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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: The Egyptian myth of Isis and the seven scorpions | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- rag** *n.* a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
synonym: cloth, fragment
(1) a **rag** of cloud, (2) **rag** doll
He used an old **rag** to clean the grease off the car's engine.
- 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.
- flank** *n.* the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something
synonym: side, edge, rim
(1) **flank** pain, (2) attack the left **flank**
The **flank** of the mountain was difficult to climb.
- scorpion** *n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a

venomous sting

synonym : arachnid, stinger

(1) **scorpion** fish, (2) poisonous **scorpion**

The **scorpion's** venom can be lethal to humans.

slam

v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

synonym : bang, crash, shut

(1) **slam** the door, (2) **slam** the book against a wall

She **slammed** the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.

cot

n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out

synonym : bed, bunk, pallet

(1) **cot** in the tent, (2) baby's **cot**

The hospital provides **cots** for patients' families who want to stay overnight.

beggar

n. a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness

synonym : pauper, mendicant, panhandler

(1) homeless **beggar**, (2) give alms to a **beggar**

The **beggar's** rags barely covered his body as he shivered in the cold.

discreet

adj. characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense

synonym : cautious, careful, circumspect

(1) **discreet** manner, (2) **discreet** conversation

He was **discreet** with the sensitive information he had been entrusted with.

venomous

adj. extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will

synonym : poisonous, toxic, lethal

(1) the **venomous** jellyfish's sting, (2) have **venomous** eyes

The **venomous** snake bit him, causing him to go into shock.

fume

v. to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way;
(noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion

synonym : smoke, vaporize, emit

(1) **fume** with anger, (2) acrid **fumes**

The angry customer began to **fume** when their order was delayed.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym : insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

venom

n. a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging

synonym : poison, toxin, hating

(1) the **venom** of a lizard, (2) injected **venom**

The snake's **venom** is highly toxic and can be fatal to humans.

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym : crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Ageing **creeps** up slowly with time.

hostess

n. a woman who receives or entertains guests at home or in a social setting; a female who is in charge of organizing and overseeing a formal event or gathering

synonym : greeter, server, stewardess

(1) **hostess** duties, (2) gracious **hostess**

The welcoming **hostess** showed us to our table and handed us the menu.

awaken

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping

synonym : rouse, arouse, revive

(1) **awaken** at daybreak, (2) **awaken** a child

The friend's death **awakens** them.

wail

v. to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger

synonym : moan, keen, lament

(1) **wail** in sorrow, (2) **wail** in pain

The baby **wailed** loudly, signaling its hunger.

doorway

n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into

synonym : entrance, portal, gateway

(1) a wide **doorway**, (2) **doorway** to success

He leaned against the **doorway**, waiting for her to come home.

weep

v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain

synonym : cry, sob, mourn

(1) **weep** bitter tears, (2) **weep** for joy

I'm easily moved to tears, so I would **weep** in sympathy if I saw that movie.

recite

v. to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory,

synonym : repeat, replicate, recount

(1) **recite** a charm, (2) **recite** a long list of the article

He could **recite** all of Shakespeare's works.

penetrate

v. to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance

synonym :

pierce, stab, go through

(1) **penetrate** a cell, (2) **penetrate** quickly into the skin
Western ideology slowly **penetrates** through the eastern countries.

hasten

v. to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up

synonym: accelerate, hurry, rush

(1) **hasten** the process, (2) **hasten** the arrival

I need to **hasten** my speed to finish the race on time.

lament

v. to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning

synonym: mourn, grieve, bemoan

(1) **lament** my misfortunes, (2) **lament** the situation

She **lamented** the loss of her beloved cat.

callous

adj. insensitive and cruel to the suffering of others; having an emotionally hardened or unfeeling attitude; hardened or thickened, especially referring to skin or other tissue that has been subjected to repeated friction or irritation

synonym: cold, heartless, unfeeling

(1) **callous** person, (2) **callous** remark

The supervisor's **callous** behavior towards his employees resulted in high turnover rates.

poultice

n. a soft, warm mass of material, such as bread, herbs, or clay that is applied to a part of the body to relieve inflammation, pain, or other discomforts; a medicated mixture that is spread on a soft cloth and placed over a wound or injury to help it heal

synonym: compress, dressing, plaster

(1) **poultice** for bites, (2) herbal **poultice**

After twisting my ankle, I applied a **poultice** to reduce the swelling.

incantation

n. a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state

synonym: spell, charm, enchantment

(1) **incantation** spell, (2) magic **incantation**

The witch performed an **incantation** to summon a demon from the depths of hell.

Session 2: Spelling

1. s__m the door
v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
2. homeless be___r
n. a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness
3. a r_g of cloud
n. a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
4. have ve____us eyes
adj. extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
5. w__p bitter tears
v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
6. ca____s person
adj. insensitive and cruel to the suffering of others; having an emotionally hardened or unfeeling attitude; hardened or thickened, especially referring to skin or other tissue that has been subjected to repeated friction or irritation
7. w__l in pain
v. to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger
8. ca____s remark
adj. insensitive and cruel to the suffering of others; having an emotionally hardened or unfeeling attitude; hardened or thickened, especially referring to skin or other tissue that has been subjected to repeated friction or irritation

ANSWERS: 1. slam, 2. beggar, 3. rag, 4. venomous, 5. weep, 6. callous, 7. wail, 8. callous

9. pe_____te quickly into the skin *v.* to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
10. poisonous sc_____on *n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
11. inc_____on spell *n.* a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state
12. w__l in sorrow *v.* to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger
13. the ve_____us jellyfish's sting *adj.* extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
14. fl__k pain *n.* the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something
15. baby's c_t *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
16. di_____et manner *adj.* characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense

