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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Luis Zambrano: *These salamanders snack on each other (but don't die)* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

baffle

v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

synonym: perplex, astound, hinder

(1) **baffle** his plan, (2) **baffle** outside noises

The paradox **baffled** most philosophers.

axolotl

n. a type of aquatic salamander native to Mexico with external gills and the ability to regrow lost limbs

synonym: mud puppy, water monster, Mexican salamander

(1) **axolotl** species, (2) pink **axolotl**

An **axolotl's** skin is exceptionally soft and feathery to the touch.

amphibian

n. a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water

synonym: frog, toad, salamander

(1) **amphibian** species, (2) **amphibian** habitat
Scientists are concerned about the rapid decline in **amphibian** populations around the world.

metamorphosis

n. a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation

synonym: transformation, change, evolution

(1) **metamorphosis** process, (2) undergo a **metamorphosis**

The butterfly's **metamorphosis** from a caterpillar to a winged creature is a wonder of nature.

gill

n. 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.

regeneration

n. the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit

synonym: renewal, regrowth, restoration

(1) economic **regeneration**, (2) **regeneration** of forests

The **regeneration** of the damaged tissue in the body is a slow process.

flawless

adj. without any imperfections or errors; perfect or impeccable in appearance or performance

synonym: perfect, impeccable, faultless

(1) **flawless** execution, (2) **flawless** performance

The football team had a **flawless** season and went undefeated all year.

regenerate

v. to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful

synonym : renew, revive, improve

(1) **regenerate** bone tissue, (2) a **regenerate** sinner

The new CEO's primary mission is to **regenerate** the company on the verge of bankruptcy.

amputate

v. to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery

synonym : cut off, cut away

(1) **amputate** both legs, (2) **amputate** below the knee

Finally, they had to **amputate** his foot to free him from the wrecked car.

salamander

n. any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed

synonym : amphibian

(1) terrestrial **salamander**, (2) semiaquatic **salamander**

We plan to raise a giant **salamander** as a pet.

incarnation

n. the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something

synonym : embodiment, personification, avatar

(1) former **incarnation**, (2) **incarnation** of stupidity

The novel is an **incarnation** of the author's experiences and imagination.

tadpole

n. the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater

synonym : polliwog, froglet, girssle

(1) **tadpole** stage, (2) **tadpole** development

I saw a **tadpole** swimming in the pond during my morning walk.

dorsal

adj. located on the back, particularly the upper surface of an animal's body; related to or pertaining to the back

synonym : abaxial, spinal, back

(1) **dorsal** surface, (2) **dorsal** root

The shark's **dorsal** fin is a distinguishing feature.

neoteny

n. the retention of juvenile characteristics into adulthood, often seen in certain animal species, including humans

synonym: juvenescence, pedomorphism, neotenousness

(1) **neoteny** theory, (2) **neoteny** effect

The axolotl is often cited as an example of **neoteny** in amphibians.

unchanging

adj. not changing or subject to change; constant

synonym: constant, stable, static

(1) **unchanging** laws, (2) rigidly **unchanging**

The **unchanging** nature of the mountain range was a source of constant wonder for the hikers.

predator

n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

synonym: vulture, bloodsucker

(1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**

The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

advantageous

adj. providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial

synonym: beneficial, favorable, profitable

(1) **advantageous** conditions, (2) **advantageous** interest rate

The new job opportunity offered by the company is highly **advantageous**.

forgo

v. to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to

synonym: abstain, renounce, sacrifice

(1) **forgo** dessert, (2) **forgo** the luxury

We had to **forgo** our outdoor picnic because of the sudden rain.

lifespan

n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

synonym: duration, lifetime, continuance

(1) **lifespan** extension, (2) **lifespan** retrieval curve

Generally speaking, men have a shorter **lifespan** than women.

regenerative

adj. tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue

synonym: rejuvenating, restorative, healing

(1) **regenerative** medicine, (2) **regenerative** therapy

The **regenerative** properties of stem cells make them a promising area of research.

superpower

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

synonym: great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

progenitor

n. a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor

synonym: ancestor, forefather, parent

(1) the **progenitor** of a family, (2) **progenitor** cell

Scientists could trace the species' origin back to a single **progenitor**.

proliferate

v. to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner

synonym: multiply, spread, propagate

(1) **proliferate** cells, (2) **proliferate** weeds

The number of COVID cases continued to **proliferate** in many countries worldwide.

controllable

adj. able to be controlled or directed

synonym: manageable, governable, submissive

(1) computer- **controllable**, (2) **controllable** aircraft

The new software is much more **controllable** and user-friendly.

