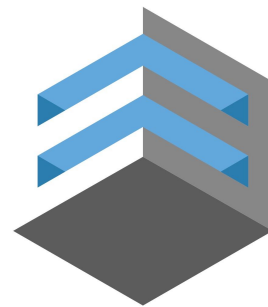


Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Laurence Hurst: Is human evolution speeding up or slowing down? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

plateau

n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

synonym: mesa, tableland, plain

(1) **plateau** region, (2) **plateau** in performance

The hikers finally reached the **plateau** after a long climb up the mountain.

settler

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

synonym: frontiersperson, immigrant, emigrant

(1) new **settlers**, (2) **settlers** on some foreign shore

A large proportion of railway workers in **settler** colonies were white.

arctic

adj. of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold

synonym: cold, frozen, polar

(1) **arctic** ice, (2) high **arctic**

Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the **arctic** climate.

frostbite

n. a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation

synonym: cryopathy, chilblains, ice burn

(1) **frostbite** symptoms, (2) **frostbite** on the hand

The athlete had to quit the race due to severe **frostbite** on his feet.

nomadic

adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

synonym: mobile, migratory, wandering

(1) **nomadic** life, (2) **nomadic** herdsmen

This dessert is the territory of **nomadic** tribes.

hardwired

adj. built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics

synonym: innate, ingrained, automatic

(1) **hardwired** behavior, (2) **hardwired** connection

The instinct to protect one's offspring is **hardwired** into many animal species.

spleen

n. a large, blood-rich organ located in the upper left region of the abdomen, known for its role in the immune system, blood storage, and blood filtration

synonym: lien, irascibility, temper

(1) **spleen** function, (2) enlarged **spleen**

The doctor explained that the pain in her abdomen was caused by **spleen** inflammation.

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.

wean

v. to gradually stop feeding a baby or young animal with its mother's milk and to start or accustom to eating other food

synonym: ablactate

(1) **wean** a person from a bad habit, (2) **wean** my baby from the breast

It's difficult to **wean** an addict off drugs once they're hooked.

sub-Saharan

adj. of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert

(1) **sub-Saharan** Africa, (2) **sub-Saharan** countries

The coffee producers in **sub-Saharan** countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

inflamm

v. to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people

synonym: agitate, arouse, enrage

(1) **inflamm** skin, (2) **inflamm** his passion

Her eyes **inflamed** with crying.

observable

adj. that can be noticed or seen

synonym: visible, perceptible, detectable

(1) **observable** change, (2) experimentally **observable**

Any theorem relies on both **observable** fact and assumption.

phenotype

n. the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives

synonym: trait, characteristic, attribute

(1) **phenotype** variation, (2) dominant **phenotype**

Our genetic **phenotype** determines the color of our eyes.

epigenetic

adj. relating to changes in gene expression that are not caused by alterations in the underlying DNA sequence but rather by modifications to the structure of DNA or proteins that regulate gene activity

synonym: environmental, hereditary, inherited

(1) **epigenetic** inheritance, (2) **epigenetic** markers

Epigenetic research has opened up new possibilities for the treatment of certain diseases.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. fr_____te symptoms | <i>n.</i> a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation |
| 2. epi_____ic markers | <i>adj.</i> relating to changes in gene expression that are not caused by alterations in the underlying DNA sequence but rather by modifications to the structure of DNA or proteins that regulate gene activity |
| 3. in_____e his passion | <i>v.</i> to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people |
| 4. epi_____ic inheritance | <i>adj.</i> relating to changes in gene expression that are not caused by alterations in the underlying DNA sequence but rather by modifications to the structure of DNA or proteins that regulate gene activity |
| 5. a sort of ma____l | <i>n.</i> any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body |
| 6. sub_____an countries | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert |
| 7. ha_____ed connection | <i>adj.</i> built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics |

ANSWERS: 1. frostbite, 2. epigenetic, 3. inflame, 4. epigenetic, 5. mammal, 6. sub-Saharan, 7. hardwired

