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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

David Gruber: Can we learn to talk to sperm whales?

| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

mammal

n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

(1) a primitive **mammal**, (2) a sort of **mammal**

Marine **mammal** populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

matriarchy

n. a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting

synonym: matriarchate, matrifocal, matricentric

(1) **matriarchy** society, (2) **matriarchy** system

According to some cultural historians, ancient Egypt was a **matriarchy** for a brief period of time.

coda

n. the concluding part of a musical composition or movement, typically following the main body of the piece and serving as a conclusion; a concluding event or

remark

synonym : finale, conclusion, endnote

(1) musical **coda**, (2) literary **coda**

The final **coda** of the symphony was breathtakingly beautiful.

facet

n. one of the many aspects or sides of a subject or situation, especially when seen from different angles or perspectives; a particular feature or characteristic of something

synonym : aspect, side, angle

(1) **facet** to a question, (2) important **facet**

The different **facets** of his personality make him a complex individual.

linguist

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

synonym : grammarist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

reshape

v. to change the form or structure of something

synonym : alter, adjust, modify

(1) **reshape** education policy, (2) **reshape** my thoughts

The advent of the Internet completely **reshaped** the manufacturing industry.

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym : outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

oceanography

n. the scientific study of oceans and other bodies of saltwater, including their physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, as well as their interactions with the atmosphere and land

synonym : marine science, oceanology, oceanic research

(1) **oceanography** data, (2) **oceanography** expedition
The **oceanography** research center is dedicated to studying the impacts of climate change on the ocean's ecosystem.

microbe

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

synonym: germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

Microbes thrive on the surface of the human skin.

jellyfish

n. 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.

inhabitant

n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

synonym: dweller, occupant, resident

(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax

His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.

harmonious

adj. characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone

synonym: concordant, consistent, melodious

(1) **harmonious** relationship, (2) **harmonious** blend

The painting's **harmonious** composition and balance of colors made it a masterpiece.

interspecies

adj. occurring between or involving different species; pertaining to interactions between different species

synonym: interbreeding, crossbreeding, mixed

(1) **interspecies** interaction, (2) **interspecies** communication

There are many cases of **interspecies** cooperation in the

animal kingdom.

converse

v. to talk informally

synonym: discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

dialect

n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics

synonym: accent, language, vernacular

(1) a local **dialect**, (2) minority **dialect**

The **dialect** spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.

painstaking

adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

synonym: detailed, meticulous, conscientious

(1) **painstaking** research, (2) a **painstaking** student

The training of a hawk was a **painstaking** process.

correlate

v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another

synonym: associate, liken, connect

(1) **correlate** closely with the quality, (2) **correlate** to the size

We may frequently **correlate** age with the frequency of disease.

drone

n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

synonym: hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

hydrophone

n. a device used to detect and analyze sound waves in water, typically used for underwater acoustics research, sonar systems, or underwater surveillance

synonym : underwater microphone, acoustic sensor, sonar receiver

(1) deep-sea **hydrophone**, (2) **hydrophone** sensor

The military uses **hydrophones** for underwater surveillance and communication.

linguistics

n. the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics

synonym : language studies, phonology, etymology

(1) comparative **linguistics**, (2) **linguistics** professor

A new study in **linguistics** research showed that bilingualism delays the onset of dementia.

simplistic

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

synonym : basic, uncomplicated, elementary

(1) **simplistic** approach, (2) **simplistic** design

The politician's solution to the problem was too **simplistic** to solve the underlying issue.

neocortex

n. the part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for higher brain functions such as conscious thought and decision-making

synonym : prefrontal lobe, cerebral cortex, forebrain

(1) stored in **neocortex**, (2) **neocortex** function

The cerebral **neocortex** is responsible for higher brain functions such as decision-making and problem-solving.

spindle

n. a rotating shaft that serves as axes for larger rotating parts; (biology) tiny fibers that are seen in cell division

synonym : shaft, axis, mandrel

(1) a **spindle-shaped** muscle, (2) **spindle** cell cancer
A powerful **spindle** motor is required to process these metal parts.

