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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*Judy Cebra-Thomas: How turtle shells evolved...  
twice | TED Talk*

[https://www.ted.com/talks/judy\\_cebra\\_thomas\\_how\\_turtle\\_shells\\_evolved\\_twice](https://www.ted.com/talks/judy_cebra_thomas_how_turtle_shells_evolved_twice)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### 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.

### reptile

*n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles

*synonym*: lizard, serpent, snake

(1) **reptile** exhibition, (2) fossil **reptile**

Alligators are a type of **reptile** that live in swamps and rivers.

### ancestor

*n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

*synonym*: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

### undifferentiated

*adj.* having few or no clear distinctive characters; (of cells) not having specialized or mature structures or functions

*synonym*: uniform, identical, alike

(1) **undifferentiated** cells, (2) **undifferentiated** market

The infant makes **undifferentiated** reflex responses to stimuli.

## 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.

## bulge

*v.* to protrude or extend outward

*synonym*: protrude, swell, expand

(1) **bulge** at the enterprise, (2) **bulge** with books

The muscles in his arm **bulged** as he lifted the heavyweights.

## carapace

*n.* the hard, protective shell or covering that covers the body of some animals, such as turtles, crabs, and insects

*synonym*: shell, armor, casing

(1) armored **carapace**, (2) fossilized **carapace**

The turtle's hard **carapace** protected it from predators.

## rib

*n.* each of a series of curved bones that are connected to the spine and surround the chest; (adjective) subject to laughter or ridicule

*synonym*: costa

(1) brake a **rib**, (2) **rib** cage

The accident caused a cracked **rib**.

## suture

*n.* a stitch or series of stitches used to hold together the edges of a wound or incision so that it can heal; a line of junction between two bones, particularly in the skull of an animal or human

*synonym*: stitch, seam

(1) surgical **suture**, (2) **suture** thread

The surgeon used a special **suture** to close the wound.

## scute

*n.* a thick, bony, or horny plate or shield that covers an animal's skin, especially of reptiles or fish

*synonym* : plate, scale, shield

(1) **scute** pattern, (2) the **scutes** on the alligator's back  
The turtle's shell is covered with bony **scutes** for protection.

## plastron

*n.* (in animals such as turtles and tortoises) the hard underbelly or protective plate that covers the ventral (belly) side of the shell

*synonym* : breastplate, armor, shell

(1) sternal **plastron**, (2) **plastron** armor

The turtle's **plastron**, or underside shell, protects and supports its body.

## neuron

*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

*synonym* : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

## cartilage

*n.* a tough, elastic connective tissue that is found in various parts of the body, such as the joints, the outer ear, and the tip of the nose

*synonym* : connective tissue, gristle, fibrocartilage

(1) **cartilage** damage, (2) nasal **cartilage**

The knee joint is supported by **cartilage**, which helps absorb shock and prevent bone damage.

## 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.

## forearm

*n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation

(1) **forearm** bone, (2) several veins of the **forearm**

The accident left him with numbness in his left **forearm**.

## burrow

v. to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

*synonym*: tunnel, dig, excavate

(1) **burrow** through the forest, (2) **burrow** into a mystery

You can't **burrow** through solid metal.

## fused

*adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity

*synonym*: merged, blended, united

(1) **fused** glass, (2) **fused** bones

The **fused** wires in the electrical circuit caused a power outage.

## retract

v. to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made

*synonym*: withdraw, take back, revoke

(1) **retract** a promise, (2) **retract** a lawsuit

I need to **retract** my statement because I realized it was incorrect.

## streamline

v. to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps

*synonym*: simplify, optimize, make more efficient

(1) **streamline** administrative activities, (2) **streamline** workflow

The government plans to **streamline** the tax collection process to make it more efficient.

## glide

v. to move smoothly and effortlessly

*synonym*: slide, skim, coast

(1) **glide** through the water, (2) **glide** down the mountain

The eagle gracefully **glided** on the thermals, soaring above

the mountains.

