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Menno Schilthuis: How animals and plants are evolving in cities | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

swampland

n. an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult

synonym: marshland, bog, fen

(1) **swampland** habitat, (2) tropical **swampland**

The developer had to drain the **swampland** before building the new community.

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.

lapse

n. a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended

synonym: break, failure, blunder

(1) **lapse** back into recession, (2) **lapse** in payment

I missed the deadline due to a **lapse** in my memory.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym : extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

mow

v. to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops

synonym : cut, trim, clip

(1) **mow** the field, (2) **mow** a yard

My father likes to **mow** the lawn early on Saturday mornings.

irrigate

v. to supply water to land to help plants grow

synonym : water, drench, soak

(1) **irrigate** fields, (2) **irrigate** the flowers and plants

The water shortage in the region has made it difficult for farmers to **irrigate** their crops.

plow

n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

synonym : plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

epicenter

n. the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake

synonym : ground zero, focus, center

(1) the **epicenter** of the sports world, (2) **epicenter** magnitude

The **epicenter** of the earthquake was located deep beneath the earth's surface.

impervious

adj. unable to be affected by something; not allowing something to pass through, especially fluid; unresponsive or indifferent to criticism or persuasion

synonym : impregnable, invulnerable, indestructible

(1) **impervious** to criticism, (2) **impervious** material

The jacket is **impervious** to water and will keep you dry in the rain.

extinct

adj. no longer in existence

synonym : dead, obsolete, abolished

(1) **extinct** by human activity, (2) long- **extinct** volcano

Many species have become **extinct** due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

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.

tarmac

n. a hard surface made of asphalt, concrete, or other materials, typically used as a runway or surface for vehicles to move on, such as a road, parking lot, or airport runway; (verb) to surface or pave a road or runway with tarmac

synonym : runway, airstrip, path

(1) **tarmac** repair, (2) **tarmac** a driveway

The plane pulled onto the **tarmac** and stopped at the gate.

finch

n. a small songbird with a short, conical beak and typically a cheerful song

synonym : bird, avian, passerine

(1) a **finch** bird, (2) strawberry **finch**

A flock of **finches** gathered at the bird feeder.

archipelago

n. a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region

synonym: group of islands, island chain

(1) tropical **archipelago**, (2) volcanic **archipelago**

The Philippines is an **archipelago** made up of over 7,000 islands.

fingerprint

n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person

synonym: print, mark, impression

(1) **fingerprint** at a crime scene, (2) **fingerprint** identification

The police used a **fingerprint** scanner to identify the suspect.

slick

adj. smoothly polished and shiny; cleverly and smoothly done; well-organized and efficient

synonym: smooth, polished, shiny

(1) a **slick** operation, (2) **slick** design

The politician gave a **slick** speech, but it was full of empty promises.

snail

n. a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body

synonym: escargot, slug, whelk

(1) **snail** mail, (2) **snail** pace

The gardener found a **snail** slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.

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.

radiate

v. to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions

synonym : give off, scatter, beam

(1) **radiate** an aura, (2) **radiate** in all directions

Roads **radiate** from the famous building in the center of the city.

overheat

v. to become too hot, or to cause something to become too hot

synonym : become too hot, heat up too much

(1) **overheat** while charging, (2) starts to **overheat**

The car engine **overheated** and had to be repaired.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

germinate

v. to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts

synonym : sprout, grow, develop

(1) days to **germinate**, (2) **germinate** the idea

The seeds **germinated** quickly in the warm soil.

pave

v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use

synonym : surface, coat, cover

(1) **pave** a new path, (2) **pave** a smoother road

They **paved** the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.

grasshopper

n. large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality

synonym : locust, katydid, cricket

(1) **grasshopper** mice, (2) **grasshopper** species

The **grasshopper** leaped from one blade of grass to another.

mosquito

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

synonym : insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

commuter

n. a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car

synonym : traveler, passenger

(1) **commuter** shuttle, (2) daily **commuter**

The **commuter** train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.

pigeon

n. a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food

(1) a racing **pigeon**, (2) **pigeon** on the roof

The **pigeon** perched on the windowsill, pecking at the bread crumbs left for it.

detoxification

n. (also detox) the process of removing harmful or toxic substances from the body; the process of eliminating or reducing the harmful effects of something

synonym : cleansing, purification, detox

(1) **detoxification** process, (2) natural **detoxification**

Detoxification programs can help eliminate harmful

substances and improve overall health.

enlist

v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization

synonym: join, sign up, appoint

(1) **enlist** in a cause, (2) **enlist** for a soldier

He decided to **enlist** in the military after graduating from high school.

paleontology

n. the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth

synonym: fossilology, prehistoric biology

(1) vertebrate **paleontology**, (2) **paleontology** museum

My interest in **paleontology** research began when I visited a natural history museum and saw a display of fossils from the Jurassic period.

