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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Ella Al-Shamahi: The fascinating (and dangerous)

places scientists aren't exploring | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project
He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

creationist

n. a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes

(1) **creationist** claim, (2) **creationist** theory

The old-earth **creationist** believed God created the universe and all life on earth.

paleoanthropology

n. the branch of anthropology concerned with the study of human evolution and development through fossilized remains, genetics, and other methods

synonym: prehistoric anthropology, paleontology

(1) **paleoanthropology** expedition, (2) **paleoanthropology** museum

The study of **paleoanthropology** involves analyzing fossil remains to understand the evolution of humans.

adrenaline

n. a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger

synonym : epinephrine

(1) **adrenaline** receptor, (2) **adrenaline** addiction

The band has released a lot of **adrenaline-pumping** rock music.

frontline

adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

synonym : battlefield, cutting edge

(1) **frontline** health workers, (2) at the **frontline** of the war

Within days, the new aircraft was in **frontline** service.

irritate

v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore

synonym : annoy, vex, bother

(1) **irritate** skin, (2) **irritate** my partner

The sound of his chewing loudly **irritates** me during dinner.

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.

akin

adj. similar or related in nature, character, or origin

synonym : similar, related, alike

(1) **akin** to anger, (2) **akin** to the prior experiences

Her interests are **akin** to mine.

escalate

v. to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious

synonym : increase, intensify, expand

(1) **escalate** into a major international incident, (2) to **escalate**

The situation quickly **escalated** and turned violent.

detest

v. to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly

synonym: hate, loathe, despise

(1) **detest** violence, (2) **detest** being late

I **detest** the way people are quick to judge others without knowing their side of the story.

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

human-made

adj. created or produced by humans; artificial

synonym: artificial, unnatural, manufactured

(1) **human-made** climate change, (2) the worst **human-made** disaster

The bridge is a **human-made** structure and was built to span the river.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

multidisciplinary

adj. integrating or involving various academic fields or different skills in a topic or problem-solving approach

synonym: integrative, interdisciplinary

(1) **multidisciplinary** project, (2) **multidisciplinary** analysis

He adopted a **multidisciplinary** research approach to unravel complex phenomena.

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.

reconnaissance

n. a preliminary survey or exploration of an area, usually done to gather information or intelligence; a military mission to observe an enemy's activities and gather information

synonym: exploration, survey, examination

(1) aerial **reconnaissance**, (2) do **reconnaissance** work

The **reconnaissance** mission revealed the enemy's position.

scout

n. a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations

synonym: scoutmaster, explorer, surveyor

(1) boy **scout**, (2) **scout** troop

The company sent a **scout** to explore new business opportunities in the overseas market.

stalk

v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework

synonym: follow, creep up on, (noun) stem

(1) **stalk** of celery, (2) **stalk** from the room

The hunter quietly **stalked** the deer for hours before taking the shot

doable

adj. possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true

synonym: realizable, accomplishable, achievable

(1) make a **doable** plan, (2) **doable** in daily life
This project is **doable** despite the tight schedule.

dolphin

n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid

synonym: porpoise, cetacean, marine mammal

(1) **dolphin** show, (2) **dolphin-watching** tour

The large group of **dolphins** swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.

cockroach

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

synonym: roach

(1) **cockroach** killer, (2) have a **cockroach** phobia

Cockroaches sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

infestation

n. the presence or invasion of a large number of harmful or undesirable pests, parasites, or microorganisms in a specific area or host

synonym: plague, invasion, swarm

(1) **infestation** with a parasite, (2) flea **infestation**

The hotel had an **infestation** of bed bugs, which required a professional exterminator.

moan

v. to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something

synonym: groan, sigh, lament

(1) **moan** the current situation, (2) **moan** with pleasure

She **moaned** in pain as the doctor examined her injury.

contend

v. to struggle to win or surmount something

synonym: compete, oppose, argue

(1) **contend** that tobacco is nonaddictive, (2) **contend** for a championship

Tobacco companies have long **contended** that their product

is not addictive.

discotheque

n. a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance

synonym: nightclub, dance club, disco

(1) **discotheque** party, (2) **discotheque** scene

He couldn't wait to hit the **discotheque** and dance the night away.

deem

v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

synonym: believe, consider, suppose

(1) **deem** socially responsible, (2) **deem** wrong or inappropriate

Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were **deemed** unsafe.

unveil

v. to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time

synonym: reveal, uncover, expose

(1) **unveil** a monument, (2) **unveil** a comprehensive plan

The company plans to **unveil** its new product at the trade show next week.

empower

v. to give someone the power or authority to do something

synonym: authorize, endow, entitle

(1) **empower** my life, (2) **empower** the secretary to do the same

The company **empowered** employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.

