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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sarah Kay: "A Bird Made of Birds" | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

anatomical

adj. of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts

synonym: physical, bodily, structural

(1) **anatomical** structure, (2) **anatomical** elements

The **anatomical** model of the human body was used to teach medical students.

horrify

v. to shock or disgust greatly

synonym: shock, dismay, terrify

(1) **horrify** audience, (2) **horrify** victims

The series of terrorist attacks **horrify** the entire nation.

grandeur

n. the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring

synonym: splendor, majesty, greatness

(1) natural **grandeur**, (2) lost in **grandeur**

The castle's **grandeur** was breathtaking, with its towering turrets and sweeping arches.

starling

n. a bird with dark and iridescent feathers, often found in large flocks

(1) **starling** bird, (2) **starling** migration

The **starling** flock created a mesmerizing display in the sky.

murmur

v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath

synonym : burble, gurgle, mutter

(1) **murmur** at low wages, (2) **murmur** a greeting

He always **murmurs** at the ill-treatment.

amorphous

adj. without a definite or clear shape or form; lacking a specific structure or organization; shapeless or formless

synonym : formless, shapeless, structureless

(1) **amorphous** amoeba, (2) **amorphous** mass

The clouded jellyfish has an **amorphous** shape, making it difficult to identify.

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym : chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym : obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

choreography

n. the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance

synonym : composition, arrangement, dance notation

(1) original **choreography**, (2) **choreography** art

The dance performance featured intricate **choreography**.

swarm

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

synonym : horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had

approached the hive.

blister

n. a small, fluid-filled bubble on the skin caused by friction, burning, or other skin irritation; can also refer to a similar bubble found in other materials; (verb) to become covered with blisters or to cause blisters to form; to criticize or rebuke severely

synonym : sore, vesicle, pustule

(1) **blister** after walking for miles, (2) **blister** treatment
The new hiking shoes gave me a **blister** on my heel after just a few miles of walking.

unmistakable

adj. clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand

synonym : apparent, clear, definite

(1) find **unmistakable** evidence, (2) **unmistakable** difference

His talent for singing is **unmistakable**.

gasp

v. to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

synonym : breathe, pant, heave

(1) **gasp** for air, (2) **gasp** in shock

The audience **gasp**ed when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.

wasp

n. a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals

synonym : insect, hornet, yellow jacket

(1) **wasp** nest, (2) **wasp** sting

A giant **wasp** flew into the room, and everyone panicked.

decompose

v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

synonym : break down, rot, spoil

(1) **decompose** matter, (2) **decompose** into simpler molecules

After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to **decompose**.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. ho____y audience | <i>v.</i> to shock or disgust greatly |
| 2. find unm_____ble evidence | <i>adj.</i> clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand |
| 3. bl_____r treatment | <i>n.</i> a small, fluid-filled bubble on the skin caused by friction, burning, or other skin irritation; can also refer to a similar bubble found in other materials; (verb) to become covered with blisters or to cause blisters to form; to criticize or rebuke severely |
| 4. a sw__m of mosquitoes | <i>n.</i> a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground |
| 5. cho_____phy art | <i>n.</i> the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance |
| 6. in_____t ancestral property | <i>v.</i> to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died |
| 7. st_____ng bird | <i>n.</i> a bird with dark and iridescent feathers, often found in large flocks |
| 8. in_____t estate | <i>v.</i> to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died |
| 9. locust sw__m | <i>n.</i> a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground |

ANSWERS: 1. horrify, 2. unmistakable, 3. blister, 4. swarm, 5. choreography, 6. inherit, 7. starling, 8. inherit, 9. swarm

10. de_____se matter *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
11. original cho_____phy *n.* the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance
12. w__p sting *n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
13. ana_____al structure *adj.* of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts
14. g__p for air *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
15. g__p in shock *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
16. de_____se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
17. mu___r a greeting *v.* to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
18. w__p nest *n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals

ANSWERS: 10. decompose, 11. choreography, 12. wasp, 13. anatomical, 14. gasp, 15. gasp, 16. decompose, 17. murmur, 18. wasp

19. ana_____al elements *adj.* of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts
20. lost in gr_____ur *n.* the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring
21. am_____us amoeba *adj.* without a definite or clear shape or form; lacking a specific structure or organization; shapeless or formless
22. am_____us mass *adj.* without a definite or clear shape or form; lacking a specific structure or organization; shapeless or formless
23. bl_____r after walking for miles *n.* a small, fluid-filled bubble on the skin caused by friction, burning, or other skin irritation; can also refer to a similar bubble found in other materials; (verb) to become covered with blisters or to cause blisters to form; to criticize or rebuke severely
24. mu___r at low wages *v.* to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
25. st_____ng migration *n.* a bird with dark and iridescent feathers, often found in large flocks
26. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
27. ho_____y victims *v.* to shock or disgust greatly
28. unm_____ble difference *adj.* clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand

ANSWERS: 19. anatomical, 20. grandeur, 21. amorphous, 22. amorphous, 23. blister, 24. murmur, 25. starling, 26. blob, 27. horrify, 28. unmistakable

29. natural gr____ur

n. the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring

30. a b__b of jelly

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

ANSWERS: 29. grandeur, 30. blob

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to _____.
v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
2. His talent for singing is _____.
adj. clearly recognizable; impossible to mistake or misunderstand
3. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
4. A giant _____ flew into the room, and everyone panicked.
n. a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
5. The dance performance featured intricate _____.
n. the art and technique of arranging dance movements and patterns in a work of ballet or modern dance; the sequence of movements and positions in a dance
6. He always _____ at the ill-treatment.
v. to say something very quietly; to complain about somebody or something under one's breath
7. The new hiking shoes gave me a _____ on my heel after just a few miles of walking.
n. a small, fluid-filled bubble on the skin caused by friction, burning, or other skin irritation; can also refer to a similar bubble found in other materials; (verb) to become covered with blisters or to cause blisters to form; to criticize or rebuke severely

ANSWERS: 1. decompose, 2. unmistakable, 3. inherited, 4. wasp, 5. choreography, 6. murmurs, 7. blister

8. The audience _____ when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.
- v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
9. The _____ flock created a mesmerizing display in the sky.
- n.* a bird with dark and iridescent feathers, often found in large flocks
10. The castle's _____ was breathtaking, with its towering turrets and sweeping arches.
- n.* the quality of being impressive or magnificent in appearance, size, or scope; the state of being majestic, impressive, or awe-inspiring
11. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
- n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
12. A _____ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.
- n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
13. The series of terrorist attacks _____ the entire nation.
- v.* to shock or disgust greatly
14. The _____ model of the human body was used to teach medical students.
- adj.* of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts
15. The clouded jellyfish has an _____ shape, making it difficult to identify.
- adj.* without a definite or clear shape or form; lacking a specific structure or organization; shapeless or formless

ANSWERS: 8. gasped, 9. starling, 10. grandeur, 11. blob, 12. swarm, 13. horrify, 14. anatomical, 15. amorphous

ANSWERS: