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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Eben Bayer: Are mushrooms the new plastic? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

poisonous

adj. containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction

synonym : toxic, venomous, deadly

(1) **poisonous** plants, (2) **poisonous** chemicals

Some species of **poisonous snakes** can be deadly to humans if bitten.

mushroom

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

synonym : fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

compost

n. a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil

synonym : fertilizer, humus, manure

(1) organic **compost**, (2) **compost** pile

You can add coffee grounds and crushed eggshells to your **compost** to improve the pH balance.

egregious

adj. outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible

synonym: atrocious, flagrant, heinous

(1) **egregious** claim, (2) an **egregious** error

It was an **egregious** mistake and caused significant harm to the company's reputation.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

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.

circulatory

adj. relating to the system that moves blood through the body, which includes the heart, arteries, and veins

synonym: circulative, rotating

(1) a **circulatory** disease, (2) cause **circulatory** failure shock

The **circulatory** system of the animal is also responsible for heat transportation.

prolific

adj. producing many works, results, or offspring

synonym: productive, fertile, abundant

(1) **prolific** apple tree, (2) **prolific** period

The **prolific** author had written over 20 books in just five years.

styrene

n. a colorless, flammable liquid used in the production of resins, plastics, and synthetic rubber, which has a distinctive sweet smell and is commonly found in products like foam insulation or disposable cups

(1) **styrene** monomer, (2) **styrene** production

The **styrene** foam was used as insulation to keep the house warm.

benzene

n. a colorless, flammable liquid hydrocarbon compound with a distinctive sweet odor; commonly used as an industrial solvent and as a starting material for the production of various chemicals

synonym: benzol, phenyl hydride

(1) **benzene** ring, (2) **benzene** molecule

Exposure to high levels of **benzene** can lead to several health issues.

carcinogenic

adj. capable of causing cancer or promoting tumor growth; cancer-causing

synonym: cancer-causing, cancerous, malignant

(1) **carcinogenic** chemicals, (2) **carcinogenic** air pollution

Long-term exposure to **carcinogenic** materials can result in serious health problems.

feedstock

n. the raw material or substances that are used to make a product, particularly in industrial or manufacturing processes

synonym: raw material, input, supply

(1) **feedstock** supply, (2) **feedstock** procurement

Corn is a common **feedstock** for ethanol production.

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.

topsoil

n. the upper layer of soil that contains most of the nutrients and organic matter and is important for plant growth and

cultivation; a shallow, loose layer of soil that can be easily removed or displaced by wind, water, or other factors

synonym: top layer, surface soil, humus

(1) **topsoil** erosion, (2) nutrient-rich **topsoil**

The farmer trucked in some fresh **topsoil** to improve the fertility of his fields.

mycelium

n. the vegetative part of a fungus, consisting of a mass of branching, thread-like hyphae

(1) **mycelium** growth, (2) aerial **mycelium**

The **mycelium** of the mushroom spread through the soil, absorbing nutrients.

husk

n. the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel

synonym: shell, covering, outer layer

(1) **husk** removal, (2) seed **husk**

The **husk** of the coconut was removed to reveal the fruit inside.

chitin

n. a tough, protective polysaccharide compound that forms the exoskeleton of arthropods and the cell walls of some fungi

synonym: exoskeleton material, insect shell

(1) **chitin** structure, (2) **chitin** synthesis

The lobster's **chitin-based** shell turns red when cooked due to heat-induced chemical changes.

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.

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.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym : isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity

We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

acoustics

n. a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound

(1) specialize in **acoustics**, (2) the engineer of **acoustics**

The physicist specializes in **acoustics**.

byproduct

n. a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else

synonym : side effect, spinoff, outgrowth

(1) toxic **byproducts**, (2) **byproduct** of technology

The **byproduct** of the energy production process is a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions.

buckwheat

n. a plant with triangular seeds that are used to make flour and other food products; a type of grain that is often gluten-free and has a distinctive nutty flavor

(1) **buckwheat** flour, (2) gluten-free **buckwheat**

I made a delicious **buckwheat** pancake for breakfast this morning.

