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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mike Gil: The big-beaked, rock-munching fish that protect coral reefs | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

beak

n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird

synonym : nib, pecker, snoot

(1) sharp **beak**, (2) a tip of the **beak**

The bird's **beak** evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.

parrot

n. a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice

synonym : copyist, wannabe

(1) repeat like a **parrot**, (2) a talking **parrot**

She keeps a **parrot** in a birdcage as a pet.

devour

v. to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly

synonym : consume, swallow, destroy

(1) **devour** a meal, (2) **devour** my way

She **devoured** the mystery novel in one sitting.

crunch

n. a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation

synonym : crushing, snapping, crisis

(1) financial **crunch**, (2) a gas **crunch**

The **crunch** of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.

seafloor

n. the bottom of the ocean

synonym: ocean floor, benthic zone, abyssal plain

(1) **seafloor** exploration, (2) **seafloor** mapping

The oceanographer studied the **seafloor** topography to understand how it had changed over time.

flashy

adj. attractive or impressive by being bright, expensive, large, etc.; (used especially of clothes) marked by conspicuous display

synonym: gaudy, ostentatious, dazzling

(1) **flashy** cars, (2) **flashy** graphics

I want to buy a reliable car rather than a **flashy** one.

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.

metamorphosis

n. a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation

synonym: transformation, change, evolution

(1) **metamorphosis** process, (2) undergo a **metamorphosis**

The butterfly's **metamorphosis** from a caterpillar to a winged creature is a wonder of nature.

polyp

n. (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal

tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract

synonym : polypus, hydra, anemone

(1) the **polyp** on the hydra's tentacle, (2) gastric **polyp**

The coral reef was home to various **polyps** and other sea creatures.

carbonate

n. a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃

(1) sodium **carbonate**, (2) alkaline **carbonate**

The explosive chemical reaction does not occur in all sodium **carbonate**.

metropolis

n. a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity

synonym : city, megacity, urban center

(1) **metropolis** skyline, (2) bustling **metropolis**

Paris is a romantic **metropolis** famous for its art, fashion, and cuisine.

nook

n. a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

synonym : niche, corner, alcove

(1) every **nook** and cranny, (2) breakfast **nook**

The kitchen **nook** was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.

cranny

n. a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock

synonym : crevice, nook, niche

(1) a **cranny** in the corner, (2) look in every nook and **cranny**

The mouse squeezed into the tiniest **cranny** of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.

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.

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.

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.

smother

v. to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion

synonym : smother, suffocate, stifle

(1) **smother** flames, (2) **smother** a sneeze

She tried to **smother** her fears and doubts with positive affirmations.

abrasion

n. the process of scraping or wearing away of a surface or substance through friction or erosion

synonym : scrape, scratch, graze

(1) skin **abrasions**, (2) protect against **abrasions**

The surface of the wooden table had several **abrasions** from years of use.

synthesize

v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

synonym : incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information
The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

scrape

v. to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter

synonym: scratch, graze, rub

(1) **scrape** meat off a bone, (2) **scrape** a hole in the ground
He **scraped** the mud off his boots before entering the house.

grind

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

synonym: mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth
She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

converse

v. to talk informally

synonym: discourse, discuss, exchange

(1) **converse** with an acquaintance, (2) ask a **converse** question

She enjoyed the opportunity to **converse** with a person who spoke her language.

incidentally

adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing

synonym: by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned
Incidentally, I know the answer to that question.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

overfishing

n. the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem

synonym : overharvesting, over-exploitation, depletion

(1) **overfishing** crisis, (2) **overfishing** ban

The ocean's ecosystem is being threatened by **overfishing**, causing many species to become endangered.

rabbitfish

n. a type of marine fish with a comparatively small head, a rabbit-like face, and a body covered in scales

synonym : spinefoot

(1) reef **rabbitfish**, (2) blue-spotted **rabbitfish**

Some species of **rabbitfish** have venomous spines on their fins as a defense mechanism.

unchecked

adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference

synonym : uncontrolled, unrestrained, unbridled

(1) **unchecked** ambition, (2) **unchecked** growth

The **unchecked** spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.

degrade

v. to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others

synonym : demean, disgrace, impair

(1) **degrade** his public image, (2) **degrade** environmental quality

You should not **degrade** yourself by allowing them to use you.

timid

adj. showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened, shy, or hesitant in the face of danger or potential risk

synonym : shy, bashful, nervous

(1) **timid** tone, (2) **timid** handshake

The **timid** dog cowered in fear when approached by a stranger.

unparalleled

adj. without parallel, equal in size, amount, quality, etc.; better or worse than any other

synonym : outstanding, phenomenal, remarkable

(1) **unparalleled** views, (2) an **unparalleled** achievement

Several American technology companies have achieved **unparalleled** success in terms of customer numbers.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

ecotourism

n. a form of tourism that involves responsible travel to natural areas while promoting conservation and local community development

synonym : sustainable tourism, green tourism

(1) **ecotourism** activities, (2) sustainable **ecotourism**

The **ecotourism** industry strongly focuses on preserving natural habitats and protecting endangered species.

