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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Gillian Gibb: Why can't some birds fly? | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

rainforest

n. a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall

(1) **rainforest** destruction, (2) tropical **rainforest**

The destruction of the **rainforest** is a ticking time bomb for the Earth.

roost

n. a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop

synonym: perch, nest, roosting place

(1) wild **roost**, (2) bird **roost**

The chickens return to their **roost** at sunset every night.

amble

v. to walk at a slow, leisurely pace; to stroll or saunter;
(noun) a leisurely or relaxed walk, often taken for pleasure or exercise

synonym: saunter, stroll, wander

(1) **amble** along the beach, (2) morning **amble**

We decided to **amble** through the park, enjoying the warm weather and beautiful scenery.

dingo

n. a wild dog native to Australia, known for its distinctive howl and for being a pest to farmers

synonym: wild dog, warrigal

(1) wild **dingo**, (2) **dingo** howl

We saw a **dingo** pack roaming the outback during our trip to Australia.

prowl

v. to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly

synonym : creep, sneak, lurch

(1) **prowl** the streets, (2) **prowl** for food

The predator began to **prowl** around the forest's edge, searching for prey.

cassowary

n. a large flightless bird native to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands, known for its distinctive appearance and strong, dangerous claws

synonym : flightless bird

(1) **cassowary** bird, (2) **cassowary** habitat

The **cassowary's** powerful legs force it to run and kick.

puny

adj. small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact

synonym : small, weak, feeble

(1) **puny** muscles, (2) **puny** excuse

The weightlifter could easily lift the **puny** dumbbell with one hand.

swipe

v. to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort

synonym : flick, brush, pinch

(1) **swipe** a card, (2) **swipe** left on a dating app

He tried to **swipe** the phone from my hand, but I held on tight.

razor

n. a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair

synonym : blade, shaver, cutter

(1) **razor** blade, (2) an electric **razor**

He shaved with a **razor** to get a close shave.

claw

n. a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

synonym : paw, talon, nail

(1) **claw** marks, (2) **claw** hammer

The bear used its **claw** to catch a fish in the river.

flightless

adj. unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight

synonym : non-flying, grounded, wingless

(1) **flightless** species, (2) **flightless** insect

The Kiwi, an endemic species of New Zealand, is a curious example of a **flightless** bird.

earthbound

adj. limited or restricted in movement or activity, typically due to physical rather than mental reasons; rooted or grounded in physical reality rather than imagination or abstract thought

synonym : grounded, terrestrial, earthy

(1) **earthbound** creature, (2) **earthbound** solutions

After his injury, the athlete was **earthbound** for months while he recovered.

avian

adj. relating to or characteristic of birds

synonym : bird-like, feathered, winged

(1) **avian** influenza, (2) **avian** habitat

The expert on **avian** species studied the behavior of different types of birds.

outback

n. the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland

synonym : Australian bush, hinterland, wilderness

(1) **outback** landscape, (2) **outback** adventure

The vast plains of the Australian **outback** stretch for miles in every direction.

savannah

n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

synonym : grassland, plain

(1) **savannah** region, (2) tropical **savannah**

The birds live in tropical forests, **savannahs**, and arid semi-desert environments.

penguin

n. a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait

(1) Adelie **penguin**, (2) **penguin** habitat

We took a boat tour to witness the magnificent **penguin** colony along the rugged coastline.

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.

dweller

n. a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location

synonym : resident, occupant, inhabitant

(1) city **dweller**, (2) rural **dweller**

The mountain **dweller** lived off the land and had a deep connection to nature.

ostrich

n. a large flightless bird native to Africa with a long neck, legs, and bill

synonym : bird, flightless bird

(1) **ostrich** eggs, (2) **ostrich** feathers

The farmers raise **ostriches** for their meat, eggs, and feathers.

emu

n. a large flightless bird native to Australia, similar in appearance to the ostrich but smaller and with softer

feathers

synonym: flightless bird, Australian bird, big bird

(1) **emu** egg, (2) **emu** farming

Indigenous Australians use the **emu's** feathers for various decorative and practical purposes.

kiwi

n. a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand

(1) **kiwi** fruit, (2) **kiwi** orchard

I could eat a whole **kiwi** in one bite if I wanted to.

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.

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.

conserve

v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

synonym: preserve, save, maintain

(1) means to **conserve** energy, (2) **conserve** coal resources

Children must be taught to **conserve** our natural environment.

alpine

adj. relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

synonym: mountain, highland, elevated

(1) **alpine** region, (2) **alpine** plant

We went on an exhilarating **alpine** adventure, climbing steep mountain slopes and glaciers.

predisposition

n. a tendency or inclination to a particular behavior or condition, often due to genetic or environmental factors

synonym: tendency, inclination, disposition

(1) **predisposition** to anxiety, (2) genetic **predisposition**

Smoking can increase a person's **predisposition** to lung cancer.

fluff

n. soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public

synonym: down, fuzz, lint

(1) **fluff** ball, (2) **fluff** formation

The teddy bear's fur was so soft and full of **fluff**.

keel

n. the central longitudinal structural member of a ship or boat that extends along the bottom of the hull and from which the rest of the ship is built; a similar structure in aircraft; (verb) to fall over or collapse, often in the context of fainting or succumbing to exhaustion or heat

synonym: centerboard, stabilizer, blade

(1) **keel** over right there, (2) inner **keel**

The ship's **keel** was damaged during the storm, causing it to list to one side.

protrusion

n. something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside

synonym: extrusion, bump, bulge

(1) **protrusion** on skin, (2) **protrusion** of rock

The **protrusion** in the road caused several accidents and had to be repaired immediately.

sternum

n. the flat bone located in the center of the chest that connects the rib cage via cartilage

synonym: breastbone, chestbone, thorax

(1) **sternum** bone, (2) fractured **sternum**

The driver's seatbelt saved their **sternum** from injury in the car accident.

repurpose

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

synonym: reutilize, recycle, reuse

(1) **repurpose** an old building, (2) **repurpose** a used car

The old barn was **repurposed** into a modern event space.

settler

n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

synonym: frontiersperson, immigrant, emigrant

(1) new **settlers**, (2) **settlers** on some foreign shore

A large proportion of railway workers in **settler** colonies were white.

stowaway

n. a person who hides on board a ship, airplane, or other vehicles without permission or legal authorization to travel secretly or avoid payment of a fare

synonym: stalker, intruder

(1) **stowaway** on ship, (2) hidden **stowaway**

The illegal **stowaway** was discovered hiding in the cargo hold of the ship.

rodent

n. a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail

synonym: mouse, rat, hamster

(1) **rodent** repellent, (2) prevent **rodent** damage

He set up a trap to catch the **rodent**.

stoat

n. a small carnivorous mammal with a long, slender body and short legs, also known as an ermine or short-tailed

weasel

(1) **stoat** fur, (2) **stoat** hunting

The **stoat's** diet consists mostly of small rodents, such as mice and voles.

extinct

adj. no longer in existence

synonym: dead, obsolete, abolished

(1) **extinct** by human activity, (2) long- **extinct** volcano

Many species have become **extinct** due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

dodo

n. a flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, characterized by its stout body, small wings, and hooked beak; an extinct bird species that was last seen in the late 17th century

synonym: extinct bird, flightless bird

(1) **dodo** population, (2) extinct **dodo**

The last known sighting of a flightless **dodo** was recorded in the late 17th century.

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.

mammalian

adj. of or relating to mammals, a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals that typically nurse their young and have hair or fur on their skin; characterized by mammalian qualities, such as nurturing and protective behavior

synonym: animal, mammal-like, warm-blooded

(1) **mammalian** embryo, (2) **mammalian** evolution

Mammalian milk is known to be rich in protein and essential vitamins.

thigh

n. the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg

synonym: thigh-bone, femur, upper leg

(1) **thigh** muscle, (2) chicken **thigh**

The marathon runner felt a cramp in her **thigh** at the 20th mile.

formidable

adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration

synonym: daunting, intimidating, fearful

(1) **formidable** challenge, (2) **formidable** competitor

The mountain range was a **formidable** obstacle for the hikers.

tuck

v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable

synonym: insert, wrap, pinch

(1) **tuck** a baby in the blanket, (2) **tuck** into another cigarette

You should **tuck** your shirt into your trousers.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

synonym: guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pr__l the streets
v. to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly
2. st____ay on ship
n. a person who hides on board a ship, airplane, or other vehicles without permission or legal authorization to travel secretly or avoid payment of a fare
3. am__e along the beach
v. to walk at a slow, leisurely pace; to stroll or saunter; (noun) a leisurely or relaxed walk, often taken for pleasure or exercise
4. ro____t repellent
n. a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail
5. ou____k landscape
n. the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland
6. tropical sa____ah
n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
7. e_u farming
n. a large flightless bird native to Australia, similar in appearance to the ostrich but smaller and with softer feathers

