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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Grace Smith-Viduarre and Tim Wright: Why can parrots talk? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

parrot

n. a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice

synonym: copyist, wannabe

(1) repeat like a **parrot**, (2) a talking **parrot**

She keeps a **parrot** in a birdcage as a pet.

reunite

v. to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation

synonym: reconcile, reunify, reconvene

(1) **reunite** after five years, (2) **reunite** with my friend

The band will **reunite** only for this show.

conspicuous

adj. visible or observable; likely to draw attention

synonym: apparent, noticeable, evident

(1) a **conspicuous** achievement, (2) **conspicuous** consumption

Her golden hair was **conspicuous** in China.

uncanny

adj. strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling

synonym: arcane, astonishing, eerie

(1) in an **uncanny** manner, (2) **uncanny** resemblance

She has an **uncanny** sense of who is telling a lie.

fuse

n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat

synonym: (verb) melt, (verb) blend

(1) **fuse** blows, (2) **fuse** with one another

He has a short **fuse**.

parakeet

n. any one of many small to medium-sized species of parrot, usually with a long tail

(1) extinct **parakeet**, (2) African **parakeet**

We had named our pet **parakeets**.

individualize

v. to make something personal or more personal to suit the needs of a particular person, place, etc.

synonym: personalize, differentiate

(1) **individualize** each patient, (2) **individualize** dosages

Our schools offer **individualized** education by excellent teachers.

mimicry

n. the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh

synonym: imitation, apery

(1) vocal **mimicry**, (2) floral **mimicry**

Some insects use **mimicry** to avoid detection by predators.

nape

n. the back side of the neck

synonym: nucha, scruff, collar

(1) **nape** massager, (2) fine hair on the **nape**

She kissed the **nape** of his neck.

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym: mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds

He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

larynx

n. an organ in the top of the throat involved in breathing, producing sound

(1) irritate the **larynx**, (2) narrowing of the **larynx**

Smoking significantly increases the risk of **larynx** cancer.

windpipe

n. the tube in the body that carries inhaled air from the throat to the lungs

synonym : throat, larynx, trachea

(1) **windpipe** inflammation, (2) artificial **windpipe**

A foreign object lodged in the throat or **windpipe** causes choking.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

airflow

n. the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle

synonym : current, breeze, breath

(1) **airflow** duct, (2) high-speed **airflow**

They thoroughly tested the **airflow** around their latest formula car.

enunciate

v. to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly

synonym : articulate, pronounce, say

(1) **enunciate** a new strategy, (2) **enunciate** each word

The doctrine of the country was **enunciated** by its first king.

originate

v. to come into existence in a particular place or situation; to start something in a specific place

synonym : begin, arise, create

(1) **originate** from the country, (2) **originate** a political movement

The flight **originates** in Vancouver.

syrinx

n. the vocal organ of a bird; a primitive wind instrument consisting of several parallel pipes bound together

synonym : panpipes

(1) dogs with a wide **syrinx**, (2) spinal **syrinx**

The shape of a bird's **syrinx** varies greatly depending on the environment in which it lives.

airway

n. the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another

synonym : air passage, air duct, skyway

(1) **airway** blockage, (2) **airway** beacon

When performing lifesaving, the first step is to secure the **airway**.

beak

n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird

synonym : nib, pecker, snoot

(1) sharp **beak**, (2) a tip of the **beak**

The bird's **beak** evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym : interlink, complect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

songbird

n. a bird with a musical call, such as a blackbird or thrush

synonym : songster

(1) migratory **songbird**, (2) tropical **songbird**

Federal law protects the majority of **songbirds**.

recite

v. to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory,

synonym : repeat, replicate, recount

(1) **recite** a charm, (2) **recite** a long list of the article

He could **recite** all of Shakespeare's works.

factoid

n. something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true

(1) an attention-grabbing **factoid**, (2) wacky **factoid**

We talked about an interesting **factoid** in today's newspaper.

intrepid

adj. courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties

synonym: unfearing, courageous, dauntless

(1) **intrepid** personality, (2) **intrepid** travelers

There were still **intrepid** pioneers who planned to start their businesses

captivity

n. the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

synonym: confinement, detention, imprisonment

(1) escape from **captivity**, (2) animals in **captivity** in the zoo

Pandas rarely breed in **captivity**.

elicit

v. to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty

synonym: bring out, obtain, evoke

(1) **elicit** a confession, (2) **elicit** a solution

Have you **elicited** a response from them yet?

profanity

n. a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things

synonym: cuss, expletive, crudeness

(1) give a **profanity**, (2) shout **profanity**

We do not tolerate any **profanity** or abusive language.

rattle

v. to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds

synonym: jolt, shake, babble

(1) **rattle** along a road, (2) **rattle** and bang at the door

The vast earthquake caused the house to **rattle**.

cuss

v. to say offensive words in anger or annoyance
synonym: swear, curse, blaspheme

(1) **cuss** out an opponent, (2) **cuss** at the lousy service
He speaks excessively and occasionally **cusses**.

astound

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
synonym: amaze, astonish, surprise

