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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

hummingbird

n. a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction

(1) **hummingbird** feeder, (2) **hummingbird** nest

Watching a **hummingbird** at a flower is like observing a miniature ballet of nature.

astonishing

adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

synonym: surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains

The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

acrobatic

adj. relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful

synonym: nimble, agile, flexible

(1) **acrobatic** leaps, (2) **acrobatic** skills

The **acrobatic** performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

pollinate

v. to transfer pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part, thereby fertilizing the plant and allowing it to produce fruit or seeds; to spread or disseminate an idea or influence to others

synonym : fertilize, propagate

(1) **pollinate** plants, (2) **pollinate** fruit trees

Without bees to **pollinate** the flowers, many crops would not exist.

unpack

v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

synonym : dissect, unwrap, unbox

(1) **unpack** a crate, (2) **unpack** a concept

I need to **unpack** my suitcase and put my clothes away.

blazing

adj. burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive

synonym : burning, fiery, scorching

(1) **blazing** fury, (2) **blazing** fire

The **blazing** sun beat down on the desert.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

pectoral

adj. relating to or located in the chest area, particularly the muscles or organs of the chest; relating to the breast or chest

synonym : chest, breastplate

(1) **pectoral** cross, (2) **pectoral** fins

The athlete wore a **pectoral** muscle brace to protect his injured chest muscle.

wingbeat

n. the motion or rhythm of a bird's wings while in flight, often used to describe the sound or frequency of the wing flaps

synonym: flap, flutter, oscillation

(1) bird **wingbeat**, (2) **wingbeat** frequency

The hummingbird's rapid **wingbeat** allows it to hover in place while collecting nectar from flowers.

hover

v. to stay in one place in the air

synonym: hang, float over, drift

(1) **hover** between life and death, (2) **hover** around the table

Two birds were **hovering** overhead.

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.

perch

v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

synonym: sit, roost, squat

(1) **perch** on a ledge, (2) **perch** of a bird of prey

The bird **perched** on the branch, watching the world below.

slender

adj. thin and delicate, often in an attractive way

synonym: lanky, skinny, slim

(1) **slender** body, (2) a long **slender** leaf
He has a **slender** income.

nectar

n. a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring
synonym: honey, ambrosia, syrup

(1) **nectar** of the gods, (2) fruit **nectar**

The **nectar** of the flowers attracted many bees to the garden.

sugary

adj. having the taste, texture, or appearance of sugar; excessively sweet or cloying; overly sentimental or flattering in a way that seems insincere

synonym: sweet, syrupy, saccharine

(1) **sugary** treat, (2) excessively **sugary**

I avoid eating **sugary** foods to maintain a healthy diet.

pollen

n. a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination

synonym: dust, spores, allergen

(1) **pollen** allergy symptoms, (2) high **pollen** count

My allergies flare up during **pollen** season, making it difficult to breathe.

ruthlessly

adv. without compassion or pity; mercilessly

synonym: mercilessly, brutally, cruelly

(1) **ruthlessly** efficient, (2) judge **ruthlessly**

He **ruthlessly** cut ties with anyone who crossed him.

spear

n. a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past

synonym: javelin, pike, lance

(1) hunting **spear**, (2) sharp-pointed **spear**

Ancient people made **spears** with wood entirely.

duel

n. formal, one-on-one combat between two people, typically with deadly weapons, often as a means of settling a dispute or seeking revenge

synonym : contest, fight, competition

(1) sword **duel**, (2) **duel** for honor

The **duel** between the two rival knights was a spectacle to see.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym : poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

pluck

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

synonym : grab, pull out, pick

(1) **pluck** a gray hair, (2) **pluck** out weeds

She **plucked** the flowers off the bush.

spiny

adj. covered with spines, thorns, or prickly projections; having an abrasive or irritating manner or causing discomfort or annoyance

synonym : thorny, prickly, bristly

(1) **spiny** shrub, (2) **spiny** lobster

The **spiny** cactus plant was difficult to handle without getting pricked.

serrated

adj. having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges

synonym : jagged, toothed, notched

(1) **serrated** leaves, (2) **serrated** knife

The saw had a **serrated** edge that allowed it to cut through the thick branches with ease.

fencing

n. the art or practice of fighting with swords, especially with foils, épées, or sabers, according to certain rules

synonym : swordplay, duelling, sabreplay

(1) **fencing** equipment, (2) **fencing** club

He practiced his **fencing** techniques with a partner.

hawk

n. 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**.

owl

n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

synonym : raptor, bird of prey, nocturnal bird

(1) a night **owl**, (2) an **owl** hooted

The snowy **owl** is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.

hibernation

n. a state of inactivity and metabolic depression in animals during the winter

synonym : dormancy, torpor, sleep

(1) **hibernation** period, (2) artificial **hibernation**

Many animals go into **hibernation** during the winter to conserve energy and survive the harsh conditions.

torpor

n. a state of reduced activity or a slowed metabolism, often occurring in hibernating animals or as a result of extreme stress or fatigue

synonym : dormancy, inactivity, sluggishness

(1) **torpor** period, (2) economic **torpor**

The cold weather had put the bear into a state of **torpor**.

revered

v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities

synonym : respected, admired, honored

(1) **revered** figure, (2) the most **revered** President

The **revered** teacher was loved by her students.

