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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Justin Schmidt: The world's most painful insect sting | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/justin_schmidt_the_world_ s_most_painful_insect_sting



Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

rainforest

- a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
- (1) **rainforest** destruction, (2) tropical **rainforest**The destruction of the **rainforest** is a ticking time bomb for the Earth.

hive

 a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people

synonym: apiary, swarm, pack

honeybees in hives, (2) a hive of activity
 Bees were buzzing around the hive

delectable

adj. highly pleasing and enjoyable to taste or experience *synonym*: delicious, tasty, scrumptious

(1) **delectable** dish, (2) **delectable** chocolate

The **delectable** aroma of freshly baked cookies filled the house.

wasp

 a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals

synonym: insect, hornet, yellow jacket

(1) wasp nest, (2) wasp sting

A giant **wasp** flew into the room, and everyone panicked.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym: immobilize, disable, numb

(1) paralyze a city, (2) paralyze a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

tarantula

 a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs

synonym: spider, arachnid, hairy spider

(1) keep tarantulas as pets, (2) fear a tarantula

The furry **tarantula** crawled across the floor, causing some to scream.

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.

incite

v. to encourage, stir up, or provoke someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive

synonym: provoke, stimulate, encourage

(1) incite violence, (2) incite rebellion

The politician's speech seemed designed to **incite** anger and unrest among the crowd.

savory

adj. pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet

synonym: delicious, tasty, appetizing

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(1) savory dish, (2) a savory omelet

The **savory** aroma of roasted chicken filled the kitchen.

entomology

 the scientific study of insects, including their physical characteristics, life cycles, behaviors, and relationships with other organisms in their environment

synonym: insect science, bug study, insectology

(1) entomology lab, (2) entomology book

The museum offered a guided tour of its **entomology** exhibit featuring various insects.

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.

honeybee

n. a type of bee that is known for producing honey and pollinating flowers

synonym: apis mellifera

(1) honeybee colony, (2) aggressive honeybee

The **honeybee** hive is organized into a caste system, with a queen, drones, and workers.

quench

v. to drink liquid so that you satisfy your thirst

synonym: satisfy, sate, assuage

(1) quench a fire, (2) quench a rebellion

Her beautiful voice **quenched** the thirst of an ever-growing audience.

lye

 a highly alkaline solution made by soaking hardwood ashes in the water, used in the production of soap, detergents, and other cleaning agents; a caustic substance

synonym: caustic soda, sodium hydroxide, alkaline solution

(1) lye soap, (2) lye water

The drain cleaner contains caustic **lye**, and should be handled with care.

melittin

 a toxic peptide found in bee venom that can cause pain, swelling, and other symptoms; is also being studied for potential medical uses

synonym: bee venom peptide, apitoxin, bee toxin

(1) **melittin-regulated** apoptosis, (2) **melittin** toxicity Researchers are studying the potential use of **melittin** as a treatment for cancer cells.

disperse

v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

synonym: dissipate, spread, scatter

(1) **disperse** false information, (2) **disperse** the protesters Before authorities **dispersed** the protesters, they yelled slogans.

buildup

- *n.* the accumulation or increase of something over time *synonym*: accumulation, increase, growth
- lactic acid buildup, (2) huge military buildup
 The buildup of stress over time can lead to health problems.

barb

n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair

synonym: spine, barbed remark, sting

(1) barb wire, (2) aim a barb

The politician's words were full of **barbs** designed to hurt his opponent.

burrow

- v. to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal synonym: tunnel, dig, excavate
- (1) **burrow** through the forest, (2) **burrow** into a mystery You can't **burrow** through solid metal.

pheromone

 a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

synonym: scent, odor, aroma

(1) **pheromone** trail, (2) sexual **pheromone**

The perfume industry often uses synthetic **pheromones** to enhance their products' appeal.

hawk

 a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations

synonym: militarist, jingo, aggressor

(1) cast off a hawk, (2) congressional hawk

That team signed a center forward who was a ball- hawk.

agonize

v. to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying

synonym: disturb, excruciate, lament

(1) **agonize** pain, (2) **agonize** about financing He **agonized** over whether to accept the job offer.

