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Lucy Cooke: No one can figure out how eels have sex | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- eel** *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
(1) glass **eel**, (2) electric **eel**
The fisherman caught a slippery **eel** while out on the lake.
- testicle** *n.* one of the two oval-shaped organs in men that produce sperm and testosterone; in animals, the equivalent organ responsible for producing sperm and often also regulating testosterone levels
synonym: ballock, gonad, ball
(1) **testicle** injury, (2) swollen **testicles**
The athlete was hit in the **testicle** during the game and had to be removed.
- dissection** *n.* the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it
synonym: cutting, slicing, dissecting
(1) **dissection** process, (2) **dissection** specimen
The **dissection** of the frog revealed its internal anatomy.
- devoid** *adj.* completely lacking or free from something
synonym: empty, lacking, void

(1) **devoid** of life, (2) air **devoid** of pollution

The room was **devoid** of any furniture or decorations.

naturalism

n. a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws

(1) **naturalism** in literature, (2) philosophical **naturalism**

The scientific method is often seen as an embodiment of **naturalism**, as it seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.

spontaneously

adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden

synonym: impromptu, automatically, immediately

(1) recover **spontaneously** after five days, (2) this shift occurs **spontaneously**

The electrical cord **spontaneously** combusted.

scraping

n. the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

synonym: abrading, scratching, rubbing

(1) **scraping** tools, (2) metal **scraping**

The **scraping** sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.

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.

rooftop

n. the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

synonym : roof, terrace, deck

(1) **rooftop** live, (2) **rooftop** deck

They held the dinner party on the **rooftop** terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.

gill

n. a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide

synonym : respiratory organ, lung

(1) **gill** slits, (2) **gill** apparatus

The fish's **gills** are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.

beetle

n. an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings

(1) **beetle** brows, (2) a **beetle** larva

In ancient civilizations, the scarab **beetle** was worshiped as a sacred creature.

slippery

adj. difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted

synonym : smooth, glistening, furtive

(1) a **slippery** customer, (2) **slippery** ice

How extraordinarily **slippery** a liar the camera is.

rethink

v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it

synonym : reexplore, review, reconsider

(1) **rethink** a marketing plan, (2) **rethink** the role of the manager

We have to **rethink** our company's product lineup for further growth.

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.

leptocephalus

n. a transparent and ribbon-like larval stage of some eel species, characterized by its flat and elongated body shape

synonym : eel larva, juvenile eel

(1) **leptocephalus** larvae, (2) **leptocephalus** migration

The **leptocephalus** stage of the eel's life cycle is when they appear as transparent, leaf-like larvae in the ocean.

minuscule

adj. extremely small; tiny

synonym : tiny, insignificant, microscopic

(1) **minuscule** amount, (2) **minuscule** letters

This ore emits **minuscule** quantities of radiation

elver

n. a young eel, especially one that has recently migrated from the sea to a freshwater environment

synonym : baby eel, glass eel

(1) **elver** migration, (2) **elver** run

The fishermen set out their nets to catch the elusive **elver** that swam upstream.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

saltiness

n. the quality or state of being salty

(1) the taste of **saltiness**, (2) enhance the **saltiness**

She tasted the dish and detected a slight **saltiness**.

cyclone

n. a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon,

depending on the region in which it occurs

synonym: tornado, twister, hurricane

(1) **cyclone** warning, (2) devastating **cyclone**

The **cyclone's** strong winds and rough seas severely impacted the fishing industry.

brackish

adj. having a slightly salty or briny taste; somewhat salty, often with a mixture of fresh and saltwater

synonym: salty, briny, saline

(1) **brackish** environment, (2) **brackish** marsh

The **brackish** water in the estuary was home to various unique marine species.

swell

v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

synonym: expand, increase, inflate

(1) **swell** at room temperature, (2) **swell** a population

His arm was **swelling** from the insect bite.

salinity

n. the presence or amount of salt in a substance, especially in water or soil; the measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a liquid

synonym: saltiness, brackishness

(1) marine **salinity**, (2) **salinity** intrusion

The **salinity** levels in the ocean have been increasing due to climate change.

