___s *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
22. s__m off the top *v.* to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface
23. er_____te racial discrimination *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
24. cotton s__b *n.* a small piece of soft material used by a doctor, nurse, etc., for cleaning a cut or taking a sample from somebody's body for testing; (verb) apply, usually a liquid, to a surface
25. in___t a computer with a virus *v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
26. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
27. in early in_____y *n.* the state or period of being a baby or very young child
28. af_____t with the plague *v.* to cause pain, suffering, or distress to someone or something
29. st_____e environment *adj.* free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

ANSWERS: 21. fungus, 22. skim, 23. eradicate, 24. swab, 25. infect, 26. determinant, 27. infancy, 28. afflict, 29. sterile

30. un_____ed wilderness *adj.* not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action
31. sm_____ox vaccine *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
32. a sort of ma____l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
33. technical ma____l *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
34. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
35. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
36. mic_____isms in his gut *n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
37. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
38. in____t other animal species *v.* to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism
39. pathogenic mic_____ism *n.* a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

ANSWERS: 30. uncharted, 31. smallpox, 32. mammal, 33. marvel, 34. bury, 35. bury, 36. microorganism, 37. determinant, 38. infect, 39. microorganism

40. pap_____rus-related disease *n.* a family of viruses that cause the growth of warts and can lead to the development of certain cancers; transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, usually during sexual activity
41. er_____te the deficit *v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
42. un_____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

ANSWERS: 40. papillomavirus, 41. eradicate, 42. uncover

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The technology is still in its _____ and has much room for improvement.
n. the state or period of being a baby or very young child
2. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
3. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.
n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
4. We are trying to _____ this disease from the world.
v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
5. The disease can _____ both humans and animals.
v. to cause pain, suffering, or distress to someone or something
6. An outbreak of _____ occurred in the 1920s.
n. a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
7. I like to _____ the newspaper headlines in the morning to catch up on the news.
v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface
8. He took a _____ of his ear.
n. a small piece of soft material used by a doctor, nurse, etc., for cleaning a cut or taking a sample from somebody's body for testing; (verb) apply, usually a liquid, to a surface

ANSWERS: 1. infancy, 2. determinant, 3. marvel, 4. eradicate, 5. afflict, 6. smallpox, 7. skim, 8. swab

9. Surgeons must use _____ instruments to prevent infection during an operation.

adj. free from living microorganisms, especially bacteria, fungi, and viruses; incapable of reproducing

10. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

11. The boss tried to _____ his subordinate with threats.

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

12. The consequences of the pandemic remain _____ as scientists continue to research the virus.

adj. not seen or noticed; not perceived

13. The city _____ with traffic on holiday.

v. to be abuzz; to move in large numbers; to fall heavily

14. This _____ is a producer of respiratory disease.

n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

15. The _____ vaccine has been proven effective in preventing certain types of cancer.

n. a family of viruses that cause the growth of warts and can lead to the development of certain cancers; transmitted through skin-to-skin contact, usually during sexual activity

16. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

ANSWERS: 9. sterile, 10. artifacts, 11. intimidate, 12. unseen, 13. teems, 14. microorganism, 15. papillomavirus, 16. uncovered

17. Children often _____ parents with this head cold.

v. to affect a person, an animal, or a plant with a disease-causing organism

18. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

19. Marine _____ populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

20. The explorer ventured into _____ territory, not knowing what to expect.

adj. not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unexplored; without a clear or definite course of action

21. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

ANSWERS: 17. infect, 18. bury, 19. mammal, 20. uncharted, 21. fungus