ANSWERS: 9. penetrate, 10. scorpion, 11. incantation, 12. wail, 13. venomous, 14. flank, 15. cot, 16. discreet

26. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
27. muddy sw__p *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
28. po____ce for bites *n.* a soft, warm mass of material, such as bread, herbs, or clay that is applied to a part of the body to relieve inflammation, pain, or other discomforts; a medicated mixture that is spread on a soft cloth and placed over a wound or injury to help it heal
29. r_g doll *n.* a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
30. injected ve__m *n.* a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging
31. acrid f__es *v.* to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion
32. re___e a long list of the article *v.* to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory,
33. aw___n a child *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
34. do____y to success *n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into

ANSWERS: 26. creep, 27. swamp, 28. poultice, 29. rag, 30. venom, 31. fume, 32. recite, 33. awaken, 34. doorway

35. give alms to a be___r *n.* a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness
36. f___e with anger *v.* to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion
37. ha___n the process *v.* to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up
38. pe_____te a cell *v.* to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
39. sw___p tour *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
40. of___d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
41. magic inc_____on *n.* a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state
42. gracious ho_____s *n.* a woman who receives or entertains guests at home or in a social setting; a female who is in charge of organizing and overseeing a formal event or gathering

ANSWERS: 35. beggar, 36. fume, 37. hasten, 38. penetrate, 39. swamp, 40. offend, 41. incantation, 42. hostess

43. la___t my misfortunes *v.* to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning
44. aw___n at daybreak *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
45. of___d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
46. ho____s duties *n.* a woman who receives or entertains guests at home or in a social setting; a female who is in charge of organizing and overseeing a formal event or gathering
47. sc____on fish *n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
48. attack the left fl__k *n.* the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something
49. c_t in the tent *n.* a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
50. s__m the book against a wall *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

ANSWERS: 43. lament, 44. awaken, 45. offend, 46. hostess, 47. scorpion, 48. flank, 49. cot, 50. slam

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The welcoming _____ showed us to our table and handed us the menu.
n. a woman who receives or entertains guests at home or in a social setting; a female who is in charge of organizing and overseeing a formal event or gathering
2. He leaned against the _____ waiting for her to come home.
n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
3. I need to _____ my speed to finish the race on time.
v. to move or act quickly; to cause or encourage something to happen sooner or more rapidly; to accelerate or speed up
4. The hospital provides _____ for patients' families who want to stay overnight.
n. a small bed for a baby or child, typically with high sides to prevent the child from falling out
5. The friend's death _____ them.
v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
6. She _____ the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.
v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
7. The snake's _____ is highly toxic and can be fatal to humans.
n. a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging
8. Aging _____ up slowly with time.
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

ANSWERS: 1. hostess, 2. doorway, 3. hasten, 4. cots, 5. awakens, 6. slammed, 7. venom, 8. creeps

9. The baby _____ loudly, signaling its hunger.
v. to make a prolonged, high-pitched cry expressing grief, pain, or anger
10. After twisting my ankle, I applied a _____ to reduce the swelling.
n. a soft, warm mass of material, such as bread, herbs, or clay that is applied to a part of the body to relieve inflammation, pain, or other discomforts; a medicated mixture that is spread on a soft cloth and placed over a wound or injury to help it heal
11. He was _____ with the sensitive information he had been entrusted with.
adj. characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense
12. The _____ snake bit him, causing him to go into shock.
adj. extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
13. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
14. The supervisor's _____ behavior towards his employees resulted in high turnover rates.
adj. insensitive and cruel to the suffering of others; having an emotionally hardened or unfeeling attitude; hardened or thickened, especially referring to skin or other tissue that has been subjected to repeated friction or irritation
15. The _____ rags barely covered his body as he shivered in the cold.
n. a person who asks for money or food from others, particularly as a means of survival due to poverty or homelessness

ANSWERS: 9. wailed, 10. poultice, 11. discreet, 12. venomous, 13. offended, 14. callous, 15. beggar's

16. The angry customer began to _____ when their order was delayed.
- v.* to emit gas, smoke, vapor, or a strong, unpleasant odor; to show anger, irritation, or annoyance in a visible way; (noun) gas or vapor that is emitted from a substance, usually as a result of heating or combustion
17. The _____ of the mountain was difficult to climb.
- n.* the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something
18. He used an old _____ to clean the grease off the car's engine.
- n.* a piece of cloth, especially an old one, torn or cut into strips and used for cleaning
19. He could _____ all of Shakespeare's works.
- v.* to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. aloud from memory,
20. I'm easily moved to tears, so I would _____ in sympathy if I saw that movie.
- v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
21. Western ideology slowly _____ through the eastern countries.
- v.* to pass into or through something, often by overcoming resistance
22. The _____ venom can be lethal to humans.
- n.* a small creature similar to an insect with a segmented body, a pair of pincers, and a long, thin tail that ends in a venomous sting
23. The witch performed an _____ to summon a demon from the depths of hell.
- n.* a series of words or phrases repeated over and over again, often in a ritual or spiritual context; a spell or charm believed to have magical power; a formulaic expression used to evoke a particular emotion or mental state

ANSWERS: 16. fume, 17. flank, 18. rag, 19. recite, 20. weep, 21. penetrates, 22. scorpion's, 23. incantation

24. She _____ the loss of her beloved cat.

- v.* to express sadness, grief, or disappointment about something, often by complaining or mourning

25. 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

ANSWERS: 24. lamented, 25. swamp