oat

n. a species of cereal grain that seed is grown for making porridge and other dishes or being fed to animals

synonym : cereal, grain

(1) **oat** flour, (2) organic **oat** flake

Oat bran is a rich source of soluble dietary fiber.

pasteurize

- v. to heat something (such as milk) to a specific temperature for a set amount of time to destroy microorganisms that can cause spoilage or illness; to make something safe for consumption or use by eliminating harmful bacteria or other pathogens

synonym: sterilize, cleanse

(1) **pasteurize** milk, (2) **pasteurize** beer

It is advisable to **pasteurize** all homemade sauces to prevent the growth of bacteria.

inoculate

- v. to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

synonym: vaccinate, immunize, protect

(1) **inoculate** against disease, (2) **inoculate** with a virus

The doctor **inoculated** the child with a vaccine.

condense

- v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated

synonym: compress, compact, shorten

(1) **condense** the text, (2) **condense** water vapor

I need to **condense** all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.

lapse

- n. a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended

synonym: break, failure, blunder

(1) **lapse** back into recession, (2) **lapse** in payment

I missed the deadline due to a **lapse** in my memory.

crustacean

n. a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton

synonym: lobster, crab, shrimp

(1) **crustacean** dish, (2) **crustacean** shell

A lobster is a type of **crustacean** found in the ocean.

clog

v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something

synonym: block, jam, obstruct

(1) **clog** a filter, (2) **clog** artery

The drain was **clogged** with hair and needed to be cleaned out.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation

descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ch___n structure
n. a tough, protective polysaccharide compound that forms the exoskeleton of arthropods and the cell walls of some fungi
2. car_____nic air pollution
adj. capable of causing cancer or promoting tumor growth; cancer-causing
3. bu_____at flour
n. a plant with triangular seeds that are used to make flour and other food products; a type of grain that is often gluten-free and has a distinctive nutty flavor
4. c__g a filter
v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
5. car_____nic chemicals
adj. capable of causing cancer or promoting tumor growth; cancer-causing
6. the engineer of ac_____cs
n. a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound
7. fe_____ck procurement
n. the raw material or substances that are used to make a product, particularly in industrial or manufacturing processes
8. des_____nt of a pioneer
n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

ANSWERS: 1. chitin, 2. carcinogenic, 3. buckwheat, 4. clog, 5. carcinogenic, 6. acoustics, 7. feedstock, 8. descendant

9. gluten-free bu_____at *n.* a plant with triangular seeds that are used to make flour and other food products; a type of grain that is often gluten-free and has a distinctive nutty flavor
10. fe_____ck supply *n.* the raw material or substances that are used to make a product, particularly in industrial or manufacturing processes
11. specialize in ac_____cs *n.* a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound
12. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
13. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
14. of___d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
15. pas_____ze milk *v.* to heat something (such as milk) to a specific temperature for a set amount of time to destroy microorganisms that can cause spoilage or illness; to make something safe for consumption or use by eliminating harmful bacteria or other pathogens
16. seed h__k *n.* the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel
17. cause cir_____ry failure shock *adj.* relating to the system that moves blood through the body, which includes the heart, arteries, and veins

ANSWERS: 9. buckwheat, 10. feedstock, 11. acoustics, 12. industrious, 13. descendant, 14. offend, 15. pasteurize, 16. husk, 17. circulatory

18. be____e ring *n.* a colorless, flammable liquid hydrocarbon compound with a distinctive sweet odor; commonly used as an industrial solvent and as a starting material for the production of various chemicals
19. nutrient-rich to____l *n.* the upper layer of soil that contains most of the nutrients and organic matter and is important for plant growth and cultivation; a shallow, loose layer of soil that can be easily removed or displaced by wind, water, or other factors
20. pas____ze beer *v.* to heat something (such as milk) to a specific temperature for a set amount of time to destroy microorganisms that can cause spoilage or illness; to make something safe for consumption or use by eliminating harmful bacteria or other pathogens
21. to____l erosion *n.* the upper layer of soil that contains most of the nutrients and organic matter and is important for plant growth and cultivation; a shallow, loose layer of soil that can be easily removed or displaced by wind, water, or other factors
22. 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
23. mu____om spores *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

