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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Carolyn Marshall: Why didn't this 2,000 year old body decompose? | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/carolyn_marshall_why_did_n_t_this_2_000_year_old_body_decompose

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

boggy

adj. containing a lot of soft, wet soil; marshy, swampy, or waterlogged

synonym: swampy, marshy, mucky

(1) **boggy** land, (2) **boggy** area

The trail through the forest was so **boggy** that our shoes became soaked.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

strangulation

n. the act of choking or suffocating someone by compressing their throat; a condition in which blood flow is restricted to a particular organ or body part, leading to tissue death or injury

synonym: strangling, suffocation, asphyxiation

(1) **strangulation** of the victim, (2) signs of **strangulation**

He survived the **strangulation** but was left with permanent

damage to his vocal cords.

gruesome

adj. causing horror or disgust

synonym : appalling, horrific, terrible

(1) hear **gruesome** details, (2) **gruesome** accident

The **gruesome** crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

corpse

n. the dead body of a human being

synonym : body, remains, cadaver

(1) desiccated **corpse**, (2) the **corpse** of an animal

The police found the **corpse** in the abandoned building.

algae

n. 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.

fungus

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym : mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

protozoa

n. a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals

synonym : microorganism, unicellular organism, amoeba

(1) free-living **protozoa**, (2) **protozoa** species

The water in the lake was contaminated with high levels of **protozoa**, making it unsafe for swimming or drinking.

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.

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.

nanoscale

adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

decompose

v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

synonym : break down, rot, spoil

(1) **decompose** matter, (2) **decompose** into simpler molecules

After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to **decompose**.

invertebrate

n. 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.

excrete

v. to discharge waste matter, such as urine or feces, from the body or a cell or gland

synonym : eliminate, expel, secrete

(1) **excrete** a sticky liquid, (2) **excrete** waste products

The body **excretes** excess salt through urine to maintain proper electrolyte balance.

grassland

n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

synonym : meadow, plain, savanna

(1) endangered **grassland**, (2) vast **grassland**

Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale **grasslands** in many parts of the world.

temperate

adj. mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude

synonym : moderate, mild, genial

(1) **temperate** grassland, (2) **temperate** behavior

The **temperate** climate of the region made it an ideal vacation spot.

miner

n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

synonym : digger, excavator, miner

(1) **miner** strike, (2) **miner** industry

The coal **miner** worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.

oxidant

n. a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress

(1) **oxidant** stress, (2) natural **oxidant**

Breathing in large amounts of **oxidants**, like ozone, can harm the respiratory system.

excretion

n. the process of eliminating waste products from the body; the waste products themselves

synonym: elimination, evacuation, secretion

(1) **excretion** system, (2) liquid **excretion**

The body's **excretion** of waste products is essential for maintaining good health.

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.

peat

n. a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world

(1) **peat** reserves, (2) **peat** production

Gardeners often use **peat** as a soil conditioner to improve drainage and retain moisture.

acidic

adj. having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal

synonym: sour, tart, acrid

(1) **acidic** solution, (2) **acidic** taste

The soil in this region is too **acidic** for most crops to grow well.

sphagnum

n. a type of moss that grows in wet areas, such as bogs and marshes, known for its ability to absorb and retain large amounts of water

synonym: moss, peat, bog

(1) the **Sphagnum** palustre, (2) **sphagnum** bog

The structure of **sphagnum** moss is well-suited for retaining water,

moss

n. a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks

synonym: plant, foliage, greenery

(1) green **moss**, (2) **moss** garden

Moss grows in damp, shaded areas and is often found on the forest floor.

deprive

v. to take away something from someone

synonym: deny, take away, divest

(1) **deprive** others of profit, (2) **deprive** him of his status

He was **deprived** of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

dissolve

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

synonym: disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

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.

extremity

n. the farthest or most remote point or the greatest or the highest degree

synonym: end, tip, limit

(1) **extremity** injury, (2) **extremity** amputation

He broke his arm at the **extremity** of the bone.