## **tortoise**

*n.* a slow-moving, herbivorous reptile characterized by a hard shell that protects its body; many species of tortoise are long-lived and have lifespans of over 100 years

*synonym*: turtle, chelonian

(1) giant **tortoise**, (2) **tortoise** shell

The Galapagos **tortoise** is a fascinating creature with a long lifespan.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. excite the ne\_\_\_ns  
*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
2. re\_\_\_\_t a lawsuit  
*v.* to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
3. r\_b cage  
*n.* each of a series of curved bones that are connected to the spine and surround the chest; (adjective) subject to laughter or ridicule
4. several veins of the fo\_\_\_\_m  
*n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation
5. fossilized ca\_\_\_\_ce  
*n.* the hard, protective shell or covering that covers the body of some animals, such as turtles, crabs, and insects
6. bu\_\_\_w into a mystery  
*v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
7. muddy sw\_\_p  
*n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
8. armored ca\_\_\_\_ce  
*n.* the hard, protective shell or covering that covers the body of some animals, such as turtles, crabs, and insects

ANSWERS: 1. neuron, 2. retract, 3. rib, 4. forearm, 5. carapace, 6. burrow, 7. swamp, 8. carapace

9. brake a r\_b *n.* each of a series of curved bones that are connected to the spine and surround the chest; (adjective) subject to laughter or ridicule
10. to \_\_\_\_se shell *n.* a slow-moving, herbivorous reptile characterized by a hard shell that protects its body; many species of tortoise are long-lived and have lifespans of over 100 years
11. gl\_\_e down the mountain *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
12. sc\_\_e pattern *n.* a thick, bony, or horny plate or shield that covers an animal's skin, especially of reptiles or fish
13. bu\_\_\_w through the forest *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
14. surgical su\_\_\_e *n.* a stitch or series of stitches used to hold together the edges of a wound or incision so that it can heal; a line of junction between two bones, particularly in the skull of an animal or human
15. ne\_\_\_n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
16. str\_\_\_\_\_ne workflow *v.* to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps
17. sw\_\_p tour *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation

ANSWERS: 9. rib, 10. tortoise, 11. glide, 12. scute, 13. burrow, 14. suture, 15. neuron, 16. streamline, 17. swamp

18. sternal pl\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* (in animals such as turtles and tortoises) the hard underbelly or protective plate that covers the ventral (belly) side of the shell
19. ca\_\_\_\_\_ge damage *n.* a tough, elastic connective tissue that is found in various parts of the body, such as the joints, the outer ear, and the tip of the nose
20. bu\_\_e at the enterprise *v.* to protrude or extend outward
21. bu\_\_e with books *v.* to protrude or extend outward
22. re\_\_\_\_\_t a promise *v.* to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
23. su\_\_\_e thread *n.* a stitch or series of stitches used to hold together the edges of a wound or incision so that it can heal; a line of junction between two bones, particularly in the skull of an animal or human
24. pl\_\_\_\_\_on armor *n.* (in animals such as turtles and tortoises) the hard underbelly or protective plate that covers the ventral (belly) side of the shell
25. nasal ca\_\_\_\_\_ge *n.* a tough, elastic connective tissue that is found in various parts of the body, such as the joints, the outer ear, and the tip of the nose
26. an\_\_\_\_\_or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 18. plastron, 19. cartilage, 20. bulge, 21. bulge, 22. retract, 23. suture, 24. plastron, 25. cartilage, 26. ancestor



27. 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
28. str\_\_\_\_\_ne administrative activities *v.* to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps
29. giant to\_\_\_\_\_se *n.* a slow-moving, herbivorous reptile characterized by a hard shell that protects its body; many species of tortoise are long-lived and have lifespans of over 100 years
30. 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
31. gl\_\_e through the water *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
32. und\_\_\_\_\_ted market *adj.* having few or no clear distinctive characters; (of cells) not having specialized or mature structures or functions
33. fu\_\_d glass *adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
34. sexual pr\_\_\_\_\_ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
35. earliest human an\_\_\_\_or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
36. fu\_\_d bones *adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
37. und\_\_\_\_\_ted cells *adj.* having few or no clear distinctive characters; (of cells) not having specialized or mature structures or functions