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.

anthropology

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

(1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion

The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|--|
| 1. em_____r my life | v. | to give someone the power or authority to do something |
| 2. un___l a comprehensive plan | v. | to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time |
| 3. aerial rec_____nce | n. | a preliminary survey or exploration of an area, usually done to gather information or intelligence; a military mission to observe an enemy's activities and gather information |
| 4. sto_____ing performance | n. | the act or art of narrating or writing stories |
| 5. d__m socially responsible | v. | to consider or decide something in a particular way |
| 6. st__k of celery | v. | to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework |
| 7. the worst hum_____de disaster | adj. | created or produced by humans; artificial |
| 8. earliest human an_____or | n. | a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |
| 9. dis_____ue scene | n. | a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance |

ANSWERS: 1. empower, 2. unveil, 3. reconnaissance, 4. storytelling, 5. deem, 6. stalk, 7. human-made, 8. ancestor, 9. discotheque

10. de___t violence
v. to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly
11. mul_____ary analysis
adj. integrating or involving various academic fields or different skills in a topic or problem-solving approach
12. co____d that tobacco is nonaddictive
v. to struggle to win or surmount something
13. ir____te my partner
v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
14. co____d for a championship
v. to struggle to win or surmount something
15. co_____ch killer
n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
16. fossil re_____e
n. a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
17. em_____ss political enemy
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
18. m__n the current situation
v. to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something
19. hum_____de climate change
adj. created or produced by humans; artificial
20. do___e in daily life
adj. possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
21. ir____te skin
v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore

ANSWERS: 10. detest, 11. multidisciplinary, 12. contend, 13. irritate, 14. contend, 15. cockroach, 16. reptile, 17. embarrass, 18. moan, 19. human-made, 20. doable, 21. irritate

22. have a co_____ch phobia *n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
23. un___l a monument *v.* to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time
24. do_____n-watching tour *n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
25. tropical arc_____go *n.* a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region
26. to es_____te *v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
27. cre_____st theory *n.* a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes
28. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
29. do rec_____nce work *n.* a preliminary survey or exploration of an area, usually done to gather information or intelligence; a military mission to observe an enemy's activities and gather information
30. sc__t troop *n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations

ANSWERS: 22. cockroach, 23. unveil, 24. dolphin, 25. archipelago, 26. escalate, 27. creationist, 28. excite, 29. reconnaissance, 30. scout

31. flea inf_____on *n.* the presence or invasion of a large number of harmful or undesirable pests, parasites, or microorganisms in a specific area or host
32. social ant_____ogy *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
33. em_____r the secretary to do the same *v.* to give someone the power or authority to do something
34. inf_____on with a parasite *n.* the presence or invasion of a large number of harmful or undesirable pests, parasites, or microorganisms in a specific area or host
35. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
36. st__k from the room *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
37. adr_____ne receptor *n.* a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
38. a__n to anger *adj.* similar or related in nature, character, or origin

ANSWERS: 31. infestation, 32. anthropology, 33. empower, 34. infestation, 35. embarrass, 36. stalk, 37. adrenaline, 38. akin

39. ant_____ogy of religion *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
40. dis_____ue party *n.* a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
41. es_____te into a major international incident *v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
42. a__n to the prior experiences *adj.* similar or related in nature, character, or origin
43. fa___e relief *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
44. adr_____ne addiction *n.* a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
45. fr_____ne health workers *adj.* in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy
46. de___t being late *v.* to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly
47. do_____n show *n.* a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
48. pal_____ogy expedition *n.* the branch of anthropology concerned with the study of human evolution and development through fossilized remains, genetics, and other methods

ANSWERS: 39. anthropology, 40. discotheque, 41. escalate, 42. akin, 43. famine, 44. adrenaline, 45. frontline, 46. detest, 47. dolphin, 48. paleoanthropology

49. d__m wrong or inappropriate *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
50. m__n with pleasure *v.* to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something
51. coal fa___e *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
52. mul_____ary project *adj.* integrating or involving various academic fields or different skills in a topic or problem-solving approach
53. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
54. re____e exhibition *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
55. ex____e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
56. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
57. boy sc__t *n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations
58. make a do____e plan *adj.* possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
59. at the fr_____ne of the war *adj.* in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