immobilize

v. to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop

synonym: incapacitate, paralyze, disable

(1) **immobilize** the city, (2) **immobilize** our opponent The paramedics had to **immobilize** the accident victim to prevent further injury during transport to the hospital.

hatch

v. to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage

synonym: incubate, breed, produce

(1) hatch a plan, (2) hatch a baby chick

The eggs began to hatch, and the small chicks emerged.

larva

n. the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose

synonym: caterpillar, grub, maggot

(1) larva of a butterfly, (2) a moth larva

The butterfly emerged from its **larva** stage.

bountiful

adj. abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources

synonym: abundant, plentiful, generous

(1) bountiful compliments, (2) bountiful blessings

The farmer's land was **bountiful** and produced a large harvest.

devour

v. to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly

synonym: consume, swallow, destroy

(1) devour a meal, (2) devour my way

She **devoured** the mystery novel in one sitting.

neurotoxin

- a poisonous substance that damages or destroys nerve tissue and causes neurological damage or dysfunction; a toxin that specifically targets the nervous system
- (1) snake **neurotoxin**, (2) lethal **neurotoxin**Certain types of fish contain **neurotoxins** that can harm humans if ingested.

poneratoxin

 a peptide toxin found in ant venom that is capable of disrupting the normal functioning of the nervous system in animals; can cause pain, paralysis, or other symptoms in humans and other animals

synonym: venom, poison, toxin

(1) **poneratoxin** poisoning, (2) **poneratoxin** venom Researchers are studying the effects of **poneratoxin** on nerve cells to understand its mechanism of action better.

degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym: demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

agony

extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense

synonym: anguish, torment, suffering

(1) severe agony, (2) emotional agony

The athlete fell to the ground in **agony** after injuring their ankle.

tremble

v. to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness

synonym: shiver, flutter, quaver

(1) **tremble** in fear, (2) **tremble** violently with emotion When I heard the news, my whole body **trembled** with excitement.

vomit

v. to eject food, blood, etc., from the stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth

synonym: puke, throw up, spew

(1) vomit abuse, (2) vomit after ingesting

She felt sick and had to run to the bathroom to vomit.

heartbeat

 the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force

synonym: beat, pulse, force

(1) heartbeat abnormality, (2) a pounding heartbeat

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neartbea

New York is the commercial **heartbeat** of America.

excruciating

adj. extremely painful, intense, or distressing; causing great physical or emotional suffering

synonym: agonizing, unbearable, torturous

(1) **excruciating** ordeal, (2) **excruciating** embarrassment The **excruciating** pain in his ankle made it difficult to walk.

predator

- n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on otherssynonym: vulture, bloodsucker
- (1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

formidable

- adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admirationsynonym: daunting, intimidating, fearful
- (1) **formidable** challenge, (2) **formidable** competitor The mountain range was a **formidable** obstacle for the hikers.

provoke

 to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect

synonym: stimulate, incite, encourage

provoke a disease, (2) provoke a reaction
 Her behavior provoked a quarrel between the couple.

Session 2: Spelling

1. b__b wire

2. exc____ing ordeal

3. pon_____in poisoning

4. a pounding he____at

5. st__g his face

6. de___r a meal

7. a h e of activity

- n. a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair
- adj. extremely painful, intense, or distressing; causing great physical or emotional suffering
- n. a peptide toxin found in ant venom that is capable of disrupting the normal functioning of the nervous system in animals; can cause pain, paralysis, or other symptoms in humans and other animals
- the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
- 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
- to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly
- a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people

ANSWERS: 1. barb, 2. excruciating, 3. poneratoxin, 4. heartbeat, 5. sting, 6. devour, 7. hive

8.	hoee colony	n.	a type of bee that is known for producing honey and pollinating flowers
9.	der my way	ν.	to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly
10.	vot after ingesting	<i>v</i> .	to eject food, blood, etc., from the stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth
11.	tropical raist	n.	a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
12.	cast off a hk	n.	a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
13.	keep talas as pets	n.	a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs
14.	the vem of a lizard	n.	a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging
15.	say dish	adj.	pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
16.	sexual phne	n.	a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