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.

opaque

adj. not transparent; not allowing light to pass through; not permitting a clear view

synonym: impenetrable, obscure, cloudy

(1) **opaque** material, (2) **opaque** color

The curtains were made of **opaque** fabric that blocked out all light.

omnivore

n. a type of animal that eats both plants and animals as part of their diet; a metaphorical term used to describe a person who has wide-ranging interests or can appreciate and enjoy a variety of things

synonym : scavenger, carnivore, herbivore

(1) **omnivore** diet, (2) **omnivore** preference

Gorillas are technically considered **omnivores** because they occasionally consume insects and small animals.

deduce

v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning

synonym : conclude, infer, suppose

(1) **deduce** facts from the evidence, (2) **deduce** the meaning of a word

The researcher **deduced** the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.

unthinkable

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

synonym : impossible, inconceivable, outlandish

(1) an **unthinkable** coincidence, (2) in **unthinkable** trouble

That accident was something **unthinkable** with my long experience.

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.

trawl

- v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

synonym: fish, dredge, drag

(1) **trawl** the Internet for free music, (2) **trawl** for fish

The fisherman used a net to **trawl** the bottom of the river for his catch.

flurry

- n. a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals

synonym: burst, storm, bustle

(1) **flurry** of activity, (2) **flurry** of emails

A **flurry** of snowflakes fell from the sky as we stepped outside.

fertilization

- n. the process of joining a sperm and an egg to produce an embryo

synonym: impregnation, pollination, insemination

(1) **fertilization** process, (2) artificial **fertilization**

The **fertilization** of the soil allowed for a bountiful harvest.

fertilize

- v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

synonym: pollinate, inseminate, enrich

(1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg

The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to **fertilize** a wife.

tangle

- n. a confused mass of something twisted together

synonym: knot, snarl, entanglement

(1) in a **tangle**, (2) **tangle** wires

The cords behind my computer were a **tangled** mess.

seaweed

n. a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae

synonym: kelp, algae

(1) floating **seaweed**, (2) **seaweed** broth

She soaked **seaweed** in water until tender.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ro____p live *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
2. g__l apparatus *n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
3. ta____e wires *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
4. philosophical nat____sm *n.* a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
5. devastating cy____e *n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
6. g__l slits *n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
7. fer____ion process *n.* the process of joining a sperm and an egg to produce an embryo
8. metal sc____ng *n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

ANSWERS: 1. rooftop, 2. gill, 3. tangle, 4. naturalism, 5. cyclone, 6. gill, 7. fertilization, 8. scraping

9. fl___y of emails *n.* a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals
10. sa_____ty intrusion *n.* the presence or amount of salt in a substance, especially in water or soil; the measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a liquid
11. floating se_____d *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
12. de___e the meaning of a word *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
13. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
14. cy_____e warning *n.* a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
15. br_____sh marsh *adj.* having a slightly salty or briny taste; somewhat salty, often with a mixture of fresh and saltwater
16. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
17. sw__l at room temperature *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important

ANSWERS: 9. flurry, 10. salinity, 11. seaweed, 12. deduce, 13. predator, 14. cyclone, 15. brackish, 16. confuse, 17. swell

18. air de___d of pollution *adj.* completely lacking or free from something
19. a moth la__a *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
20. 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
21. te_____le injury *n.* one of the two oval-shaped organs in men that produce sperm and testosterone; in animals, the equivalent organ responsible for producing sperm and often also regulating testosterone levels
22. mi_____le amount *adj.* extremely small; tiny
23. swollen te_____les *n.* one of the two oval-shaped organs in men that produce sperm and testosterone; in animals, the equivalent organ responsible for producing sperm and often also regulating testosterone levels
24. recover spo_____sly after five days *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
25. ro_____p deck *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