vertebrate

adj. relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

synonym: animal, chordate, backboned

(1) the muscle tissue of a **vertebrate**, (2) **vertebrate** biology

The presence of a backbone is a defining characteristic of **vertebrate** animals.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

sheltered

adj. protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life

synonym: protected, secure, guarded

(1) **sheltered** life, (2) **sheltered** housing

The birds found **sheltered** spots in the trees to avoid the rain.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym: intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

divert

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or

amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym: distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **divert** attention, (2) **divert** an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

slimy

adj. covered with or having a slippery, viscous coating; repulsively slippery or oozy; containing or resembling slime

synonym: slippery, mucky, mucous

(1) **slimy** substance, (2) **slimy** green algae

The **slimy** texture of the seafood dish made me feel queasy.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sh_____ed housing *adj.* protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life
2. di___t an assault *v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
3. li_____an retrieval curve *n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
4. adv_____ous conditions *adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
5. zo_____y book *n.* the scientific study of animals, including their classification, habits, behavior, physiology, and evolution
6. economic reg_____ion *n.* the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit
7. am_____an habitat *n.* a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
8. ver_____te biology *adj.* relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

ANSWERS: 1. sheltered, 2. divert, 3. lifespan, 4. advantageous, 5. zoology, 6. regeneration, 7. amphibian, 8. vertebrate

9. g__l slits *n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
10. pl____ting sales *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
11. the pro____or of a family *n.* a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor
12. di___t attention *v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
13. do___l surface *adj.* located on the back, particularly the upper surface of an animal's body; related to or pertaining to the back
14. reg____te bone tissue *v.* to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
15. fo__o the luxury *v.* to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to
16. rigidly unc____ng *adj.* not changing or subject to change; constant
17. am____an species *n.* a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
18. unc____ng laws *adj.* not changing or subject to change; constant

ANSWERS: 9. gill, 10. plummet, 11. progenitor, 12. divert, 13. dorsal, 14. regenerate, 15. forgo, 16. unchanging, 17. amphibian, 18. unchanging

19. adv_____ous interest rate *adj.* providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
20. pro_____or cell *n.* a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor
21. sl__y substance *adj.* covered with or having a slippery, viscous coating; repulsively slippery or oozy; containing or resembling slime
22. apex pr_____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
23. fl_____ss execution *adj.* without any imperfections or errors; perfect or impeccable in appearance or performance
24. sup_____er leader *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
25. the muscle tissue of a ver_____te *adj.* relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
26. pink ax_____l *n.* a type of aquatic salamander native to Mexico with external gills and the ability to regrow lost limbs
27. ta_____e stage *n.* the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater

ANSWERS: 19. advantageous, 20. progenitor, 21. slimy, 22. predator, 23. flawless, 24. superpower, 25. vertebrate, 26. axolotl, 27. tadpole

28. a reg_____te sinner *v.* to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
29. computer-con_____ble *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
30. do____l root *adj.* located on the back, particularly the upper surface of an animal's body; related to or pertaining to the back
31. fo__o dessert *v.* to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to
32. pro_____te weeds *v.* to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner
33. ax_____l species *n.* a type of aquatic salamander native to Mexico with external gills and the ability to regrow lost limbs
34. g__l apparatus *n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
35. li_____an extension *n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
36. terrestrial sal_____er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
37. ne_____y effect *n.* the retention of juvenile characteristics into adulthood, often seen in certain animal species, including humans
38. zo_____y professor *n.* the scientific study of animals, including their classification, habits, behavior, physiology, and evolution

ANSWERS: 28. regenerate, 29. controllable, 30. dorsal, 31. forgo, 32. proliferate, 33. axolotl, 34. gill, 35. lifespan, 36. salamander, 37. neoteny, 38. zoology

39. reg_____ive medicine *adj.* tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue
40. ta_____e development *n.* the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater
41. ba_____e his plan *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
42. ba_____e outside noises *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
43. reg_____ive therapy *adj.* tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue
44. semiaquatic sal_____er *n.* any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
45. am_____te below the knee *v.* to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery
46. con_____ble aircraft *adj.* able to be controlled or directed
47. met_____sis process *n.* a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation
48. sh_____ed life *adj.* protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life

ANSWERS: 39. regenerative, 40. tadpole, 41. baffle, 42. baffle, 43. regenerative, 44. salamander, 45. amputate, 46. controllable, 47. metamorphosis, 48. sheltered