ANSWERS: 8. honeybee, 9. devour, 10. vomit, 11. rainforest, 12. hawk, 13. tarantula, 14. venom, 15. savory, 16. pheromone

17. buw into a mystery	ν.	to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
18. wp nest	n.	a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
19. entgy lab	n.	the scientific study of insects, including their physical characteristics, life cycles, behaviors, and relationships with other organisms in their environment
20. severe agy	n.	extreme physical or mental pain or suffering, often prolonged or intense
21. I_e water	n.	a highly alkaline solution made by soaking hardwood ashes in the water, used in the production of soap, detergents, and other cleaning agents; a caustic substance
22. quh a fire	ν.	to drink liquid so that you satisfy your thirst
23. snake neuin	n.	a poisonous substance that damages or destroys nerve tissue and causes neurological damage or dysfunction; a toxin that specifically targets the nervous system
24. stg me on the arm	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
25. pre a reaction	ν.	to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect

or

ANSWERS: 17. burrow, 18. wasp, 19. entomology, 20. agony, 21. lye, 22. quench, 23. neurotoxin, 24. sting, 25. provoke

26.	phne trail	n.	a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
27.	immze the city	<i>v</i> .	to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop
28.	dise the protesters	<i>v</i> .	to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
29.	fear a tala	<i>n</i> .	a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs
30.	dee his public image	<i>v</i> .	to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
31.	age about financing	v.	to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying
32.	delle dish	adj.	highly pleasing and enjoyable to taste or experience
33.	mein toxicity	n.	a toxic peptide found in bee venom that can cause pain, swelling, and other symptoms; is also being studied for potential medical uses
34.	lethal neuin	n.	a poisonous substance that damages of destroys nerve tissue and causes neurological damage or dysfunction; a toxin that specifically targets the nervous system

ANSWERS: 26. pheromone, 27. immobilize, 28. disperse, 29. tarantula, 30. degrade, 31. agonize, 32. delectable, 33. melittin, 34. neurotoxin

35. honeybees in hes	n.	a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people
36. dee environmental quality	v.	to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
37. ponin venom	n.	a peptide toxin found in ant venom that is capable of disrupting the normal functioning of the nervous system in animals; can cause pain, paralysis, or other symptoms in humans and other animals
38. heat abnormality	n.	the regular movement or sound of the heart as it sends blood around the body; an animating or vital unifying force
39. laa of a butterfly	n.	the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose
40. wp sting	n.	a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
41. boul compliments	adj.	abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources
ANSWERS: 35 bive 36 degrade 37 r	oonorat	ovin 28 hoorthoot 20 Janua 40

ANSWERS: 35. hive, 36. degrade, 37. poneratoxin, 38. heartbeat, 39. larva, 40. wasp, 41. bountiful

to shake slightly in a way that you 42. tr e violently with emotion ν. cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness 43. di____se false information to spread out or distribute over a broad ν. region, or to cause something to do so 44. in___e violence to encourage, stir up, or provoke ν. someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive 45. emotional ag y extreme physical or mental pain or n. suffering, often prolonged or intense 46. in___e rebellion to encourage, stir up, or provoke ν. someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive to cause an egg to break to allow a 47. ha haplan ν. young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage 48. bu___w through the forest to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in ν. the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal a bird of prey typically having short 49. congressional h k n. rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations 50. huge military bu p the accumulation or increase of n. something over time

ANSWERS: 42. tremble, 43. disperse, 44. incite, 45. agony, 46. incite, 47. hatch, 48. burrow, 49. hawk, 50. buildup

51.	a moth laa	n.	the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose
52.	apex pror	n.	an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
53.	aggressive hoee	n.	a type of bee that is known for producing honey and pollinating flowers
54.	a say omelet	adj.	pleasing to the taste, especially by being salty, sour, or spicy rather than sweet
55.	age pain	v.	to spend a long time thinking about a difficult problem and trying to make a decision, especially through worrying
56.	excing embarrassment	adj.	extremely painful, intense, or distressing; causing great physical or emotional suffering
57.	lactic acid bup	n.	the accumulation or increase of something over time
58.	tre in fear	ν.	to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness
59.	aim a bb	n.	a sharp projection or point, often on a plant or animal; a cutting remark or criticism that is meant to hurt or insult; a type of fishing lure that has small hooks and a brightly colored feather or hair
60.	sexual prors	n.	an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