(1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer
The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

fascination

n. the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
synonym: allure, attraction, charm

(1) rapt in **fascination**, (2) the **fascination** with classical music
I looked at the painting in **fascination**.

poacher

n. a person who catches and kills birds, animals, or fish illegally

(1) crackdown on **poachers**, (2) a suspected **poacher**
An old **poacher** makes the best keeper.

deforestation

n. the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area
synonym: clear-cutting, desertification

(1) **deforestation** of the tropics, (2) the lowest **deforestation** rate

Large-scale **deforestation** also has a significant impact on marine ecosystems in the area.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. wi____pe inflammation | <i>n.</i> the tube in the body that carries inhaled air from the throat to the lungs |
| 2. irritate the la____x | <i>n.</i> an organ in the top of the throat involved in breathing, producing sound |
| 3. sharp b__k | <i>n.</i> the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird |
| 4. in an un____y manner | <i>adj.</i> strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling |
| 5. give a pr____ty | <i>n.</i> a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things |
| 6. the fas____on with classical music | <i>n.</i> the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction |
| 7. tropical so____rd | <i>n.</i> a bird with a musical call, such as a blackbird or thrush |
| 8. vi____e with anger | <i>v.</i> to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side |
| 9. shout pr____ty | <i>n.</i> a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things |
| 10. wacky fa____d | <i>n.</i> something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true |
| 11. el____t a confession | <i>v.</i> to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty |
| 12. escape from ca____ty | <i>n.</i> the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from |

ANSWERS: 1. windpipe, 2. larynx, 3. beak, 4. uncanny, 5. profanity, 6. fascination, 7. songbird, 8. vibrate, 9. profanity, 10. factoid, 11. elicit, 12. captivity

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 13. fine hair on the n__e | <i>n.</i> the back side of the neck |
| 14. ai___y beacon | <i>n.</i> the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another |
| 15. re___e a long list of the article | <i>v.</i> to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory, |
| 16. African pa____et | <i>n.</i> any one of many small to medium-sized species of parrot, usually with a long tail |
| 17. in____id travelers | <i>adj.</i> courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties |
| 18. extinct pa____et | <i>n.</i> any one of many small to medium-sized species of parrot, usually with a long tail |
| 19. repeat like a pa___t | <i>n.</i> a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice |
| 20. narrowing of the la___x | <i>n.</i> an organ in the top of the throat involved in breathing, producing sound |
| 21. re____e with my friend | <i>v.</i> to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation |
| 22. ra___e and bang at the door | <i>v.</i> to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds |
| 23. ind_____ize dosages | <i>v.</i> to make something personal or more personal to suit the needs of a particular person, place, etc. |
| 24. ra___e along a road | <i>v.</i> to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds |

ANSWERS: 13. nape, 14. airway, 15. recite, 16. parakeet, 17. intrepid, 18. parakeet, 19. parrot, 20. larynx, 21. reunite, 22. rattle, 23. individualize, 24. rattle

- | | |
|---|---|
| 25. con_____us consumption | <i>adj.</i> visible or observable; likely to draw attention |
| 26. c__s at the lousy service | <i>v.</i> to say offensive words in anger or annoyance |
| 27. as_____d the viewer | <i>v.</i> to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much |
| 28. c__s out an opponent | <i>v.</i> to say offensive words in anger or annoyance |
| 29. re_____e after five years | <i>v.</i> to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation |
| 30. artificial wi_____pe | <i>n.</i> the tube in the body that carries inhaled air from the throat to the lungs |
| 31. high-speed ai_____w | <i>n.</i> the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle |
| 32. human activities int_____ect with the environment | <i>v.</i> to connect similar things |
| 33. vi_____e at a regular frequency | <i>v.</i> to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side |
| 34. re_____e a charm | <i>v.</i> to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory, |
| 35. as_____d everyone | <i>v.</i> to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much |
| 36. en_____te a new strategy | <i>v.</i> to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly |
| 37. im_____e animal sounds | <i>v.</i> to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something |

ANSWERS: 25. conspicuous, 26. cuss, 27. astound, 28. cuss, 29. reunite, 30. windpipe, 31. airflow, 32. interconnect, 33. vibrate, 34. recite, 35. astound, 36. enunciate, 37. imitate

38. rapt in fas_____on *n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction
39. an attention-grabbing fa_____d *n.* something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true
40. or_____te a political movement *v.* to come into existence in a particular place or situation; to start something in a specific place
41. ai____y blockage *n.* the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another
42. im_____e painting styles *v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
43. f__e with one another *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat
44. crackdown on po_____rs *n.* a person who catches and kills birds, animals, or fish illegally
45. a suspected po_____r *n.* a person who catches and kills birds, animals, or fish illegally
46. spinal sy____x *n.* the vocal organ of a bird; a primitive wind instrument consisting of several parallel pipes bound together
47. the lowest def_____ion rate *n.* the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area

ANSWERS: 38. fascination, 39. factoid, 40. originate, 41. airway, 42. imitate, 43. fuse, 44. poacher, 45. poacher, 46. syrinx, 47. deforestation