swamp

n. an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation

synonym: marsh, mire, bog

(1) muddy **swamp**, (2) **swamp** tour

The lowland **swamp** was full of dangerous animals and poisonous plants.

conglomerate

n. a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole

synonym: aggregate, mixture, combination

(1) multinational **conglomerate**, (2) media **conglomerate**

The **conglomerate** of companies managed to dominate the market.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. a be___e larva | <i>n.</i> an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings |
| 2. deeply p__w the soil | <i>n.</i> a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops |
| 3. ra_____e an aura | <i>v.</i> to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions |
| 4. daily co_____er | <i>n.</i> a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car |
| 5. ep_____er magnitude | <i>n.</i> the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake |
| 6. the ep_____er of the sports world | <i>n.</i> the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake |
| 7. tropical arc_____go | <i>n.</i> a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region |
| 8. en___t for a soldier | <i>v.</i> to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization |
| 9. media con_____ate | <i>n.</i> a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole |

ANSWERS: 1. beetle, 2. plow, 3. radiate, 4. commuter, 5. epicenter, 6. epicenter, 7. archipelago, 8. enlist, 9. conglomerate

10. gra_____er mice *n.* large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality
11. ge_____te the idea *v.* to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts
12. a primitive ma____l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
13. a sl__k operation *adj.* smoothly polished and shiny; cleverly and smoothly done; well-organized and efficient
14. starts to ov_____at *v.* to become too hot, or to cause something to become too hot
15. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
16. 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
17. vertebrate pal_____ogy *n.* the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth
18. sw_____nd habitat *n.* an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult
19. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

ANSWERS: 10. grasshopper, 11. germinate, 12. mammal, 13. slick, 14. overheat, 15. determinant, 16. determinant, 17. paleontology, 18. swampland, 19. smartphone

20. sn__l pace *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
21. la__e back into recession *n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
22. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
23. ra_____e in all directions *v.* to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions
24. co_____er shuttle *n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
25. sl__k design *adj.* smoothly polished and shiny; cleverly and smoothly done; well-organized and efficient
26. dr_____c measures *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
27. imp_____us material *adj.* unable to be affected by something; not allowing something to pass through, especially fluid; unresponsive or indifferent to criticism or persuasion
28. ir_____te fields *v.* to supply water to land to help plants grow
29. a racing pi___n *n.* a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food

ANSWERS: 20. snail, 21. lapse, 22. smartphone, 23. radiate, 24. commuter, 25. slick, 26. drastic, 27. impervious, 28. irrigate, 29. pigeon

30. pal_____ogy museum *n.* the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth
31. days to ge_____te *v.* to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts
32. strawberry fi__h *n.* a small songbird with a short, conical beak and typically a cheerful song
33. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
34. en____t in a cause *v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
35. mo_____to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
36. gra_____er species *n.* large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality
37. be____e brows *n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
38. a sort of ma____l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
39. p__e a new path *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
40. ir_____te the flowers and plants *v.* to supply water to land to help plants grow

ANSWERS: 30. paleontology, 31. germinate, 32. finch, 33. app, 34. enlist, 35. mosquito, 36. grasshopper, 37. beetle, 38. mammal, 39. pave, 40. irrigate

41. sn__l mail *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
42. m_w a yard *v.* to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops
43. make dr____c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
44. imp_____us to criticism *adj.* unable to be affected by something; not allowing something to pass through, especially fluid; unresponsive or indifferent to criticism or persuasion
45. la__e in payment *n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
46. ex____t by human activity *adj.* no longer in existence
47. natural det_____ion *n.* (also detox) the process of removing harmful or toxic substances from the body; the process of eliminating or reducing the harmful effects of something
48. det_____ion process *n.* (also detox) the process of removing harmful or toxic substances from the body; the process of eliminating or reducing the harmful effects of something

ANSWERS: 41. snail, 42. mow, 43. drastic, 44. impervious, 45. lapse, 46. extinct, 47. detoxification, 48. detoxification

49. long-ex____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence
50. muddy sw__p *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
51. p__w equipment *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
52. multinational con_____ate *n.* a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole
53. mo_____to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
54. pi___n on the roof *n.* a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food
55. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
56. a fi__h bird *n.* a small songbird with a short, conical beak and typically a cheerful song

ANSWERS: 49. extinct, 50. swamp, 51. plow, 52. conglomerate, 53. mosquito, 54. pigeon, 55. app, 56. finch