ANSWERS: 1. prowl, 2. stowaway, 3. amble, 4. rodent, 5. outback, 6. savannah, 7. emu

8. new se_____rs *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
9. pro_____on on skin *n.* something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside
10. pro_____on of rock *n.* something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside
11. sa_____ah region *n.* a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close
12. ou_____k adventure *n.* the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland
13. sw__e a card *v.* to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort
14. muddy sw__p *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
15. for_____le competitor *adj.* causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
16. st__r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

ANSWERS: 8. settler, 9. protrusion, 10. protrusion, 11. savannah, 12. outback, 13. swipe, 14. swamp, 15. formidable, 16. steer

17. ear_____nd solutions *adj.* limited or restricted in movement or activity, typically due to physical rather than mental reasons; rooted or grounded in physical reality rather than imagination or abstract thought
18. c__w marks *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
19. st__t hunting *n.* a small carnivorous mammal with a long, slender body and short legs, also known as an ermine or short-tailed weasel
20. tropical rai_____st *n.* a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
21. chicken th__h *n.* the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg
22. ra__r blade *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
23. t__k a baby in the blanket *v.* to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
24. rural dw_____r *n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location

ANSWERS: 17. earthbound, 18. claw, 19. stoat, 20. rainforest, 21. thigh, 22. razor, 23. tuck, 24. dweller

25. p__y muscles *adj.* small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact
26. os_____h feathers *n.* a large flightless bird native to Africa with a long neck, legs, and bill
27. prevent ro____t damage *n.* a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail
28. re_____se a used car *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
29. for_____le challenge *adj.* causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
30. 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
31. extinct d__o *n.* a flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, characterized by its stout body, small wings, and hooked beak; an extinct bird species that was last seen in the late 17th century
32. sw__p tour *n.* an area of low-lying land that is flooded or saturated with water, often having a growth of natural vegetation
33. av__n habitat *adj.* relating to or characteristic of birds
34. c__w hammer *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

ANSWERS: 25. puny, 26. ostrich, 27. rodent, 28. repurpose, 29. formidable, 30. mammal, 31. dodo, 32. swamp, 33. avian, 34. claw

35. fl__f formation *n.* soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public
36. morning am__e *v.* to walk at a slow, leisurely pace; to stroll or saunter; (noun) a leisurely or relaxed walk, often taken for pleasure or exercise
37. earliest human an____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
38. rai____st destruction *n.* a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
39. wild ro__t *n.* a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop
40. t__k into another cigarette *v.* to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
41. av__n influenza *adj.* relating to or characteristic of birds
42. di__o howl *n.* a wild dog native to Australia, known for its distinctive howl and for being a pest to farmers

ANSWERS: 35. fluff, 36. amble, 37. ancestor, 38. rainforest, 39. roost, 40. tuck, 41. avian, 42. dingo

43. st____m bone *n.* the flat bone located in the center of the chest that connects the rib cage via cartilage
44. co____ve coal resources *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
45. an electric ra__r *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
46. fli____ss species *adj.* unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight
47. p__y excuse *adj.* small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact
48. ma____an embryo *adj.* of or relating to mammals, a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals that typically nurse their young and have hair or fur on their skin; characterized by mammalian qualities, such as nurturing and protective behavior
49. d__o population *n.* a flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, characterized by its stout body, small wings, and hooked beak; an extinct bird species that was last seen in the late 17th century
50. ex____t by human activity *adj.* no longer in existence
51. re____se an old building *v.* to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended
52. os____h eggs *n.* a large flightless bird native to Africa with a long neck, legs, and bill

ANSWERS: 43. sternum, 44. conserve, 45. razor, 46. flightless, 47. puny, 48. mammalian, 49. dodo, 50. extinct, 51. repurpose, 52. ostrich

53. e_u egg *n.* a large flightless bird native to Australia, similar in appearance to the ostrich but smaller and with softer feathers
54. ma_____an evolution *adj.* of or relating to mammals, a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals that typically nurse their young and have hair or fur on their skin; characterized by mammalian qualities, such as nurturing and protective behavior
55. k__l over right there *n.* the central longitudinal structural member of a ship or boat that extends along the bottom of the hull and from which the rest of the ship is built; a similar structure in aircraft; (verb) to fall over or collapse, often in the context of fainting or succumbing to exhaustion or heat
56. fl__f ball *n.* soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public
57. k__i orchard *n.* a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand
58. pre_____ion to anxiety *n.* a tendency or inclination to a particular behavior or condition, often due to genetic or environmental factors