ANSWERS: 18. devoid, 19. larva, 20. oceanography, 21. testicle, 22. minuscule, 23. testicle, 24. spontaneously, 25. rooftop

26. enhance the sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
27. op___e material *adj.* not transparent; not allowing light to pass through; not permitting a clear view
28. de___d of life *adj.* completely lacking or free from something
29. in unt_____le trouble *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
30. fe_____ze the soil *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
31. marine sa_____ty *n.* the presence or amount of salt in a substance, especially in water or soil; the measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a liquid
32. om_____re preference *n.* a type of animal that eats both plants and animals as part of their diet; a metaphorical term used to describe a person who has wide-ranging interests or can appreciate and enjoy a variety of things
33. ha__h a baby chick *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
34. fe_____ze the female egg *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

ANSWERS: 26. saltiness, 27. opaque, 28. devoid, 29. unthinkable, 30. fertilize, 31. salinity, 32. omnivore, 33. hatch, 34. fertilize

35. se____d broth *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
36. the taste of sa_____ss *n.* the quality or state of being salty
37. nat_____sm in literature *n.* a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
38. el__r run *n.* a young eel, especially one that has recently migrated from the sea to a freshwater environment
39. om_____re diet *n.* a type of animal that eats both plants and animals as part of their diet; a metaphorical term used to describe a person who has wide-ranging interests or can appreciate and enjoy a variety of things
40. mi_____le letters *adj.* extremely small; tiny
41. ha__h a plan *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
42. lep_____lus migration *n.* a transparent and ribbon-like larval stage of some eel species, characterized by its flat and elongated body shape
43. tr__l for fish *v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

ANSWERS: 35. seaweed, 36. saltiness, 37. naturalism, 38. elver, 39. omnivore, 40. minuscule, 41. hatch, 42. leptocephalus, 43. trawl

44. sl____ry ice *adj.* difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted
45. re____k a marketing plan *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
46. tr__l the Internet for free music *v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
47. br____sh environment *adj.* having a slightly salty or briny taste; somewhat salty, often with a mixture of fresh and saltwater
48. fl___y of activity *n.* a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals
49. sw__l a population *v.* to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
50. dis_____on specimen *n.* the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it
51. 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
52. glass e_l *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins

ANSWERS: 44. slippery, 45. rethink, 46. trawl, 47. brackish, 48. flurry, 49. swell, 50. dissection, 51. oceanography, 52. eel

53. electric eel *n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins
54. this shift occurs spontaneously *adv.* in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
55. rethink the role of the manager *v.* to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
56. opaque color *adj.* not transparent; not allowing light to pass through; not permitting a clear view
57. larva 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
58. scraping tools *n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
59. a slippery customer *adj.* difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted
60. confuse fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
61. deduce facts from the evidence *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning

ANSWERS: 53. eel, 54. spontaneously, 55. rethink, 56. opaque, 57. larva, 58. scraping, 59. slippery, 60. confuse, 61. deduce

62. an unt_____le coincidence *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
63. el__r migration *n.* a young eel, especially one that has recently migrated from the sea to a freshwater environment
64. dis_____on process *n.* the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it
65. apex pr_____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
66. lep_____lus larvae *n.* a transparent and ribbon-like larval stage of some eel species, characterized by its flat and elongated body shape
67. artificial fer_____ion *n.* the process of joining a sperm and an egg to produce an embryo
68. in a ta___e *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
69. be___e brows *n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
70. a be___e larva *n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings

ANSWERS: 62. unthinkable, 63. elver, 64. dissection, 65. predator, 66. leptocephalus, 67. fertilization, 68. tangle, 69. beetle, 70. beetle

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.
 - n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

2. The fisherman caught a slippery ____ while out on the lake.
 - n.* a type of elongated, snake-like fish that lives in freshwater or saltwater and has a slimy, scaleless body and no pelvic fins

3. She soaked _____ in water until tender.
 - n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae

4. They held the dinner party on the _____ terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.
 - n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