ANSWERS: 51. larva, 52. predator, 53. honeybee, 54. savory, 55. agonize, 56. excruciating, 57. buildup, 58. tremble, 59. barb, 60. predator

61.	forle competitor	adj.	causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
62.	entgy book	n.	the scientific study of insects, including their physical characteristics, life cycles behaviors, and relationships with other organisms in their environment
63.	boul blessings	adj.	abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources
64.	quh a rebellion	<i>v</i> .	to drink liquid so that you satisfy your thirst
65.	pre a disease	<i>v</i> .	to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
66.	forle challenge	adj.	causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
67.	paze a city	<i>v</i> .	to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
68.	immze our opponent	ν.	to render someone or something unable to move or function normally; to restrain, inhibit, or stop
69.	hah a baby chick	ν.	to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
70.	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

ANSWERS: 61. formidable, 62. entomology, 63. bountiful, 64. quench, 65. provoke, 66. formidable, 67. paralyze, 68. immobilize, 69. hatch, 70. venom

71. me in-regulated apoptosis a toxic peptide found in bee venom that n. can cause pain, swelling, and other symptoms; is also being studied for potential medical uses a highly alkaline solution made by 72. l e soap n. soaking hardwood ashes in the water, used in the production of soap, detergents, and other cleaning agents; a caustic substance 73. del____le chocolate adj. highly pleasing and enjoyable to taste or experience 74. vo tabuse to eject food, blood, etc., from the ν. stomach through the mouth; (noun) the matter ejected from the stomach through the mouth a forest rich in biodiversity that is 75. rai st destruction n. generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall to cause a person or part of the body to 76. pa___ze a person ν. become unable to move or feel

ANSWERS: 71. melittin, 72. lye, 73. delectable, 74. vomit, 75. rainforest, 76. paralyze

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	Bees as a defense mechanism when they feel threatened.
<i>v</i> .	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
2.	The drain cleaner contains caustic and should be handled with care.
n.	a highly alkaline solution made by soaking hardwood ashes in the water, used in the production of soap, detergents, and other cleaning agents; a caustic substance
3.	The politician's speech seemed designed to anger and unrest among the crowd.
<i>v</i> .	to encourage, stir up, or provoke someone to do something; to urge, instigate, or stimulate someone to take action, often negative or aggressive
4.	The of stress over time can lead to health problems.
n.	the accumulation or increase of something over time
5.	Bees were buzzing around the
n.	a structure for the reception and habitation of bees, either built by people or made by the bees themselves; a place swarming people
6.	The aroma of freshly baked cookies filled the house.
adj	highly pleasing and enjoyable to taste or experience
7.	Her behavior a quarrel between the couple.
v.	to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
ΑN	SWERS: 1. sting, 2. lye, 3. incite, 4. buildup, 5. hive, 6. delectable, 7. provoked

ANSWERS: 8. paralyzed, 9. vomit, 10. hawk, 11. venom, 12. agonized, 13. entomology, 14. heartbeat, 15. larva

ANSWERS: 16. pheromones, 17. poneratoxin, 18. tarantula, 19. formidable, 20. bountiful, 21. rainforest, 22. predator's

30. Certain types of fish contain ______ that can harm humans if ingested.
 n. a poisonous substance that damages or destroys nerve tissue and causes neurological damage or dysfunction; a toxin that specifically targets the nervous system

29. The _____ hive is organized into a caste system, with a queen, drones, and

a type of bee that is known for producing honey and pollinating flowers

to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control, for example, because you are

28. When I heard the news, my whole body _____ with excitement.

frightened, angry, or excited, or because of illness

workers.

ANSWERS: 23. wasp, 24. melittin, 25. excruciating, 26. savory, 27. dispersed, 28. trembled, 29. honeybee, 30. neurotoxins

ANSWERS: 31. burrow, 32. devoured, 33. immobilize, 34. quenched, 35. barbs, 36. degrade, 37. agony, 38. hatch,

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Justin Schmidt: The world's most painful insect sting TED Talk" (38 words)	
ANSWERS:	