Englist.me

Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michael Middlebrooks: The fantastically weird world of photosynthetic sea slugs | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_middlebrooks_the _fantastically_weird_world_of_photosynthetic_sea_slugs



Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

slug

- a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink
- (1) lazy **slug**, (2) reduce **slug** damage I spotted a giant **slug** in the rain garden.

invertebrate

 a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks

synonym: animal, mollusk, worm

(1) **invertebrate** species, (2) study of **invertebrates**Many species of marine **invertebrates**, such as corals and sponges, are important components of ocean ecosystems.

zoology

- n. the scientific study of animals, including their classification, habits, behavior, physiology, and evolution synonym: animal science, biology, zoography
- (1) **zoology** book, (2) **zoology** professor She's studying **zoology** at university and hopes to work at a zoo someday.

clam

 a marine mollusk that burrows and lives on sand or mud, the shell closes with viselike firmness

(1) giant clam, (2) shuck a clam

The **clam** digs through the sand to a significant depth.

sponge

- a soft material with many microscopic pores that can absorb a large amount of liquid and is used for washing and cleaning
- (1) sea **sponge**, (2) metallic **sponge**

The tiny marine **sponge** has existed for more than 500 million years.

photosynthesis

- n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
- (1) oxygenic **photosynthesis**, (2) process of **photosynthesis**

In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

symbiosis

 a close, prolonged association between two or more different species of organisms, typically to the advantage of all

synonym: cooperation, interdependence, mutualism

(1) industrial **symbiosis**, (2) **symbiosis** establishment The **symbiosis** between the coral and the algae is an important example of mutualism.

algae

- A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
- (1) algae biofuel, (2) blue algae

Algae has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.

zooxanthella

 a type of single-celled algae that lives in a mutualistic association with various marine animals, particularly coral

synonym: photobiont, dinoflagellate, symbiont

(1) zooxanthella symbiosis, (2) zooxanthella algae

The relationship between corals and **zooxanthellae** is essential for the survival of both organisms.

flatworm

 a type of simple, soft-bodied invertebrate animal with a flat, ribbon-like shape, including tapeworms and planarians

synonym: tapeworm, planarian, platyhelminthe

(1) **flatworm** regeneration, (2) parasitic **flatworm**Some **flatworm** species are capable of asexual reproduction, allowing them to colonize new environments rapidly.

anemone

 a type of flowering plant that has bright, showy flowers and typically blooms in the spring; a marine creature that resembles flowers but has oral rings of tentacles

synonym: flower, blossom

(1) anemone flower, (2) European anemoneThe beautiful anemones swayed gently in the ocean current.

jellyfish

 a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging

synonym: medusa, sea nettle, moon jelly

(1) spineless jellyfish, (2) jellyfish sting

The beach was filled with hundreds of **jellyfish**, so swimming was not recommended.

mangrove

- a tropical coastal tree or shrub that grows in saline soil and has prop roots that help to stabilize it
- (1) mangrove forest, (2) mangrove swamp

The **mangrove** trees are known for their ability to survive in saltwater and sandy soil.

tentacle

- a flexible, mobile, and long arm-like organ used for feeling and holding things, catching food, or moving
- (1) a squid's **tentacle**, (2) posterior **tentacle**The police caught the fugitive criminal in the **tentacles** of an expanded investigation.

micrograph

 a photograph or image that has been taken through a microscope or magnifying lens, typically used for scientific or medical purposes

synonym: microphotograph

(1) **micrograph** image, (2) high-resolution **micrograph**The **micrograph** of the cell shows detailed structures that the naked eye cannot see.

microscopic

adj. tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy

synonym: infinitesimal, tiny, atomic

(1) **microscopic** inquiry, (2) **microscopic** analysis Inspectors noticed **microscopic** cracks in the submarine's hull.