57. tropical sw_____nd *n.* an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult
58. sw__p tour *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
59. p__e a smoother road *v.* to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
60. volcanic arc_____go *n.* a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region
61. m_w the field *v.* to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops
62. ta___c repair *n.* a hard surface made of asphalt, concrete, or other materials, typically used as a runway or surface for vehicles to move on, such as a road, parking lot, or airport runway; (verb) to surface or pave a road or runway with tarmac
63. fin_____nt identification *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
64. ta___c a driveway *n.* a hard surface made of asphalt, concrete, or other materials, typically used as a runway or surface for vehicles to move on, such as a road, parking lot, or airport runway; (verb) to surface or pave a road or runway with tarmac

ANSWERS: 57. swampland, 58. swamp, 59. pave, 60. archipelago, 61. mow, 62. tarmac, 63. fingerprint, 64. tarmac

65. ov_____at while charging

v. to become too hot, or to cause something to become too hot

66. fin_____nt at a crime scene

n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person

ANSWERS: 65. overheat, 66. fingerprint

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ leaped from one blade of grass to another.
n. large jumping insect; used to symbolize restlessness or ephemerality
2. The gardener found a _____ slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.
n. a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
3. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for _____.
n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
4. They _____ the courtyard with bricks, giving it a more polished appearance.
v. to cover something with a hard, flat material such as stones, bricks, or concrete, to make it suitable for travel or use
5. The lowland _____ was full of dangerous animals and poisonous plants.
n. an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
6. 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
7. My interest in _____ research began when I visited a natural history museum and saw a display of fossils from the Jurassic period.
n. the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth
8. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 1. grasshopper, 2. snail, 3. mosquitos, 4. paved, 5. swamp, 6. mammal, 7. paleontology, 8. app's

9. The plane pulled onto the _____ and stopped at the gate.
- n.* a hard surface made of asphalt, concrete, or other materials, typically used as a runway or surface for vehicles to move on, such as a road, parking lot, or airport runway; (verb) to surface or pave a road or runway with tarmac
10. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
- n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
11. In ancient civilizations, the scarab _____ was worshiped as a sacred creature.
- n.* an insect having a hard shell-like back covering its wings
12. The _____ train was delayed due to a signal failure on the line.
- n.* a person who regularly travels long distances between their home and place of work, typically by public transportation or car
13. He decided to _____ in the military after graduating from high school.
- v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
14. I missed the deadline due to a _____ in my memory.
- n.* a temporary or brief failure in judgment, action, or behavior; a gradual or slow decline, often referring to a loss of performance, quality, or attention; a period of time that has passed; (verb) to fall or slip into a particular state, often one that is undesirable or unintended
15. The Philippines is an _____ made up of over 7,000 islands.
- n.* a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region
16. _____ programs can help eliminate harmful substances and improve overall health.
- n.* (also detox) the process of removing harmful or toxic substances from the body; the process of eliminating or reducing the harmful effects of something

ANSWERS: 9. tarmac, 10. smartphones, 11. beetle, 12. commuter, 13. enlist, 14. lapse, 15. archipelago, 16. Detoxification

17. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

adj. no longer in existence

18. The police used a _____ scanner to identify the suspect.

n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person

19. The global community is undergoing _____ changes at present.

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

20. The seeds _____ quickly in the warm soil.

v. to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts

21. My father likes to ___ the lawn early on Saturday mornings.

v. to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops

22. The _____ perched on the windowsill, pecking at the bread crumbs left for it.

n. a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food

23. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the _____.

n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

24. The _____ of companies managed to dominate the market.

n. a large corporation or organization made up of many smaller companies or divisions; (verb) to gather or combine various things or entities together, typically to form a larger and more diverse whole

ANSWERS: 17. extinct, 18. fingerprint, 19. drastic, 20. germinated, 21. mow, 22. pigeon, 23. plow, 24. conglomerate

25. The jacket is _____ to water and will keep you dry in the rain.
adj. unable to be affected by something; not allowing something to pass through, especially fluid; unresponsive or indifferent to criticism or persuasion
26. The politician gave a _____ speech, but it was full of empty promises.
adj. smoothly polished and shiny; cleverly and smoothly done; well-organized and efficient
27. Roads _____ from the famous building in the center of the city.
v. to spread out or emit something, such as light or heat, in all directions
28. A flock of _____ gathered at the bird feeder.
n. a small songbird with a short, conical beak and typically a cheerful song
29. The water shortage in the region has made it difficult for farmers to _____ their crops.
v. to supply water to land to help plants grow
30. The _____ of the earthquake was located deep beneath the earth's surface.
n. the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake
31. The developer had to drain the _____ before building the new community.
n. an area of low-lying land that is typically saturated with water and has an abundance of vegetation, especially trees, that make travel or agriculture difficult
32. The car engine _____ and had to be repaired.
v. to become too hot, or to cause something to become too hot

ANSWERS: 25. impervious, 26. slick, 27. radiate, 28. finches, 29. irrigate, 30. epicenter, 31. swampland, 32. overheated

33. 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

ANSWERS: 33. determinant