coastline

n. the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea

synonym : shoreline, seashore, beach

(1) **coastline** erosion, (2) deeply indented **coastline**

The new resort was built along the **coastline**, offering stunning ocean views from every room.

quirk

n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

synonym : eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched

socks.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. alkaline ca_____te | <i>n.</i> a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO ₃ |
| 2. co_____se with an acquaintance | <i>v.</i> to talk informally |
| 3. gastric po__p | <i>n.</i> (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract |
| 4. de____r a meal | <i>v.</i> to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly |
| 5. sexual pr_____ors | <i>n.</i> an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others |
| 6. sharp b__k | <i>n.</i> the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird |
| 7. ti__d tone | <i>adj.</i> showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened, shy, or hesitant in the face of danger or potential risk |
| 8. sc____e a hole in the ground | <i>v.</i> to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter |

ANSWERS: 1. carbonate, 2. converse, 3. polyp, 4. devour, 5. predator, 6. beak, 7. timid, 8. scrape

9. financial cr___h *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
10. fl___y cars *adj.* attractive or impressive by being bright, expensive, large, etc.; (used especially of clothes) marked by conspicuous display
11. de_____e his public image *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
12. co_____ne erosion *n.* the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea
13. inc_____lly mentioned *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
14. look in every nook and cr___y *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
15. reef rab_____sh *n.* a type of marine fish with a comparatively small head, a rabbit-like face, and a body covered in scales
16. ove_____ng crisis *n.* the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem
17. floating se_____d *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
18. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 9. crunch, 10. flashy, 11. degrade, 12. coastline, 13. incidentally, 14. cranny, 15. rabbitfish, 16. overfishing, 17. seaweed, 18. opportune

19. se____d broth *n.* a plant that grows in the sea or on land very close to the sea, especially marine algae
20. met_____is skyline *n.* a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
21. protect against ab_____ons *n.* the process of scraping or wearing away of a surface or substance through friction or erosion
22. ti__d handshake *adj.* showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened, shy, or hesitant in the face of danger or potential risk
23. met_____sis process *n.* a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation
24. a gas cr____h *n.* a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
25. un_____ed ambition *adj.* not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
26. a tip of the b__k *n.* the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
27. gr__d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

ANSWERS: 19. seaweed, 20. metropolis, 21. abrasion, 22. timid, 23. metamorphosis, 24. crunch, 25. unchecked, 26. beak, 27. grind

28. a cr___y in the corner *n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
29. breakfast n__k *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
30. fl___y graphics *adj.* attractive or impressive by being bright, expensive, large, etc.; (used especially of clothes) marked by conspicuous display
31. se_____or exploration *n.* the bottom of the ocean
32. apex pr_____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
33. inc_____lly discovered *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
34. study of inv_____ates *n.* a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
35. undergo a met_____sis *n.* a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation
36. sustainable eco_____sm *n.* a form of tourism that involves responsible travel to natural areas while promoting conservation and local community development
37. unp_____led views *adj.* without parallel, equal in size, amount, quality, etc.; better or worse than any other

ANSWERS: 28. cranny, 29. nook, 30. flashy, 31. seafloor, 32. predator, 33. incidentally, 34. invertebrate, 35. metamorphosis, 36. ecotourism, 37. unparalleled

38. deeply indented co_____ne *n.* the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea
39. un_____ed growth *adj.* not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
40. ove_____ng ban *n.* the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem
41. a talking pa____t *n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
42. an unp_____led achievement *adj.* without parallel, equal in size, amount, quality, etc.; better or worse than any other
43. blue-spotted rab_____sh *n.* a type of marine fish with a comparatively small head, a rabbit-like face, and a body covered in scales
44. inv_____ate species *n.* a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
45. de_____e environmental quality *v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
46. the po__p on the hydra's tentacle *n.* (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract

ANSWERS: 38. coastline, 39. unchecked, 40. overfishing, 41. parrot, 42. unparalleled, 43. rabbitfish, 44. invertebrate, 45. degrade, 46. polyp

47. gr__d your teeth *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
48. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
49. syn_____ze information *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
50. ask a co_____se question *v.* to talk informally
51. bustling met_____is *n.* a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
52. syn_____ze molecules *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
53. sm_____r a sneeze *v.* to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion
54. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
55. sm_____r flames *v.* to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion
56. sodium ca_____te *n.* a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃
57. la__a 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

ANSWERS: 47. grind, 48. disrupt, 49. synthesize, 50. converse, 51. metropolis, 52. synthesize, 53. smother, 54. opportune, 55. smother, 56. carbonate, 57. larva