primate

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

synonym: ape, monkey, lemur

(1) **primate** species, (2) **primate** sanctuary

Many scientists study **primate** behavior and intelligence.

dolphin

n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid

synonym: porpoise, cetacean, marine mammal

(1) **dolphin** show, (2) **dolphin-watching** tour

The large group of **dolphins** swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.

newfound

adj. newly discovered or acquired

synonym: afresh, new, recently discovered

(1) a **newfound** mine, (2) **newfound** freedom

With his **newfound** wealth, he could travel the world and indulge in his passions.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a primitive ma___l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
2. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
3. je_____sh sting *n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
4. mat_____hy society *n.* a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting
5. oce_____phy expedition *n.* the scientific study of oceans and other bodies of saltwater, including their physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, as well as their interactions with the atmosphere and land
6. re_____e my thoughts *v.* to change the form or structure of something
7. stored in ne_____ex *n.* the part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for higher brain functions such as conscious thought and decision-making
8. a sort of ma___l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
9. sim_____ic approach *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

ANSWERS: 1. mammal, 2. predator, 3. jellyfish, 4. matriarchy, 5. oceanography, 6. reshape, 7. neocortex, 8. mammal, 9. simplistic

10. har_____us relationship *adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
11. ask a co_____se question *v.* to talk informally
12. spineless je_____sh *n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
13. int_____ies communication *adj.* occurring between or involving different species; pertaining to interactions between different species
14. pr_____e sanctuary *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
15. a sp_____e-shaped muscle *n.* a rotating shaft that serves as axes for larger rotating parts; (biology) tiny fibers that are seen in cell division
16. a pai_____ng student *adj.* cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort
17. foreign li_____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
18. inh_____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
19. oce_____phy data *n.* the scientific study of oceans and other bodies of saltwater, including their physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, as well as their interactions with the atmosphere and land

ANSWERS: 10. harmonious, 11. converse, 12. jellyfish, 13. interspecies, 14. primate, 15. spindle, 16. painstaking, 17. linguist, 18. inhabitant, 19. oceanography

20. lin_____cs professor *n.* the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics
21. the speaker's dr__e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
22. pathogenic mi_____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
23. important fa__t *n.* one of the many aspects or sides of a subject or situation, especially when seen from different angles or perspectives; a particular feature or characteristic of something
24. har_____us blend *adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
25. deep-sea hyd_____ne *n.* a device used to detect and analyze sound waves in water, typically used for underwater acoustics research, sonar systems, or underwater surveillance
26. re_____e education policy *v.* to change the form or structure of something
27. literary c__a *n.* the concluding part of a musical composition or movement, typically following the main body of the piece and serving as a conclusion; a concluding event or remark

ANSWERS: 20. linguistics, 21. drone, 22. microbe, 23. facet, 24. harmonious, 25. hydrophone, 26. reshape, 27. coda

28. cognitive li____st *n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
29. co_____te to the size *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
30. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
31. sp_____e cell cancer *n.* a rotating shaft that serves as axes for larger rotating parts; (biology) tiny fibers that are seen in cell division
32. hyd_____ne sensor *n.* a device used to detect and analyze sound waves in water, typically used for underwater acoustics research, sonar systems, or underwater surveillance
33. minority di_____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
34. global pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
35. comparative lin_____cs *n.* the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics
36. pr_____e species *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
37. do_____n-watching tour *n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid

ANSWERS: 28. linguist, 29. correlate, 30. predator, 31. spindle, 32. hydrophone, 33. dialect, 34. pandemic, 35. linguistics, 36. primate, 37. dolphin

38. int_____ies interaction *adj.* occurring between or involving different species; pertaining to interactions between different species
39. co_____te closely with the quality *v.* to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
40. dr__e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
41. pai_____ng research *adj.* cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort
42. ne_____ex function *n.* the part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for higher brain functions such as conscious thought and decision-making
43. a ne_____nd mine *adj.* newly discovered or acquired
44. musical c__a *n.* the concluding part of a musical composition or movement, typically following the main body of the piece and serving as a conclusion; a concluding event or remark
45. sim_____ic design *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
46. mat_____hy system *n.* a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting

ANSWERS: 38. interspecies, 39. correlate, 40. drone, 41. painstaking, 42. neocortex, 43. newfound, 44. coda, 45. simplistic, 46. matriarchy

47. do_____n show *n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
48. flu pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
49. co_____se with an acquaintance *v.* to talk informally
50. mi_____es sterilizer *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
51. ne_____nd freedom *adj.* newly discovered or acquired
52. fa__t to a question *n.* one of the many aspects or sides of a subject or situation, especially when seen from different angles or perspectives; a particular feature or characteristic of something
53. a local di_____t *n.* a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
54. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

ANSWERS: 47. dolphin, 48. pandemic, 49. converse, 50. microbe, 51. newfound, 52. facet, 53. dialect, 54. inhabitant

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He heard a _____ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
n. a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
2. The cerebral _____ is responsible for higher brain functions such as decision-making and problem-solving.
n. the part of the cerebral cortex that is responsible for higher brain functions such as conscious thought and decision-making
3. The large group of _____ swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.
n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
4. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.
n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
5. The politician's solution to the problem was too _____ to solve the underlying issue.
adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
6. _____ thrive on the surface of the human skin.
n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
7. The training of a hawk was a _____ process.
adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

ANSWERS: 1. drone, 2. neocortex, 3. dolphins, 4. primate, 5. simplistic, 6. Microbes, 7. painstaking

8. With his _____ wealth, he could travel the world and indulge in his passions.
adj. newly discovered or acquired
9. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
10. The _____ research center is dedicated to studying the impacts of climate change on the ocean's ecosystem.
n. the scientific study of oceans and other bodies of saltwater, including their physical, chemical, and biological characteristics, as well as their interactions with the atmosphere and land
11. We may frequently _____ age with the frequency of disease.
v. to have a connection or relationship in which one thing affects or depends on another
12. The advent of the Internet completely _____ the manufacturing industry.
v. to change the form or structure of something
13. The _____ spoken in the region differed from other parts of the country.
n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular geographical area or by a particular group of people and has distinguishing characteristics
14. A new study in _____ research showed that bilingualism delays the onset of dementia.
n. the study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics
15. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

ANSWERS: 8. newfound, 9. predator's, 10. oceanography, 11. correlate, 12. reshaped, 13. dialect, 14. linguistics, 15. inhabitant

16. The painting's _____ composition and balance of colors made it a masterpiece.
- adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
17. The military uses _____ for underwater surveillance and communication.
- n.* a device used to detect and analyze sound waves in water, typically used for underwater acoustics research, sonar systems, or underwater surveillance
18. 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
19. The different _____ of his personality make him a complex individual.
- n.* one of the many aspects or sides of a subject or situation, especially when seen from different angles or perspectives; a particular feature or characteristic of something
20. According to some cultural historians, ancient Egypt was a _____ for a brief period of time.
- n.* a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting
21. The final _____ of the symphony was breathtakingly beautiful.
- n.* the concluding part of a musical composition or movement, typically following the main body of the piece and serving as a conclusion; a concluding event or remark
22. A powerful _____ motor is required to process these metal parts.
- n.* a rotating shaft that serves as axes for larger rotating parts; (biology) tiny fibers that are seen in cell division

ANSWERS: 16. harmonious, 17. hydrophones, 18. jellyfish, 19. facets, 20. matriarchy, 21. coda, 22. spindle

23. Though I love literature, I'm a bad _____.

- n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

24. Marine _____ populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

- n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

25. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.

- n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

26. There are many cases of _____ cooperation in the animal kingdom.

- adj.* occurring between or involving different species; pertaining to interactions between different species

27. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.

- v.* to talk informally

ANSWERS: 23. linguist, 24. mammal, 25. pandemic, 26. interspecies, 27. converse