supernatural

adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

synonym: paranormal, otherworldly, preternatural

(1) **supernatural** beings, (2) **supernatural** intuition
The **supernatural** powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. blue al__e | <i>n.</i> A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots |
| 2. ac___c solution | <i>adj.</i> having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal |
| 3. di____ve the sugar | <i>v.</i> to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss |
| 4. b__y in the earth | <i>v.</i> to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb |
| 5. pr____oa species | <i>n.</i> a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals |
| 6. environmental det____nt | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 7. inv____ate species | <i>n.</i> a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks |
| 8. ex____e a sticky liquid | <i>v.</i> to discharge waste matter, such as urine or feces, from the body or a cell or gland |

ANSWERS: 1. algae, 2. acidic, 3. dissolve, 4. bury, 5. protozoa, 6. determinant, 7. invertebrate, 8. excrete

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 9. the co___e of an animal | <i>n.</i> the dead body of a human being |
| 10. gr_____me accident | <i>adj.</i> causing horror or disgust |
| 11. mic_____ic inquiry | <i>adj.</i> tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy |
| 12. the early inh_____nts of Europe | <i>n.</i> a person or an animal that lives in a particular place |
| 13. natural ox_____t | <i>n.</i> a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress |
| 14. vast gr_____nd | <i>n.</i> a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock |
| 15. al__e biofuel | <i>n.</i> A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots |
| 16. p__t production | <i>n.</i> a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world |
| 17. fu___s infection | <i>n.</i> a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive |
| 18. mi_____es sterilizer | <i>n.</i> a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease |

ANSWERS: 9. corpse, 10. gruesome, 11. microscopic, 12. inhabitant, 13. oxidant, 14. grassland, 15. algae, 16. peat, 17. fungus, 18. microbe

19. bo__y land *adj.* containing a lot of soft, wet soil; marshy, swampy, or waterlogged
20. free-living pr____oa *n.* a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals
21. ex_____ty injury *n.* the farthest or most remote point or the greatest or the highest degree
22. de_____se matter *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
23. a di_____ve enzyme *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
24. things at the na_____le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
25. officially di_____ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
26. mi__r strike *n.* a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth
27. sp_____um bog *n.* a type of moss that grows in wet areas, such as bogs and marshes, known for its ability to absorb and retain large amounts of water

ANSWERS: 19. boggy, 20. protozoa, 21. extremity, 22. decompose, 23. digestive, 24. nanoscale, 25. dissolve, 26. miner, 27. sphagnum

28. ex_____on system *n.* the process of eliminating waste products from the body; the waste products themselves
29. ex_____e waste products *v.* to discharge waste matter, such as urine or feces, from the body or a cell or gland
30. p__t reserves *n.* a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world
31. te_____te grassland *adj.* mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude
32. str_____ion of the victim *n.* the act of choking or suffocating someone by compressing their throat; a condition in which blood flow is restricted to a particular organ or body part, leading to tissue death or injury
33. na_____le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
34. mi__r industry *n.* a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

ANSWERS: 28. excretion, 29. excrete, 30. peat, 31. temperate, 32. strangulation, 33. nanoscale, 34. miner

35. study of inv_____ates *n.* a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
36. bo__y area *adj.* containing a lot of soft, wet soil; marshy, swampy, or waterlogged
37. green m__s *n.* a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks
38. endangered gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
39. liquid ex_____on *n.* the process of eliminating waste products from the body; the waste products themselves
40. signs of str_____ion *n.* the act of choking or suffocating someone by compressing their throat; a condition in which blood flow is restricted to a particular organ or body part, leading to tissue death or injury
41. mic_____ic analysis *adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
42. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
43. de_____e others of profit *v.* to take away something from someone
44. ex_____ty amputation *n.* the farthest or most remote point or the greatest or the highest degree
45. te_____te behavior *adj.* mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude

ANSWERS: 35. invertebrate, 36. boggy, 37. moss, 38. grassland, 39. excretion, 40. strangulation, 41. microscopic, 42. bury, 43. deprive, 44. extremity, 45. temperate

46. sup_____ral beings *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws
47. inh_____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
48. de_____e him of his status *v.* to take away something from someone
49. the Sp_____um palustre *n.* a type of moss that grows in wet areas, such as bogs and marshes, known for its ability to absorb and retain large amounts of water
50. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
51. m__s garden *n.* a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks
52. hear gr_____me details *adj.* causing horror or disgust
53. symbiotic fu____s *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
54. de_____se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
55. desiccated co____e *n.* the dead body of a human being
56. sup_____ral intuition *adj.* of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