mollusk

 a soft-bodied invertebrate with no internal skeleton, such as a snail, clam, or octopus

synonym: oyster, clam, snail

(1) mollusk shell, (2) edible mollusk

As a child, I loved collecting seashells and had many **mollusks**.

snail

 a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body

synonym: escargot, slug, whelk

(1) snail mail, (2) snail pace

The gardener found a **snail** slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.

octopus

 a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)

synonym: devilfish

(1) giant octopus, (2) venomous octopus

He experienced nausea after eating live **octopus**.

arthropod

 a type of invertebrate animal with a segmented body, jointed limbs, and an exoskeleton, including insects, spiders, crustaceans, and centipedes synonym: insect, crustacean, spider

(1) arthropod exoskeleton, (2) small arthropod

The classification of **arthropods** is constantly evolving as new species are discovered, and genetic studies provide new insights into their evolutionary relationships.

colossal

adj. extremely large and impressivesynonym: gigantic, huge, enormous

(1) colossal statue, (2) a colossal success

The new building is truly **colossal**, towering over the surrounding buildings.

symbiotic

- adj. involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist
- symbiotic economy, (2) symbiotic bacteria
 We have a mutually symbiotic connection with them.

overharvested

 adj. referring to a natural resource, particularly a plant or animal, that has been harvested or collected beyond its sustainable capacity

synonym: overexploited, overfished, depleted

(1) **overharvested** fish, (2) **overharvested** forest Many fish populations have been severely **overharvested**, leading to a decline in their numbers.

gastropod

 a class of mollusk that typically have a coiled or spiral shell, including snails, slugs, and whelks

synonym: snail, slug, whelk

(1) terrestrial **gastropod**, (2) marine **gastropod**Humans have used the shells of **gastropods** for thousands of years as tools, ornaments, and currency.

seashell

 a type of shell that once housed a mollusk, typically found on beaches or in shallow water

synonym: shell, conch, bivalve

(1) seashell ornament, (2) a fossil seashell

I love collecting **seashells** on the beach and displaying them in a jar at home.

venomous

 adj. extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will

synonym: poisonous, toxic, lethal

(1) the **venomous** jellyfish's sting, (2) have **venomous** eyes The **venomous** snake bit him, causing him to go into shock.

biomedical

 adj. relating to the application of the natural sciences, especially biology, and physiology, to clinical medicine and healthcare

synonym: medical, clinical, health-related

(1) **biomedical** assay, (2) cutting-edge **biomedical Biomedical** engineering focuses on developing new medical technologies and innovations to improve patient health outcomes.

venom

 a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging

synonym: poison, toxin, hating

(1) the **venom** of a lizard, (2) injected **venom**The snake's **venom** is highly toxic and can be fatal to humans.

hare

 a fast-running mammal with long ears and a short tail that closely resembles a rabbit but is larger and has longer hind legs

synonym: rabbit, bunny, lapin

(1) hare hunting, (2) brown hare

The farmer noticed a group of **hares** had been eating his vegetables, so he put up a fence to keep them out.

pulmonate

 a type of mollusk with a lung-like breathing organ found commonly in freshwater and terrestrial habitats synonym: lunged snail, air-breathing snail

(1) pulmonate snail, (2) lunged pulmonate

Many **pulmonate** species are important in soil ecology, where they help to break down organic matter and recycle nutrients.

displeasure

 the state of being annoyed or unhappy with someone or something

synonym: dissatisfaction, unhappiness, discontent

(1) incur **displeasure**, (2) **displeasure** with a ruling The boss's **displeasure** was evident when he slammed the door on his way out.

nudibranch

 a marine gastropod mollusk without a shell and with conspicuous or brightly colored gills found typically in warm seas

synonym: nudi, sea slug, naked slug

(1) nudibranch species, (2) colorful nudibranch

The diet of **nudibranchs** often consists of small invertebrates such as sea anemones, hydroids, and sponges.

gill

 a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide

synonym: respiratory organ, lung

(1) gill slits, (2) gill apparatus

The fish's **gills** are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.