48. vocal mi____y *n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh
49. floral mi____y *n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh
50. f__e blows *n.* a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat
51. in____id personality *adj.* courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties
52. en____te each word *v.* to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly
53. un____y resemblance *adj.* strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling
54. a con____us achievement *adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention
55. n__e massager *n.* the back side of the neck
56. ai____w duct *n.* the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle
57. el____t a solution *v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
58. migratory so____rd *n.* a bird with a musical call, such as a blackbird or thrush
59. directly int____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things

ANSWERS: 48. mimicry, 49. mimicry, 50. fuse, 51. intrepid, 52. enunciate, 53. uncanny, 54. conspicuous, 55. nape, 56. airflow, 57. elicit, 58. songbird, 59. interconnect

60. ind_____ize each patient *v.* to make something personal or more personal to suit the needs of a particular person, place, etc.
61. dogs with a wide sy___x *n.* the vocal organ of a bird; a primitive wind instrument consisting of several parallel pipes bound together
62. a talking pa___t *n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
63. animals in ca_____ty in the zoo *n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
64. a tip of the b__k *n.* the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
65. or_____te from the country *v.* to come into existence in a particular place or situation; to start something in a specific place
66. def_____ion of the tropics *n.* the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area

ANSWERS: 60. individualize, 61. syrinx, 62. parrot, 63. captivity, 64. beak, 65. originate, 66. deforestation

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He could _____ all of Shakespeare's works.
v. to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory,
2. She kissed the _____ of his neck.
n. the back side of the neck
3. Our system can now _____ with other databases.
v. to connect similar things
4. He speaks excessively and occasionally _____.
v. to say offensive words in anger or annoyance
5. Large-scale _____ also has a significant impact on marine ecosystems in the area.
n. the act of cutting down or burning trees in a large area
6. He has a short _____.
n. a small part in an electrical device or machinery that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is overloaded; (verb) to become plastic or fluid or liquefied from heat
7. There were still _____ pioneers who planned to start their businesses
adj. courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties
8. The band will _____ only for this show.
v. to bring two or more people together again after a period of separation

ANSWERS: 1. recite, 2. nape, 3. interconnect, 4. cusses, 5. deforestation, 6. fuse, 7. intrepid, 8. reunite

9. She keeps a _____ in a birdcage as a pet.
- n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
10. The vast earthquake caused the house to _____.
- v.* to make or cause to make short, successive, sharp, and loud sounds
11. The shape of a bird's _____ varies greatly depending on the environment in which it lives.
- n.* the vocal organ of a bird; a primitive wind instrument consisting of several parallel pipes bound together
12. A foreign object lodged in the throat or _____ causes choking.
- n.* the tube in the body that carries inhaled air from the throat to the lungs
13. Some insects use _____ to avoid detection by predators.
- n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh
14. Federal law protects the majority of _____.
- n.* a bird with a musical call, such as a blackbird or thrush
15. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.
- v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
16. I looked at the painting in _____.
- n.* the state of being intensely interested in someone or something, or a powerful attraction

ANSWERS: 9. parrot, 10. rattle, 11. syrinx, 12. windpipe, 13. mimicry, 14. songbirds, 15. vibrate, 16. fascination

17. An old _____ makes the best keeper.

n. a person who catches and kills birds, animals, or fish illegally

18. We do not tolerate any _____ or abusive language.

n. a speech or behavior that expresses of lack of respect for God or holy things

19. They thoroughly tested the _____ around their latest formula car.

n. the flow of air, especially around a moving object such as an aircraft or vehicle

20. The doctrine of the country was _____ by its first king.

v. to say, pronounce, or utter words clearly

21. Pandas rarely breed in _____.

n. the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

22. We had named our pet _____.

n. any one of many small to medium-sized species of parrot, usually with a long tail

23. The bird's _____ evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.

n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird

24. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

25. We talked about an interesting _____ in today's newspaper.

n. something commonly accepted as fact, even though it is probably not true

ANSWERS: 17. poacher, 18. profanity, 19. airflow, 20. enunciated, 21. captivity, 22. parakeets, 23. beak, 24. imitated, 25. factoid

26. The flight _____ in Vancouver.

- v.* to come into existence in a particular place or situation; to start something in a specific place

27. Her golden hair was _____ in China.

- adj.* visible or observable; likely to draw attention

28. She has an _____ sense of who is telling a lie.

- adj.* strange or mysterious, often in a way that is unsettling

29. When performing lifesaving, the first step is to secure the _____.

- n.* the air passage from the nose and throat to the lungs; a designated route followed by airplanes flying from one airport to another

30. The final result was nothing short of _____.

- v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

31. Have you _____ a response from them yet?

- v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty

32. Smoking significantly increases the risk of _____ cancer.

- n.* an organ in the top of the throat involved in breathing, producing sound

33. Our schools offer _____ education by excellent teachers.

- v.* to make something personal or more personal to suit the needs of a particular person, place, etc.

ANSWERS: 26. originates, 27. conspicuous, 28. uncanny, 29. airway, 30. astounding, 31. elicited, 32. larynx, 33. individualized