ANSWERS: 27. mammal, 28. streamline, 29. tortoise, 30. mammal, 31. glide, 32. undifferentiated, 33. fused, 34. predator, 35. ancestor, 36. fused, 37. undifferentiated

38. re\_\_\_\_e exhibition *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
39. fossil re\_\_\_\_e *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
40. the sc\_\_es on the alligator's back *n.* a thick, bony, or horny plate or shield that covers an animal's skin, especially of reptiles or fish
41. apex pr\_\_\_\_or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
42. fo\_\_\_\_m bone *n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation

ANSWERS: 38. reptile, 39. reptile, 40. scute, 41. predator, 42. forearm

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ through solid metal.
  - v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
  
2. My remote \_\_\_\_\_ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
  - n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
  
3. The accident caused a cracked \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n.* each of a series of curved bones that are connected to the spine and surround the chest; (adjective) subject to laughter or ridicule
  
4. Alligators are a type of \_\_\_\_\_ that live in swamps and rivers.
  - n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
  
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. The muscles in his arm \_\_\_\_\_ as he lifted the heavyweights.
  - v.* to protrude or extend outward
  
7. The accident left him with numbness in his left \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n.* the part of a person's arm between the elbow and the wrist; (verb) to arm in advance of a confrontation
  
8. The government plans to \_\_\_\_\_ the tax collection process to make it more efficient.
  - v.* to simplify or make more efficient by eliminating unnecessary parts or steps

ANSWERS: 1. burrow, 2. ancestor, 3. rib, 4. reptile, 5. swamp, 6. bulged, 7. forearm, 8. streamline

9. The turtle's shell is covered with bony \_\_\_\_\_ for protection.
- n.* a thick, bony, or horny plate or shield that covers an animal's skin, especially of reptiles or fish
10. The native South American animals were in danger because of the \_\_\_\_\_ arrival.
- n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
11. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ my statement because I realized it was incorrect.
- v.* to take back, withdraw, or revoke something that has been said or done; to disavow or repudiate a statement or assertion that one has previously made
12. The eagle gracefully \_\_\_\_\_ on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.
- v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
13. The knee joint is supported by \_\_\_\_\_ which helps absorb shock and prevent bone damage.
- n.* a tough, elastic connective tissue that is found in various parts of the body, such as the joints, the outer ear, and the tip of the nose
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ wires in the electrical circuit caused a power outage.
- adj.* joined together or combined into one; blended or integrated in a way that creates a new entity
15. The turtle's hard \_\_\_\_\_ protected it from predators.
- n.* the hard, protective shell or covering that covers the body of some animals, such as turtles, crabs, and insects
16. The surgeon used a special \_\_\_\_\_ to close the wound.
- n.* a stitch or series of stitches used to hold together the edges of a wound or incision so that it can heal; a line of junction between two bones, particularly in the skull of an animal or human

ANSWERS: 9. scutes, 10. predator's, 11. retract, 12. glided, 13. cartilage, 14. fused, 15. carapace, 16. suture

17. Our body transfers information along each \_\_\_\_\_ using an electrical impulse.  
*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
18. 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
19. The infant makes \_\_\_\_\_ reflex responses to stimuli.  
*adj.* having few or no clear distinctive characters; (of cells) not having specialized or mature structures or functions
20. The turtle's \_\_\_\_\_ or underside shell, protects and supports its body.  
*n.* (in animals such as turtles and tortoises) the hard underbelly or protective plate that covers the ventral (belly) side of the shell
21. The Galapagos \_\_\_\_\_ is a fascinating creature with a long lifespan.  
*n.* a slow-moving, herbivorous reptile characterized by a hard shell that protects its body; many species of tortoise are long-lived and have lifespans of over 100 years

ANSWERS: 17. neuron, 18. mammal, 19. undifferentiated, 20. plastron, 21. tortoise