feathery

adj. having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance

synonym: fluffy, plumed, downy

(1) feathery fronds, (2) delicate feathery

The **feathery** leaves of the plant gently swayed in the breeze.

tuft

a small cluster or clump of something, typically hair,
 grass, or feathers, that stands upright and apart from the

surrounding material

synonym: clump, bunch, cluster

(1) capillary tuft, (2) tuft of grass

The **tuft** of hair on the cat's head stood straight in alarm.

carnivore

 an animal that primarily eats meat as opposed to plant matter

synonym: predator, meat-eater, hunter

(1) carnivore diet, (2) hungry carnivore

A lion is a typical **carnivore**, as they mainly eat meat.

sting

v. to cause a sharp, painful sensation or injury with a poison, venom, or other substance or by a physical action such as a bite or prick

synonym: bite, prick, poke

(1) **sting** me on the arm, (2) **sting** his face

Bees **sting** as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened.

sacoglossan

 a type of sea slug that feeds by piercing and sucking out the contents of sac-shaped algae and often has a green color resulting from photosynthetic pigments in their tissues

synonym: sap-sucking slug, ascoglossa

(1) **sacoglossan** feeding, (2) sea slug **sacoglossan**Many **sacoglossan** species are brightly colored, which can warn predators that they are toxic or unpalatable.

camouflage

 an outward appearance that conceals the underlying essence of something; the way of concealing troops or military equipment so they cannot be seen against the surrounding environment

synonym: guise, mask, cloak

(1) **camouflage** clothing, (2) work as **camouflage**. They utilized branches of trees as **camouflage**.

herbivore

- n. an animal that eats only plants, such as a cow or a deersynonym: plant-eater, browser, graminivore
- (1) herbivore diet, (2) herbivore animals

A giraffe is an **herbivore** that primarily eats leaves and twigs.

poke

- v. to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger synonym: prod, jab, push
- poke around the desk, (2) poke a fire
 They poked fun at each other's jokes, laughing and teasing.

slurp

v. to eat, drink, or consume with a loud or messy sucking noise; to make a loud or messy sucking noise while eating, drinking, or consuming

synonym: sip, gulp, drink noisily

(1) slurp tea, (2) slurp noodles

The child couldn't resist **slurping** her soup loudly at the dinner table.

chloroplast

- a type of membrane-bound organelle that conducts photosynthesis in plant and algal cells.
- (1) **chloroplast** DNA, (2) **chloroplast** protein **Chloroplast** membranes are incredibly vulnerable to damage by oxygen radicals produced as a byproduct of photochemistry.

organelle

- a specialized subunit, usually within a cell, that has a specific function
- (1) cellular **organelles**, (2) **organelle** protein Membranes bind these **organelles** together.

kleptoplasty

n. the ability of some animals to "steal" chloroplasts from other organisms and incorporate them into their bodies, allowing them to photosynthesize like plants

synonym: chloroplast symbiosis, plastid capture

(1) **kleptoplasty** process, (2) **kleptoplasty** organism

The sea slug Elysia chlorotica is known for its **kleptoplasty**

ability to steal chloroplasts from algae and use them for photosynthesis.

plasty

 a surgical procedure that involves the shaping or molding of tissue or bone, particularly for reconstructive purposes

synonym: reconstruction, restoration, remodeling

(1) nasal **plasty**, (2) rhino- **plasty** operation Patients with Crohn's disease who have developed narrowings in their small intestines may benefit from a stricture **plasty**.

digestive

- adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
- (1) **digestive** juices, (2) a **digestive** enzyme A nutritious diet improves **digestive** functions.

sac

 a bag or pouch, typically made of fabric or leather, used to hold something valuable or important; a structure resembling a bag in an animal or plant

synonym: bag, pouch, knapsack

hike.

(1) sac contents, (2) abdominal sacI placed my valuables in the sac before heading out on my

unravel

- v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it synonym: separate, unknot, ravel
- (1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

emerald

adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

synonym: green, verdant, jade

(1) an emerald gem, (2) emerald ring

Page 10 / 32

The **emerald** green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

lettuce

 a leafy vegetable that is often used as a base for salads or sandwiches; it has green leaves and a mild flavor

synonym: greens, salad, cress

(1) crisp **lettuce**, (2) wilted **lettuce**

I want a sandwich with extra **lettuce**, please.

chlorophyll

- any of a group of green pigments found in photosynthetic organisms
- (1) **chlorophyll** pigment, (2) bacterial **chlorophyll Chlorophyll** utilizes sunlight to create sugars.

biochemical

adj. relating to the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms

synonym: molecular, biological

(1) **biochemical** reaction, (2) complex **biochemical Biochemical** research is essential to understanding the complex chemical reactions in living organisms.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	terrestrial gaod	n.	a class of mollusk that typically have a coiled or spiral shell, including snails, slugs, and whelks
2.	emd ring	adj.	having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
3.	injected vem	n.	a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging
4.	capillary tt	n.	a small cluster or clump of something, typically hair, grass, or feathers, that stands upright and apart from the surrounding material
5.	marine gaod	n.	a class of mollusk that typically have a coiled or spiral shell, including snails, slugs, and whelks
6.	klesty organism	n.	the ability of some animals to "steal" chloroplasts from other organisms and incorporate them into their bodies, allowing them to photosynthesize like plants
7.	work as camge	n.	an outward appearance that conceals the underlying essence of something; the way of concealing troops or military equipment so they cannot be seen against the surrounding environment
8.	process of phosis	n.	the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

ANSWERS: 1. gastropod, 2. emerald, 3. venom, 4. tuft, 5. gastropod, 6. kleptoplasty, 7. camouflage, 8. photosynthesis

ANSWERS: 9. lettuce, 10. sac, 11. flatworm, 12. nudibranch, 13. digestive, 14. snail, 15. symbiosis, 16. flatworm, 17. herbivore

ANSWERS: 18. venomous, 19. zooxanthella, 20. nudibranch, 21. sacoglossan, 22. colossal, 23. mollusk, 24. symbiosis, 25. sting, 26. colossal, 27. lettuce

28.	chlst protein	n.	a type of membrane-bound organelle that conducts photosynthesis in plant and algal cells.
29.	care diet	n.	an animal that primarily eats meat as opposed to plant matter
30.	chlIl pigment	n.	any of a group of green pigments found in photosynthetic organisms
31.	spineless jesh	n.	a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
32.	orle protein	n.	a specialized subunit, usually within a cell, that has a specific function
33.	fery fronds	adj.	having or resembling the soft and delicate feathers of a bird, typically in texture or appearance
34.	snI pace	n.	a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
35.	syic economy	adj.	involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist
36.	mave swamp	n.	a tropical coastal tree or shrub that grows in saline soil and has prop roots that help to stabilize it
37.	reduce sg damage	n.	a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink
38.	abdominal s_c	n.	a bag or pouch, typically made of fabric or leather, used to hold something valuable or important; a structure resembling a bag in an animal or plant

ANSWERS: 28. chloroplast, 29. carnivore, 30. chlorophyll, 31. jellyfish, 32. organelle, 33. feathery, 34. snail, 35. symbiotic, 36. mangrove, 37. slug, 38. sac

- 39. g__l slits
- 40. sy____ic bacteria
- 41. an___e flower
- 42. h__e hunting
- 43. venomous oc___s
- 44. giant oc s
- 45. edible mo k
- 46. blue al e
- 47. al e biofuel

- a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
- adj. involving two varieties of animal or plant, each of which supplies the conditions for the other to exist
- a type of flowering plant that has bright, showy flowers and typically blooms in the spring; a marine creature that resembles flowers but has oral rings of tentacles
- a fast-running mammal with long ears and a short tail that closely resembles a rabbit but is larger and has longer hind legs
- a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
- a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
- a soft-bodied invertebrate with no internal skeleton, such as a snail, clam, or octopus
- A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
- A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