Session 2: Spelling

1. excessively su___y *adj.* having the taste, texture, or appearance of sugar; excessively sweet or cloying; overly sentimental or flattering in a way that seems insincere
2. 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
3. se_____ed knife *adj.* having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges
4. a long sl_____r leaf *adj.* thin and delicate, often in an attractive way
5. bird wi_____at *n.* the motion or rhythm of a bird's wings while in flight, often used to describe the sound or frequency of the wing flaps
6. hum_____rd nest *n.* a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction
7. make ast_____ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
8. un___k a crate *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
9. pe_____al fins *adj.* relating to or located in the chest area, particularly the muscles or organs of the chest; relating to the breast or chest

ANSWERS: 1. sugary, 2. vertebrate, 3. serrated, 4. slender, 5. wingbeat, 6. hummingbird, 7. astonishing, 8. unpack, 9. pectoral

10. fruit ne___r *n.* a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring
11. economic to___r *n.* a state of reduced activity or a slowed metabolism, often occurring in hibernating animals or as a result of extreme stress or fatigue
12. ho__r around the table *v.* to stay in one place in the air
13. ac_____ic leaps *adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
14. to___r period *n.* a state of reduced activity or a slowed metabolism, often occurring in hibernating animals or as a result of extreme stress or fatigue
15. judge rut_____ly *adv.* without compassion or pity; mercilessly
16. un___k a concept *v.* to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better
17. bl_____g fire *adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
18. fe_____g club *n.* the art or practice of fighting with swords, especially with foils, épées, or sabers, according to certain rules
19. sp__y lobster *adj.* covered with spines, thorns, or prickly projections; having an abrasive or irritating manner or causing discomfort or annoyance

ANSWERS: 10. nectar, 11. torpor, 12. hover, 13. acrobatic, 14. torpor, 15. ruthlessly, 16. unpack, 17. blazing, 18. fencing, 19. spiny

20. rut_____ly efficient *adv.* without compassion or pity; mercilessly
21. re_____d figure *v.* highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities
22. sp__y shrub *adj.* covered with spines, thorns, or prickly projections; having an abrasive or irritating manner or causing discomfort or annoyance
23. a mi____r collision *n.* some point in the air; above ground level
24. sl_____r body *adj.* thin and delicate, often in an attractive way
25. the most re_____d President *v.* highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities
26. se_____ed leaves *adj.* having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges
27. ho__r between life and death *v.* to stay in one place in the air
28. bl_____g fury *adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
29. s__b in the chest *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
30. hunting sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
31. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
32. fe_____g equipment *n.* the art or practice of fighting with swords, especially with foils, épées, or sabers, according to certain rules

ANSWERS: 20. ruthlessly, 21. revered, 22. spiny, 23. midair, 24. slender, 25. revered, 26. serrated, 27. hover, 28. blazing, 29. stab, 30. spear, 31. pluck, 32. fencing

33. ast_____ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
34. hum_____rd feeder *n.* a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction
35. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
36. po_____te plants *v.* to transfer pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part, thereby fertilizing the plant and allowing it to produce fruit or seeds; to spread or disseminate an idea or influence to others
37. thrown out into mi___r *n.* some point in the air; above ground level
38. sharp-pointed sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
39. a night o_l *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
40. pe__h of a bird of prey *v.* to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

ANSWERS: 33. astonishing, 34. hummingbird, 35. pluck, 36. pollinate, 37. midair, 38. spear, 39. owl, 40. perch

41. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
42. high po___n count *n.* a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination
43. congressional h__k *n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
44. ver_____te biology *adj.* relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
45. ac_____ic skills *adj.* relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful
46. an o_l hooted *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
47. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
48. sword d__l *n.* formal, one-on-one combat between two people, typically with deadly weapons, often as a means of settling a dispute or seeking revenge
49. cast off a h__k *n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations

ANSWERS: 41. humming, 42. pollen, 43. hawk, 44. vertebrate, 45. acrobatic, 46. owl, 47. humming, 48. duel, 49. hawk

50. su___y treat *adj.* having the taste, texture, or appearance of sugar; excessively sweet or cloying; overly sentimental or flattering in a way that seems insincere
51. artificial hib_____on *n.* a state of inactivity and metabolic depression in animals during the winter
52. hib_____on period *n.* a state of inactivity and metabolic depression in animals during the winter
53. po___n allergy symptoms *n.* a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination
54. d__l for honor *n.* formal, one-on-one combat between two people, typically with deadly weapons, often as a means of settling a dispute or seeking revenge
55. wi_____at frequency *n.* the motion or rhythm of a bird's wings while in flight, often used to describe the sound or frequency of the wing flaps
56. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
57. pe_____al cross *adj.* relating to or located in the chest area, particularly the muscles or organs of the chest; relating to the breast or chest
58. po_____te fruit trees *v.* to transfer pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part, thereby fertilizing the plant and allowing it to produce fruit or seeds; to spread or disseminate an idea or influence to others

