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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dianna Cohen: Tough truths about plastic pollution | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

cofounder

n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

(1) **cofounder** of the university, (2) late **cofounder**

He is the **cofounder** and chairman of this tech company.

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**.

fissure

n. a narrow opening or crack, especially in a rock or other hard substance; a division or splitting within a group or organization

synonym: crack, crevice, gap

(1) pulmonary **fissure**, (2) **fissure** in the relationship

The **fissure** in the rock was too narrow to squeeze through.

ephemeral

adj. lasting or used for only a short time

synonym: temporary, momentary, brief

(1) **ephemeral** joys, (2) **ephemeral** materials

His success as a famous actor was **ephemeral**.

gyre

n. a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents

synonym : spiral, vortex, whirl

(1) **gyre** movement, (2) subtropical **gyre**

The trash caught in the **gyre** in the ocean, forming a massive garbage patch.

decommission

v. to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair

synonym : retire, dismantle, disable

(1) **decommission** the dam, (2) **decommission** ship

After years of protests from environmental activists, the government decided to **decommission** the nuclear power plant.

trawl

v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

synonym : fish, dredge, drag

(1) **trawl** the Internet for free music, (2) **trawl** for fish

The fisherman used a net to **trawl** the bottom of the river for his catch.

crane

n. a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook

synonym : hoist, derrick, winch

(1) **crane** operator, (2) **crane** construction

The construction workers used a **crane** to lift the heavy beams.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

synonym :

cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

underdeveloped

adj. not fully developed or mature; lacking in progress or advancement

synonym: unadvanced, immature, backward

(1) an **underdeveloped** child, (2) remain **underdeveloped**

Many people in **underdeveloped** countries need clean water or proper healthcare access.

faucet

n. a device for controlling the flow of liquid from a pipe

synonym: tap, spigot, valve

(1) a water **faucet**, (2) **faucet** handle

I turned on the **faucet** to wash my hands.

spigot

n. a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe

synonym: faucet, tap, valve

(1) shut off the **spigot**, (2) open the **spigot**

The **spigot** on the outdoor faucet was leaking and needed to be fixed.

toxin

n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

synonym: poison, venom, contaminant

(1) **toxin** exposure, (2) **toxin** production

Mold exposure can release dangerous **toxins** into the air.

leach

v. to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock

synonym: drain, filter, strain

(1) **leach** into the brewed coffee, (2) **leach** calcium from the

bones

The chemicals from the landfill have begun to **leach** into the groundwater.

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.

incinerate

v. to burn something, especially waste material completely

synonym: burn

(1) **incinerate** waste, (2) the power to **incinerate** nations

For safety reasons, we must completely **incinerate** contaminated protective clothing.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. late co_____er | <i>n.</i> one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business |
| 2. to__n exposure | <i>n.</i> a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism |
| 3. cr__e construction | <i>n.</i> a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook |
| 4. fa___t handle | <i>n.</i> a device for controlling the flow of liquid from a pipe |
| 5. shut off the sp___t | <i>n.</i> a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe |
| 6. tr__l the Internet for free music | <i>v.</i> to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information |
| 7. cr__e operator | <i>n.</i> a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook |
| 8. dec_____ion ship | <i>v.</i> to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair |
| 9. m__d allergy | <i>n.</i> a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long |

ANSWERS: 1. cofounder, 2. toxin, 3. crane, 4. faucet, 5. spigot, 6. trawl, 7. crane, 8.

decommission, 9. mold

10. le__h into the brewed coffee *v.* to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock
11. s_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
12. open the sp___t *n.* a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe
13. a casting m__d *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
14. pulmonary fi____e *n.* a narrow opening or crack, especially in a rock or other hard substance; a division or splitting within a group or organization
15. ep_____al joys *adj.* lasting or used for only a short time
16. remain und_____ped *adj.* not fully developed or mature; lacking in progress or advancement
17. an und_____ped child *adj.* not fully developed or mature; lacking in progress or advancement
18. 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
19. co_____er of the university *n.* one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

ANSWERS: 10. leach, 11. sew, 12. spigot, 13. mold, 14. fissure, 15. ephemeral, 16. underdeveloped, 17. underdeveloped, 18. recycle, 19. cofounder

20. tr__l for fish
v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
21. ep____al materials
adj. lasting or used for only a short time
22. a water fa__t
n. a device for controlling the flow of liquid from a pipe
23. le__h calcium from the bones
v. to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock
24. g__e movement
n. a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
25. inc____te waste
v. to burn something, especially waste material completely
26. re____e the cardboard boxes
v. to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
27. dec____ion the dam
v. to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair
28. s_w a button
v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
29. subtropical g__e
n. a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents

ANSWERS: 20. trawl, 21. ephemeral, 22. faucet, 23. leach, 24. gyre, 25. incinerate, 26. recycle, 27. decommission, 28. sew, 29. gyre

30. the power to inc_____te nations *v.* to burn something, especially waste material completely
31. fi_____e in the relationship *n.* a narrow opening or crack, especially in a rock or other hard substance; a division or splitting within a group or organization
32. to__n production *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

ANSWERS: 30. incinerate, 31. fissure, 32. toxin

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. After years of protests from environmental activists, the government decided to _____ the nuclear power plant.
 - v. to take a machine, building, weapon, or other equipment out of use or service, often permanently or due to age or disrepair
2. 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
3. The trash caught in the _____ in the ocean, forming a massive garbage patch.
 - n. a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
4. The _____ on the outdoor faucet was leaking and needed to be fixed.
 - n. a valve or faucet used to control the flow of liquid from a container or pipe
5. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.
 - n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
6. For safety reasons, we must completely _____ contaminated protective clothing.
 - v. to burn something, especially waste material completely
7. He is the _____ and chairman of this tech company.
 - n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

ANSWERS: 1. decommission, 2. sew, 3. gyre, 4. spigot, 5. mold, 6. incinerate, 7. cofounder

8. The fisherman used a net to _____ the bottom of the river for his catch.
- v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
9. 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
10. Mold exposure can release dangerous _____ into the air.
- n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
11. The chemicals from the landfill have begun to _____ into the groundwater.
- v.* to remove or drain away something from a material, usually by seeping or filtering, such as chemicals from soil or minerals from rock
12. The construction workers used a _____ to lift the heavy beams.
- n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
13. The _____ in the rock was too narrow to squeeze through.
- n.* a narrow opening or crack, especially in a rock or other hard substance; a division or splitting within a group or organization
14. Many people in _____ countries need clean water or proper healthcare access.
- adj.* not fully developed or mature; lacking in progress or advancement

ANSWERS: 8. trawl, 9. recycle, 10. toxins, 11. leach, 12. crane, 13. fissure, 14. underdeveloped

15. His success as a famous actor was _____.

adj. lasting or used for only a short time

16. I turned on the _____ to wash my hands.

n. a device for controlling the flow of liquid from a pipe

ANSWERS: 15. ephemeral, 16. faucet