ANSWERS: 39. gill, 40. symbiotic, 41. anemone, 42. hare, 43. octopus, 44. octopus, 45. mollusk, 46. algae, 47. algae

ANSWERS: 48. clam, 49. zoology, 50. microscopic, 51. seashell, 52. arthropod, 53. poke, 54. plasty, 55. chloroplast, 56. microscopic, 57. pulmonate, 58. overharvested

particularly a plant or animal, that has been harvested or collected beyond its

sustainable capacity

ANSWERS: 59. biomedical, 60. zoology, 61. digestive, 62. arthropod, 63. biochemical, 64. carnivore, 65. herbivore, 66. biochemical, 67. photosynthesis, 68. venomous

containing or producing venom; marked

by deep ill will

75. sl p tea

to eat, drink, or consume with a loud or messy sucking noise; to make a loud or messy sucking noise while eating, drinking, or consuming

to push or prod with a sharp object or the finger

a marine mollusk that burrows and lives n. on sand or mud, the shell closes with viselike firmness

ANSWERS: 69. anemone, 70. tentacle, 71. gill, 72. slug, 73. invertebrate, 74. zooxanthella, 75. slurp, 76. poke, 77. clam

76. p e around the desk

77. giant c__m

ANSWERS: 78. biomedical, 79. sacoglossan, 80. micrograph, 81. emerald, 82. overharvested, 83. organelle, 84. unravel, 85. pulmonate, 86. hare

injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging

cleaning

a toxic substance produced by an

animal, typically a snake or insect, and

ANSWERS: 87. mangrove, 88. tentacle, 89. unravel, 90. camouflage, 91. tuft, 92. invertebrate, 93. displeasure, 94. sponge, 95. venom

95. the ve m of a lizard

ANSWERS: 96. feathery, 97. sting, 98. slurp, 99. sponge, 100. chlorophyll, 101. seashell, 102. jellyfish, 103. kleptoplasty, 104. micrograph

scientific or medical purposes

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Michael Middlebrooks: The fantasticall	y weird world of ph	hotosynthetic sea slugs	TED Talk"	(53 words)
--	---------------------	-------------------------	-----------	------------

105.	rhino-pl_	y operation	7

106. incur dis____re

- a surgical procedure that involves the shaping or molding of tissue or bone, particularly for reconstructive purposes
- *n.* the state of being annoyed or unhappy with someone or something

ANSWERS: 105. plasty, 106. displeasure

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	The fish's are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.
n.	a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
2.	A lion is a typical as they mainly eat meat.
n.	an animal that primarily eats meat as opposed to plant matter
3.	The beach was filled with hundreds of so swimming was not recommended.
n.	a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
4.	The diet of often consists of small invertebrates such as sea anemones, hydroids, and sponges.
n.	a marine gastropod mollusk without a shell and with conspicuous or brightly colored gills found typically in warm seas
5.	membranes are incredibly vulnerable to damage by oxygen radicals produced as a byproduct of photochemistry.
n.	a type of membrane-bound organelle that conducts photosynthesis in plant and algal cells.
6.	The of hair on the cat's head stood straight in alarm.
n.	a small cluster or clump of something, typically hair, grass, or feathers, that stands upright and apart from the surrounding material
7.	utilizes sunlight to create sugars.
n.	any of a group of green pigments found in photosynthetic organisms
	SWERS: 1. gills, 2. carnivore, 3. jellyfish, 4. nudibranchs, 5. Chloroplast, 6. tuft, 7. lorophyll

latworm, 22. fe	eathery, 23. sac	oglossan		

Vocab-Builder Ref from	"Michael Middlebrooks: The fantastically weird world of photosynthetic sea slugs TED Talk" (53 words)
ANSWERS:	