5. She tasted the dish and detected a slight _____.
 - n.* the quality or state of being salty

6. The _____ water in the estuary was home to various unique marine species.
 - adj.* having a slightly salty or briny taste; somewhat salty, often with a mixture of fresh and saltwater

7. How extraordinarily _____ a liar the camera is.
 - adj.* difficult to hold firmly or stand on because it is wet or smooth; not to be trusted

ANSWERS: 1. scraping, 2. eel, 3. seaweed, 4. rooftop, 5. saltiness, 6. brackish, 7. slippery

8. This ore emits _____ quantities of radiation
adj. extremely small; tiny
9. In ancient civilizations, the scarab _____ was worshiped as a sacred creature.
n. an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
10. His arm was _____ from the insect bite.
v. to become larger or more inflated; to become more intense or important
11. The electrical cord _____ combusted.
adv. in a way that is natural, not planned or forced, and often sudden
12. The athlete was hit in the _____ during the game and had to be removed.
n. one of the two oval-shaped organs in men that produce sperm and testosterone; in animals, the equivalent organ responsible for producing sperm and often also regulating testosterone levels
13. The _____ strong winds and rough seas severely impacted the fishing industry.
n. a violent, rotating windstorm that forms over tropical waters and can cause extensive damage to coastal regions, also known as a hurricane or typhoon, depending on the region in which it occurs
14. The eggs began to _____ and the small chicks emerged.
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
15. The _____ levels in the ocean have been increasing due to climate change.
n. the presence or amount of salt in a substance, especially in water or soil; the measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a liquid

ANSWERS: 8. minuscule, 9. beetle, 10. swelling, 11. spontaneously, 12. testicle, 13. cyclone's, 14. hatch, 15. salinity

16. Her remarks _____ the debate.

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

17. The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to _____ a wife.

v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

18. A _____ of snowflakes fell from the sky as we stepped outside.

n. a sudden and brief burst of activity or emotion; a light snowfall with gusty winds and swirling snowflakes; a rapid or disorganized movement of small objects, such as leaves or petals

19. The room was _____ of any furniture or decorations.

adj. completely lacking or free from something

20. The fisherman used a net to _____ the bottom of the river for his catch.

v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

21. The fish's _____ are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.

n. a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide

22. Gorillas are technically considered _____ because they occasionally consume insects and small animals.

n. a type of animal that eats both plants and animals as part of their diet; a metaphorical term used to describe a person who has wide-ranging interests or can appreciate and enjoy a variety of things

ANSWERS: 16. confused, 17. fertilize, 18. flurry, 19. devoid, 20. trawl, 21. gills, 22. omnivores

23. We have to _____ our company's product lineup for further growth.
v. to consider again a plan, idea, etc., especially to change it
24. 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
25. The cords behind my computer were a _____ mess.
n. a confused mass of something twisted together
26. The fishermen set out their nets to catch the elusive _____ that swam upstream.
n. a young eel, especially one that has recently migrated from the sea to a freshwater environment
27. The researcher _____ the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.
v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
28. The butterfly emerged from its _____ stage.
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
29. The curtains were made of _____ fabric that blocked out all light.
adj. not transparent; not allowing light to pass through; not permitting a clear view
30. The _____ of the frog revealed its internal anatomy.
n. the act or process of cutting up or dividing something to examine it

ANSWERS: 23. rethink, 24. oceanography, 25. tangled, 26. elver, 27. deduced, 28. larva, 29. opaque, 30. dissection

31. That accident was something _____ with my long experience.
adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
32. The _____ of the soil allowed for a bountiful harvest.
n. the process of joining a sperm and an egg to produce an embryo
33. The scientific method is often seen as an embodiment of _____ as it seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.
n. a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
34. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
35. The _____ stage of the eel's life cycle is when they appear as transparent, leaf-like larvae in the ocean.
n. a transparent and ribbon-like larval stage of some eel species, characterized by its flat and elongated body shape

ANSWERS: 31. unthinkable, 32. fertilization, 33. naturalism, 34. predator's, 35. leptocephalus