ANSWERS: 49. deem, 50. moan, 51. famine, 52. multidisciplinary, 53. ancestor, 54. reptile, 55. excite, 56. storytelling, 57. scout, 58. doable, 59. frontline

60. cre_____st claim *n.* a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes
61. pal_____ogy museum *n.* the branch of anthropology concerned with the study of human evolution and development through fossilized remains, genetics, and other methods
62. volcanic arc_____go *n.* a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region

ANSWERS: 60. creationist, 61. paleoanthropology, 62. archipelago

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The company plans to _____ its new product at the trade show next week.
v. to reveal or make something publicly known, especially for the first time
2. The company _____ employees to buy low-price items without approval to achieve efficient purchasing.
v. to give someone the power or authority to do something
3. He couldn't wait to hit the _____ and dance the night away.
n. a nightclub or restaurant where recorded music is played, and people dance
4. The large group of _____ swam gracefully in the ocean, jumping out of the water now and then.
n. a marine mammal that typically has a beaklike snout, a streamlined body, and flippers and that feeds on fish and squid
5. The sound of his chewing loudly _____ me during dinner.
v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
6. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
7. The study of _____ involves analyzing fossil remains to understand the evolution of humans.
n. the branch of anthropology concerned with the study of human evolution and development through fossilized remains, genetics, and other methods

ANSWERS: 1. unveil, 2. empowered, 3. discotheque, 4. dolphins, 5. irritates, 6. excited, 7. paleoanthropology

8. The _____ mission revealed the enemy's position.
- n.* a preliminary survey or exploration of an area, usually done to gather information or intelligence; a military mission to observe an enemy's activities and gather information
9. This project is _____ despite the tight schedule.
- adj.* possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
10. The company sent a _____ to explore new business opportunities in the overseas market.
- n.* a person or group sent out to obtain information, gather intelligence, or make observations, typically in a military context; a person or group sent out to explore or prospect for new opportunities, resources, or locations
11. The old-earth _____ believed God created the universe and all life on earth.
- n.* a person who believes in the literal interpretation of religious texts, particularly the Bible, and holds that the universe and living things were created by a divine or supernatural force rather than through natural processes
12. The situation quickly _____ and turned violent.
- v.* to increase in intensity, size, or severity; to make something greater, worse, or more serious
13. She _____ in pain as the doctor examined her injury.
- v.* to make a low, prolonged sound of pain, grief, or sexual pleasure; to complain about something
14. Tobacco companies have long _____ that their product is not addictive.
- v.* to struggle to win or surmount something

ANSWERS: 8. reconnaissance, 9. doable, 10. scout, 11. creationist, 12. escalated, 13. moaned, 14. contended

15. The band has released a lot of _____ rock music.
n. a substance secreted by the adrenal medulla in response to stress, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger
16. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.
n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
17. Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were _____ unsafe.
v. to consider or decide something in a particular way
18. He adopted a _____ research approach to unravel complex phenomena.
adj. integrating or involving various academic fields or different skills in a topic or problem-solving approach
19. The bridge is a _____ structure and was built to span the river.
adj. created or produced by humans; artificial
20. The hunter quietly _____ the deer for hours before taking the shot
v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
21. The Philippines is an _____ made up of over 7,000 islands.
n. a group of islands, often located in a specific area or region
22. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

ANSWERS: 15. adrenaline-pumping, 16. famine, 17. deemed, 18. multidisciplinary, 19. human-made, 20. stalked, 21. archipelago, 22. embarrass

23. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
24. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories
25. The hotel had an _____ of bed bugs, which required a professional exterminator.
n. the presence or invasion of a large number of harmful or undesirable pests, parasites, or microorganisms in a specific area or host
26. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
27. I _____ the way people are quick to judge others without knowing their side of the story.
v. to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly
28. 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
29. Her interests are _____ to mine.
adj. similar or related in nature, character, or origin

ANSWERS: 23. ancestor, 24. storytelling, 25. infestation, 26. anthropology, 27. detest, 28. reptile, 29. akin

30. Within days, the new aircraft was in _____ service.

adj. in the most critical or dangerous position; in the military line or part of an army closest to the enemy

31. _____ sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

n. a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

ANSWERS: 30. frontline, 31. Cockroaches