ANSWERS: 18. benzene, 19. topsoil, 20. pasteurize, 21. topsoil, 22. recycle, 23. mushroom

24. ch___n synthesis *n.* a tough, protective polysaccharide compound that forms the exoskeleton of arthropods and the cell walls of some fungi
25. in_____te with a virus *v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease
26. co_____se the text *v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
27. in_____te the room from sound *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
28. o_t flour *n.* a species of cereal grain that seed is grown for making porridge and other dishes or being fed to animals
29. c__g artery *v.* to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
30. po_____us chemicals *adj.* containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
31. st_____e production *n.* a colorless, flammable liquid used in the production of resins, plastics, and synthetic rubber, which has a distinctive sweet smell and is commonly found in products like foam insulation or disposable cups

ANSWERS: 24. chitin, 25. inoculate, 26. condense, 27. insulate, 28. oat, 29. clog, 30. poisonous, 31. styrene

32. 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
33. a cir_____ry disease *adj.* relating to the system that moves blood through the body, which includes the heart, arteries, and veins
34. in_____te electricity *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
35. re_____e the cardboard boxes *v.* to sort and collect things to process them and produce valuable materials that can be used again
36. h__k removal *n.* the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel
37. toxic by_____cts *n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
38. co_____t pile *n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
39. by_____ct of technology *n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else

ANSWERS: 32. mold, 33. circulatory, 34. insulate, 35. recycle, 36. husk, 37. byproduct, 38. compost, 39. byproduct

40. cru_____an shell *n.* a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton
41. pr_____ic apple tree *adj.* producing many works, results, or offspring
42. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
43. my_____um growth *n.* the vegetative part of a fungus, consisting of a mass of branching, thread-like hyphae
44. st_____e monomer *n.* a colorless, flammable liquid used in the production of resins, plastics, and synthetic rubber, which has a distinctive sweet smell and is commonly found in products like foam insulation or disposable cups
45. co_____se water vapor *v.* to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
46. organic co_____t *n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
47. eg_____us claim *adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible
48. in_____te against disease *v.* to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

ANSWERS: 40. crustacean, 41. prolific, 42. industrious, 43. mycelium, 44. styrene, 45. condense, 46. compost, 47. egregious, 48. inoculate

49. an eg_____us error *adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible
50. aerial my_____um *n.* the vegetative part of a fungus, consisting of a mass of branching, thread-like hyphae
51. m__d allergy *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
52. subtropical g__e *n.* a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
53. be_____e molecule *n.* a colorless, flammable liquid hydrocarbon compound with a distinctive sweet odor; commonly used as an industrial solvent and as a starting material for the production of various chemicals
54. la__e back into recession *n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
55. cru_____an dish *n.* a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton

ANSWERS: 49. egregious, 50. mycelium, 51. mold, 52. gyre, 53. benzene, 54. lapse, 55. crustacean

56. g__e movement *n.* a circular or spiral motion, particularly a vortex or large-scale system of rotating ocean currents
57. la__e in payment *n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
58. po_____us plants *adj.* containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction
59. organic o_t flake *n.* a species of cereal grain that seed is grown for making porridge and other dishes or being fed to animals
60. mu_____om cultivation *n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
61. of___d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
62. pr_____ic period *adj.* producing many works, results, or offspring

ANSWERS: 56. gyre, 57. lapse, 58. poisonous, 59. oat, 60. mushroom, 61. offend, 62. prolific

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The doctor _____ the child with a vaccine.
 - v. to introduce a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease

2. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
 - v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

3. Some species of _____ can be deadly to humans if bitten.
 - adj. containing or producing toxic substances; harmful or dangerous to living beings, often causing illness, injury, or death; capable of causing serious harm or destruction

4. A lobster is a type of _____ found in the ocean.
 - n. a type of arthropod, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp, that has a hard outer shell or exoskeleton

5. The physicist specializes in _____.
 - n. a branch of physics that deals with the study of mechanical waves in gases, liquids, and solids, including topics such as vibration, sound, ultrasound, and infrasound

6. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
 - n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

7. I missed the deadline due to a _____ in my memory.
 - n. a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended

ANSWERS: 1. inoculated, 2. offended, 3. poisonous snakes, 4. crustacean, 5. acoustics, 6. descendants, 7. lapse

8. The _____ of the mushroom spread through the soil, absorbing nutrients.
- n.* the vegetative part of a fungus, consisting of a mass of branching, thread-like hyphae
9. The drain was _____ with hair and needed to be cleaned out.
- v.* to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
10. Exposure to high levels of _____ can lead to several health issues.
- n.* a colorless, flammable liquid hydrocarbon compound with a distinctive sweet odor; commonly used as an industrial solvent and as a starting material for the production of various chemicals
11. I made a delicious _____ pancake for breakfast this morning.
- n.* a plant with triangular seeds that are used to make flour and other food products; a type of grain that is often gluten-free and has a distinctive nutty flavor
12. The _____ system of the animal is also responsible for heat transportation.
- adj.* relating to the system that moves blood through the body, which includes the heart, arteries, and veins
13. ___ bran is a rich source of soluble dietary fiber.
- n.* a species of cereal grain that seed is grown for making porridge and other dishes or being fed to animals
14. Corn is a common _____ for ethanol production.
- n.* the raw material or substances that are used to make a product, particularly in industrial or manufacturing processes

ANSWERS: 8. mycelium, 9. clogged, 10. benzene, 11. buckwheat, 12. circulatory, 13. Oat, 14. feedstock

15. The _____ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.
- n.* a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap
16. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
- adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
17. You can add coffee grounds and crushed eggshells to your _____ to improve the pH balance.
- n.* a mixture of organic matter, such as food scraps, yard waste, and manure, that is allowed to decompose and is used as fertilizer for plants and garden soil
18. 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
19. Long-term exposure to _____ materials can result in serious health problems.
- adj.* capable of causing cancer or promoting tumor growth; cancer-causing
20. The _____ foam was used as insulation to keep the house warm.
- n.* a colorless, flammable liquid used in the production of resins, plastics, and synthetic rubber, which has a distinctive sweet smell and is commonly found in products like foam insulation or disposable cups
21. 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

ANSWERS: 15. mushroom, 16. industrious, 17. compost, 18. gyre, 19. carcinogenic, 20. styrene, 21. mold

22. The _____ of the coconut was removed to reveal the fruit inside.
- n.* the dry, outer covering of a seed, grain, or fruit, such as the shell of a nut or the skin of a corn kernel
23. It is advisable to _____ all homemade sauces to prevent the growth of bacteria.
- v.* to heat something (such as milk) to a specific temperature for a set amount of time to destroy microorganisms that can cause spoilage or illness; to make something safe for consumption or use by eliminating harmful bacteria or other pathogens
24. It was an _____ mistake and caused significant harm to the company's reputation.
- adj.* outstandingly bad or shocking; conspicuously or outrageously bad or reprehensible
25. The lobster's _____ shell turns red when cooked due to heat-induced chemical changes.
- n.* a tough, protective polysaccharide compound that forms the exoskeleton of arthropods and the cell walls of some fungi
26. The _____ author had written over 20 books in just five years.
- adj.* producing many works, results, or offspring
27. The _____ of the energy production process is a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions.
- n.* a secondary or incidental product produced in the manufacture or synthesis of something else
28. We had our bedroom _____ before winter came.
- v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

ANSWERS: 22. husk, 23. pasteurize, 24. egregious, 25. chitin-based, 26. prolific, 27. byproduct, 28. insulated

29. I need to _____ all of my notes into a manageable summary for my presentation.
- v. to reduce the volume or size of something, often by removing water or other liquid; to make something shorter, more concise, or more concentrated
30. 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
31. The farmer trucked in some fresh _____ to improve the fertility of his fields.
- n. the upper layer of soil that contains most of the nutrients and organic matter and is important for plant growth and cultivation; a shallow, loose layer of soil that can be easily removed or displaced by wind, water, or other factors

ANSWERS: 29. condense, 30. recycle, 31. topsoil