ANSWERS: 46. supernatural, 47. inhabitant, 48. deprive, 49. sphagnum, 50. determinant, 51. moss, 52. gruesome, 53. fungus, 54. decompose, 55. corpse, 56. supernatural

57. pathogenic mi____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
58. di____ve juices *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
59. ox____t stress *n.* a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress
60. ac____c taste *adj.* having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal

ANSWERS: 57. microbe, 58. digestive, 59. oxidant, 60. acidic

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The police found the _____ in the abandoned building.
n. the dead body of a human being
2. The body's _____ of waste products is essential for maintaining good health.
n. the process of eliminating waste products from the body; the waste products themselves
3. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the _____ lattice structure of the metal.
adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
4. The trail through the forest was so _____ that our shoes became soaked.
adj. containing a lot of soft, wet soil; marshy, swampy, or waterlogged
5. The _____ crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.
adj. causing horror or disgust
6. Many species of marine _____ such as corals and sponges, are important components of ocean ecosystems.
n. a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
7. After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to _____.
v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

ANSWERS: 1. corpse, 2. excretion, 3. nanoscale, 4. boggy, 5. gruesome, 6. invertebrates, 7. decompose

8. The body _____ excess salt through urine to maintain proper electrolyte balance.
- v.* to discharge waste matter, such as urine or feces, from the body or a cell or gland
9. He broke his arm at the _____ of the bone.
- n.* the farthest or most remote point or the greatest or the highest degree
10. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
- n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
11. The water in the lake was contaminated with high levels of _____ making it unsafe for swimming or drinking.
- n.* a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals
12. Breathing in large amounts of _____ like ozone, can harm the respiratory system.
- n.* a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress
13. Inspectors noticed _____ cracks in the submarine's hull.
- adj.* tiny; exceedingly precise and detail-oriented; of or used in microscopy
14. _____ has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.
- n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

ANSWERS: 8. excretes, 9. extremity, 10. inhabitant, 11. protozoa, 12. oxidants, 13. microscopic, 14. Algae

15. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

16. The structure of _____ moss is well-suited for retaining water,

n. a type of moss that grows in wet areas, such as bogs and marshes, known for its ability to absorb and retain large amounts of water

17. The _____ powers of the witch were the stuff of legends.

adj. of or relating to existence outside the natural world; not able to be explained by natural laws

18. Gardeners often use _____ as a soil conditioner to improve drainage and retain moisture.

n. a type of soil made up of partially decayed organic matter (usually moss) that accumulates in wetlands or bogs, often used as fuel for heat and cooking in some regions of the world

19. He survived the _____ but was left with permanent damage to his vocal cords.

n. the act of choking or suffocating someone by compressing their throat; a condition in which blood flow is restricted to a particular organ or body part, leading to tissue death or injury

20. The political party _____ after much internal fighting.

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

21. He was _____ of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

v. to take away something from someone

ANSWERS: 15. bury, 16. sphagnum, 17. supernatural, 18. peat, 19. strangulation, 20. dissolved, 21. deprived

22. A nutritious diet improves _____ functions.

adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food

23. Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale _____ in many parts of the world.

n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

24. _____ 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

25. _____ grows in damp, shaded areas and is often found on the forest floor.

n. a small, soft plant that grows in a low, compact layer, often on the ground or on rocks

26. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

27. The coal _____ worked tirelessly to extract valuable minerals from deep underground.

n. a person who works in a mine (= excavation in the Earth from which ores and minerals are extracted), especially one who extracts coal, minerals, or precious metals from the Earth

28. The soil in this region is too _____ for most crops to grow well.

adj. having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal

ANSWERS: 22. digestive, 23. grasslands, 24. Microbes, 25. Moss, 26. determinant, 27. miner, 28. acidic

29. The _____ climate of the region made it an ideal vacation spot.

adj. mild or moderate in temperature or climate; exhibiting self-restraint, particularly about the consumption of food, drink, or other indulgences; showing moderation or restraint in behavior or attitude

30. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

ANSWERS: 29. temperate, 30. fungus