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 8. in____e skin | <i>v.</i> to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people |
| 9. pl____u region | <i>n.</i> an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress |
| 10. new se____rs | <i>n.</i> a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area |
| 11. w__n a person from a bad habit | <i>v.</i> to gradually stop feeding a baby or young animal with its mother's milk and to start or accustom to eating other food |
| 12. no____c life | <i>adj.</i> moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time |
| 13. sp____n function | <i>n.</i> a large, blood-rich organ located in the upper left region of the abdomen, known for its role in the immune system, blood storage, and blood filtration |
| 14. ha____ed behavior | <i>adj.</i> built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics |
| 15. fr____te on the hand | <i>n.</i> a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation |

ANSWERS: 8. inflame, 9. plateau, 10. settler, 11. wean, 12. nomadic, 13. spleen, 14. hardwired, 15. frostbite

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 16. ph_____pe variation | <i>n.</i> the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives |
| 17. se_____rs on some foreign shore | <i>n.</i> a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area |
| 18. dominant ph_____pe | <i>n.</i> the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives |
| 19. a primitive ma____l | <i>n.</i> any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body |
| 20. sub_____an Africa | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert |
| 21. high ar____c | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold |
| 22. ar____c ice | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold |
| 23. enlarged sp____n | <i>n.</i> a large, blood-rich organ located in the upper left region of the abdomen, known for its role in the immune system, blood storage, and blood filtration |
| 24. obs_____le change | <i>adj.</i> that can be noticed or seen |

ANSWERS: 16. phenotype, 17. settler, 18. phenotype, 19. mammal, 20. sub-Saharan, 21. arctic, 22. arctic, 23. spleen, 24. observable

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 25. me_____al chemistry | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 26. traditional me_____al | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 27. pl_____u in performance | <i>n.</i> an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress |
| 28. no_____c herdsmen | <i>adj.</i> moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time |
| 29. experimentally obs_____le | <i>adj.</i> that can be noticed or seen |
| 30. w__n my baby from the breast | <i>v.</i> to gradually stop feeding a baby or young animal with its mother's milk and to start or accustom to eating other food |

ANSWERS: 25. medicinal, 26. medicinal, 27. plateau, 28. nomadic, 29. observable, 30. wean

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The coffee producers in _____ countries are at the sharp end of fluctuations in price.
adj. of or relating to or situated in the area south of the Sahara Desert
2. Any theorem relies on both _____ fact and assumption.
adj. that can be noticed or seen
3. The instinct to protect one's offspring is _____ into many animal species.
adj. built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics
4. The hikers finally reached the _____ after a long climb up the mountain.
n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
5. 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
6. The athlete had to quit the race due to severe _____ on his feet.
n. a medical condition that occurs when the skin and underlying tissue freeze due to exposure to extremely cold temperatures, resulting in damage or loss of tissue and, in severe cases, amputation
7. A large proportion of railway workers in _____ colonies were white.
n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

ANSWERS: 1. sub-Saharan, 2. observable, 3. hardwired, 4. plateau, 5. mammal, 6. frostbite, 7. settler

8. It's difficult to _____ an addict off drugs once they're hooked.
- v.* to gradually stop feeding a baby or young animal with its mother's milk and to start or accustom to eating other food
9. Our genetic _____ determines the color of our eyes.
- n.* the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an individual organism that result from the interaction between its genetic makeup and the environment in which it lives
10. Cold temperatures and long, dark winters characterize the _____ climate.
- adj.* of or relating to the region around the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean; very cold
11. The doctor explained that the pain in her abdomen was caused by _____ inflammation.
- n.* a large, blood-rich organ located in the upper left region of the abdomen, known for its role in the immune system, blood storage, and blood filtration
12. Her eyes _____ with crying.
- v.* to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people
13. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
- adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
14. _____ research has opened up new possibilities for the treatment of certain diseases.
- adj.* relating to changes in gene expression that are not caused by alterations in the underlying DNA sequence but rather by modifications to the structure of DNA or proteins that regulate gene activity

ANSWERS: 8. wean, 9. phenotype, 10. arctic, 11. spleen, 12. inflamed, 13. medicinal, 14. Epigenetic

15. This dessert is the territory of _____ tribes.

adj. moving from one location to another rather than staying in one place all of the time

ANSWERS: 15. nomadic