49. in___e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
50. former inc_____on *n.* the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something
51. inc_____on of stupidity *n.* the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something
52. ne_____y theory *n.* the retention of juvenile characteristics into adulthood, often seen in certain animal species, including humans
53. pro_____te cells *v.* to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner
54. reg_____ion of forests *n.* the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit
55. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
56. sl__y green algae *adj.* covered with or having a slippery, viscous coating; repulsively slippery or oozy; containing or resembling slime
57. pl_____t against other major currencies *v.* to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
58. undergo a met_____sis *n.* a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation

ANSWERS: 49. invade, 50. incarnation, 51. incarnation, 52. neoteny, 53. proliferate, 54. regeneration, 55. predator, 56. slimy, 57. plummet, 58. metamorphosis

59. fl_____ss performance *adj.* without any imperfections or errors; perfect or impeccable in appearance or performance
60. sup_____er country *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
61. am_____te both legs *v.* to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery
62. in____e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

ANSWERS: 59. flawless, 60. superpower, 61. amputate, 62. invade

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. The shark's _____ fin is a distinguishing feature.
adj. located on the back, particularly the upper surface of an animal's body; related to or pertaining to the back

3. The number of COVID cases continued to _____ in many countries worldwide.
v. to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner

4. Finally, they had to _____ his foot to free him from the wrecked car.
v. to cut off a part of the body, especially by surgery

5. The paradox _____ most philosophers.
v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

6. An _____ skin is exceptionally soft and feathery to the touch.
n. a type of aquatic salamander native to Mexico with external gills and the ability to regrow lost limbs

7. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

ANSWERS: 1. gills, 2. dorsal, 3. proliferate, 4. amputate, 5. baffled, 6. axolotl's, 7. invade

8. Scientists are concerned about the rapid decline in _____ populations around the world.
n. a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
9. The axolotl is often cited as an example of _____ in amphibians.
n. the retention of juvenile characteristics into adulthood, often seen in certain animal species, including humans
10. The _____ of the damaged tissue in the body is a slow process.
n. the process of regrowing or re-forming a body part or tissue that has been lost or damaged due to injury, disease, or other factors; restoration or renewal of vitality, strength, or spirit
11. The _____ nature of the mountain range was a source of constant wonder for the hikers.
adj. not changing or subject to change; constant
12. The new CEO's primary mission is to _____ the company on the verge of bankruptcy.
v. to improve or renew an area, institution, system, etc., especially by making it more active or successful
13. We plan to raise a giant _____ as a pet.
n. any of various typically terrestrial amphibians that resemble lizards and that return to water only to breed
14. The new software is much more _____ and user-friendly.
adj. able to be controlled or directed
15. The birds found _____ spots in the trees to avoid the rain.
adj. protected or shielded from danger or harmful influences; inexperienced or innocent of certain unpleasantness or harsh realities of life

ANSWERS: 8. amphibian, 9. neoteny, 10. regeneration, 11. unchanging, 12. regenerate, 13. salamander, 14. controllable, 15. sheltered

16. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
17. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
18. She's studying _____ at university and hopes to work at a zoo someday.
n. the scientific study of animals, including their classification, habits, behavior, physiology, and evolution
19. I saw a _____ swimming in the pond during my morning walk.
n. the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater
20. The _____ properties of stem cells make them a promising area of research.
adj. tending to regrow or restore lost or injured tissue
21. The presence of a backbone is a defining characteristic of _____ animals.
adj. relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
22. The new job opportunity offered by the company is highly _____.
adj. providing a benefit or advantage; favorable or beneficial
23. The butterfly's _____ from a caterpillar to a winged creature is a wonder of nature.
n. a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation

ANSWERS: 16. plummeted, 17. predator's, 18. zoology, 19. tadpole, 20. regenerative, 21. vertebrate, 22. advantageous, 23. metamorphosis

24. The football team had a _____ season and went undefeated all year.

adj. without any imperfections or errors; perfect or impeccable in appearance or performance

25. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a _____ in comic books and movies.

n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

26. Generally speaking, men have a shorter _____ than women.

n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

27. The _____ texture of the seafood dish made me feel queasy.

adj. covered with or having a slippery, viscous coating; repulsively slippery or oozy; containing or resembling slime

28. The novel is an _____ of the author's experiences and imagination.

n. the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something

29. We had to _____ our outdoor picnic because of the sudden rain.

v. to give up or abstain from something; to do without something that one might be entitled to

30. Due to the road construction, we had to _____ our course to get to the restaurant.

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

ANSWERS: 24. flawless, 25. superpower, 26. lifespan, 27. slimy, 28. incarnation, 29. forgo, 30. divert

31. Scientists could trace the species' origin back to a single _____.

- n.* a person or thing from whom a descendant or line of descendants is descended; an ancestor

ANSWERS: 31. progenitor