ANSWERS: 50. sugary, 51. hibernation, 52. hibernation, 53. pollen, 54. duel, 55. wingbeat, 56. stab, 57. pectoral, 58. pollinate

59. ne___r of the gods

n. a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring

60. pe__h on a ledge

v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

ANSWERS: 59. nectar, 60. perch

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ cactus plant was difficult to handle without getting pricked.
adj. covered with spines, thorns, or prickly projections; having an abrasive or irritating manner or causing discomfort or annoyance

2. The cold weather had put the bear into a state of _____.
n. a state of reduced activity or a slowed metabolism, often occurring in hibernating animals or as a result of extreme stress or fatigue

3. I need to _____ my suitcase and put my clothes away.
v. to open and remove stored items from a container or package; to analyze or examine something in detail, often to clarify or understand it better

4. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

5. The bird _____ on the branch, watching the world below.
v. to sit, stand, or rest on something, particularly a narrow or elevated surface; to position oneself confidently or dominantly; to place something in a high or elevated position; (noun) a branch or other elevated place where a bird can rest or roost

6. My allergies flare up during _____ season, making it difficult to breathe.
n. a fine powder substance consisting of microscopic grains produced by plants that facilitate their reproductive process through the process of pollination

7. He _____ cut ties with anyone who crossed him.
adv. without compassion or pity; mercilessly

ANSWERS: 1. spiny, 2. torpor, 3. unpack, 4. humming, 5. perched, 6. pollen, 7. ruthlessly

8. That team signed a center forward who was a ball-_____.
- n.* a bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail; an advocate of an aggressive policy on foreign relations
9. The saw had a _____ edge that allowed it to cut through the thick branches with ease.
- adj.* having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges
10. The _____ sun beat down on the desert.
- adj.* burning and emitting intense heat and light; powerful and impressive
11. Two birds were _____ overhead.
- v.* to stay in one place in the air
12. Ancient people made _____ with wood entirely.
- n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
13. The _____ between the two rival knights was a spectacle to see.
- n.* formal, one-on-one combat between two people, typically with deadly weapons, often as a means of settling a dispute or seeking revenge
14. Without bees to _____ the flowers, many crops would not exist.
- v.* to transfer pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part, thereby fertilizing the plant and allowing it to produce fruit or seeds; to spread or disseminate an idea or influence to others
15. The athlete wore a _____ muscle brace to protect his injured chest muscle.
- adj.* relating to or located in the chest area, particularly the muscles or organs of the chest; relating to the breast or chest

ANSWERS: 8. hawk, 9. serrated, 10. blazing, 11. hovering, 12. spears, 13. duel, 14. pollinate, 15. pectoral

16. Watching a _____ at a flower is like observing a miniature ballet of nature.

n. a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction

17. The _____ performance was breathtaking and left the audience in awe.

adj. relating to or involving gymnastic or athletic feats performed with agility, balance, and coordination; agile, flexible, and graceful

18. She _____ the flowers off the bush.

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

19. The _____ teacher was loved by her students.

v. highly respected or admired, often because of moral or spiritual qualities

20. The news of her sudden death was _____ to everyone who knew her.

adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

21. He was _____ many times with scissors.

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

22. Many animals go into _____ during the winter to conserve energy and survive the harsh conditions.

n. a state of inactivity and metabolic depression in animals during the winter

23. The snowy ____ is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.

n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

ANSWERS: 16. hummingbird, 17. acrobatic, 18. plucked, 19. revered, 20. astonishing, 21. stabbed, 22. hibernation, 23. owl

24. 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

25. He has a _____ income.

adj. thin and delicate, often in an attractive way

26. He practiced his _____ techniques with a partner.

n. the art or practice of fighting with swords, especially with foils, épées, or sabers, according to certain rules

27. I avoid eating _____ foods to maintain a healthy diet.

adj. having the taste, texture, or appearance of sugar; excessively sweet or cloying; overly sentimental or flattering in a way that seems insincere

28. The _____ of the flowers attracted many bees to the garden.

n. a sweet liquid produced by flowers that attracts and provides food for bees and other insects; any sweet liquid that is enjoyed as a drink or used as a flavoring

29. The hummingbird's rapid _____ allows it to hover in place while collecting nectar from flowers.

n. the motion or rhythm of a bird's wings while in flight, often used to describe the sound or frequency of the wing flaps

30. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.

n. some point in the air; above ground level

ANSWERS: 24. vertebrate, 25. slender, 26. fencing, 27. sugary, 28. nectar, 29. wingbeat, 30. midair