58. eco_____sm activities *n.* a form of tourism that involves responsible travel to natural areas while promoting conservation and local community development
59. 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
60. skin ab_____ons *n.* the process of scraping or wearing away of a surface or substance through friction or erosion
61. repeat like a pa____t *n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
62. a qu__k of fate *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
63. every n__k and cranny *n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet
64. sc____e meat off a bone *v.* to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
65. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
66. de____r my way *v.* to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly

ANSWERS: 58. ecotourism, 59. larva, 60. abrasion, 61. parrot, 62. quirk, 63. nook, 64. scrape, 65. quirk, 66. devour

67. di____t a well-ordered condition

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

68. se____ or mapping

n. the bottom of the ocean

ANSWERS: 67. disrupt, 68. seafloor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ dog cowered in fear when approached by a stranger.
adj. showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened, shy, or hesitant in the face of danger or potential risk
2. The _____ of the leaves underfoot was heard as they walked through the park.
n. a loud, crackling noise made by something being crushed or broken; a difficult or critical situation
3. 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
4. He _____ the mud off his boots before entering the house.
v. to draw something along a rough or hard surface, typically to remove dirt or other matter
5. One of her _____ is that she always wears mismatched socks.
n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
6. The explosive chemical reaction does not occur in all sodium _____.
n. a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃
7. _____ I know the answer to that question.
adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing
8. The butterfly's _____ from a caterpillar to a winged creature is a wonder of nature.
n. a profound or dramatic change in form, structure, or condition; a transformation; the process by which an animal or insect undergoes a physical transformation, such as growth, development, or maturation

ANSWERS: 1. timid, 2. crunch, 3. larva, 4. scraped, 5. quirks, 6. carbonate, 7. Incidentally, 8. metamorphosis

9. The _____ spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.
adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
10. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
11. The bird's _____ evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.
n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
12. The coral reef was home to various _____ and other sea creatures.
n. (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract
13. 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
14. The _____ industry strongly focuses on preserving natural habitats and protecting endangered species.
n. a form of tourism that involves responsible travel to natural areas while promoting conservation and local community development
15. The new resort was built along the _____ offering stunning ocean views from every room.
n. the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea

ANSWERS: 9. unchecked, 10. disrupt, 11. beak, 12. polyps, 13. seaweed, 14. ecotourism, 15. coastline,

16. She had to _____ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
- v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
17. She tried to _____ her fears and doubts with positive affirmations.
- v.* to cover or suffocate something or someone completely; to suppress or stifle a feeling or emotion
18. I want to buy a reliable car rather than a _____ one.
- adj.* attractive or impressive by being bright, expensive, large, etc.; (used especially of clothes) marked by conspicuous display
19. She keeps a _____ in a birdcage as a pet.
- n.* a tropical bird with a curved beak and the ability to mimic sounds, often kept as a pet and trained to copy the human voice
20. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
- n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
21. The surface of the wooden table had several _____ from years of use.
- n.* the process of scraping or wearing away of a surface or substance through friction or erosion
22. She _____ the mystery novel in one sitting.
- v.* to eat or consume something eagerly or ravenously; or to destroy something rapidly
23. The spider can _____ multiple different silk proteins.
- v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

ANSWERS: 16. grind, 17. smother, 18. flashy, 19. parrot, 20. predator's, 21. abrasions, 22. devoured, 23. synthesize

24. The oceanographer studied the _____ topography to understand how it had changed over time.
- n.* the bottom of the ocean
25. 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
26. The mouse squeezed into the tiniest _____ of the wall to avoid being caught by the cat.
- n.* a small, narrow opening or crack, especially in a wall or rock
27. The ocean's ecosystem is being threatened by _____ causing many species to become endangered.
- n.* the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem
28. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
- adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
29. You should not _____ yourself by allowing them to use you.
- v.* to make something worse, especially in quality; to show or treat someone in a way that makes them seem no value and do not have the respect or reasonable opinion of others
30. The kitchen _____ was perfect for coffee and chatting with friends.
- n.* a small corner, alcove, or recess, especially one in a room or garden providing a seat or space for quiet

ANSWERS: 24. seafloor, 25. invertebrates, 26. cranny, 27. overfishing, 28. opportune, 29. degrade, 30. nook

31. She enjoyed the opportunity to _____ with a person who spoke her language.
- v.* to talk informally
32. Several American technology companies have achieved _____ success in terms of customer numbers.
- adj.* without parallel, equal in size, amount, quality, etc.; better or worse than any other
33. Paris is a romantic _____ famous for its art, fashion, and cuisine.
- n.* a large and densely populated city, typically the most important city or the capital of a country or region; a major center of commerce, culture, and activity
34. Some species of _____ have venomous spines on their fins as a defense mechanism.
- n.* a type of marine fish with a comparatively small head, a rabbit-like face, and a body covered in scales

ANSWERS: 31. converse, 32. unparalleled, 33. metropolis, 34. rabbitfish