ANSWERS: 53. emu, 54. mammalian, 55. keel, 56. fluff, 57. kiwi, 58. predisposition

59. al___e plant *adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain
60. al___e region *adj.* relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain
61. st__t fur *n.* a small carnivorous mammal with a long, slender body and short legs, also known as an ermine or short-tailed weasel
62. bird ro__t *n.* a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop
63. inner k__l *n.* the central longitudinal structural member of a ship or boat that extends along the bottom of the hull and from which the rest of the ship is built; a similar structure in aircraft; (verb) to fall over or collapse, often in the context of fainting or succumbing to exhaustion or heat
64. k__i fruit *n.* a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand
65. se_____rs on some foreign shore *n.* a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area

ANSWERS: 59. alpine, 60. alpine, 61. stoat, 62. roost, 63. keel, 64. kiwi, 65. settler

66. fractured st____m *n.* the flat bone located in the center of the chest that connects the rib cage via cartilage
67. sw__e left on a dating app *v.* to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort
68. pr__l for food *v.* to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly
69. 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
70. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
71. th__h muscle *n.* the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg
72. Adelie pe____n *n.* a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait
73. city dw____r *n.* a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
74. ca____ry bird *n.* a large flightless bird native to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands, known for its distinctive appearance and strong, dangerous claws

ANSWERS: 66. sternum, 67. swipe, 68. prowl, 69. mammal, 70. predator, 71. thigh, 72. penguin, 73. dweller, 74. cassowary

75. means to co_____ve energy *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
76. pe_____n habitat *n.* a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait
77. fli_____ss insect *adj.* unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight
78. hidden st_____ay *n.* a person who hides on board a ship, airplane, or other vehicles without permission or legal authorization to travel secretly or avoid payment of a fare
79. ear_____nd creature *adj.* limited or restricted in movement or activity, typically due to physical rather than mental reasons; rooted or grounded in physical reality rather than imagination or abstract thought
80. ca_____ry habitat *n.* a large flightless bird native to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands, known for its distinctive appearance and strong, dangerous claws
81. genetic pre_____ion *n.* a tendency or inclination to a particular behavior or condition, often due to genetic or environmental factors
82. long-ex_____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence

ANSWERS: 75. conserve, 76. penguin, 77. flightless, 78. stowaway, 79. earthbound, 80. cassowary, 81. predisposition, 82. extinct

83. sexual pr____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
84. wild di__o *n.* a wild dog native to Australia, known for its distinctive howl and for being a pest to farmers
85. st__r a conversation *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
86. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 83. predator, 84. dingo, 85. steer, 86. ancestor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Children must be taught to _____ our natural environment.
 - v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

2. The bear used its _____ to catch a fish in the river.
 - n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

3. The vast plains of the Australian _____ stretch for miles in every direction.
 - n.* the remote and sparsely populated interior of Australia, typically characterized by arid deserts and scrubland

4. He set up a trap to catch the _____.
 - n.* a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail

5. The driver's seatbelt saved their _____ from injury in the car accident.
 - n.* the flat bone located in the center of the chest that connects the rib cage via cartilage

6. The _____ diet consists mostly of small rodents, such as mice and voles.
 - n.* a small carnivorous mammal with a long, slender body and short legs, also known as an ermine or short-tailed weasel

7. The illegal _____ was discovered hiding in the cargo hold of the ship.
 - n.* a person who hides on board a ship, airplane, or other vehicles without permission or legal authorization to travel secretly or avoid payment of a fare

ANSWERS: 1. conserve, 2. claw, 3. outback, 4. rodent, 5. sternum, 6. stoat's, 7. stowaway

8. The mountain range was a _____ obstacle for the hikers.

adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration

9. The expert on _____ species studied the behavior of different types of birds.

adj. relating to or characteristic of birds

10. The predator began to _____ around the forest's edge, searching for prey.

v. to move about stealthily, especially in search of prey or as part of a criminal act; to wander or roam around aimlessly or restlessly

11. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

adj. no longer in existence

12. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

13. The ship's _____ was damaged during the storm, causing it to list to one side.

n. the central longitudinal structural member of a ship or boat that extends along the bottom of the hull and from which the rest of the ship is built; a similar structure in aircraft; (verb) to fall over or collapse, often in the context of fainting or succumbing to exhaustion or heat

14. The destruction of the _____ is a ticking time bomb for the Earth.

n. a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall

15. The teddy bear's fur was so soft and full of _____.

n. soft, light particles or fibers that are often shed from fabrics or stuffing materials; excessively or trivially sentimental language or ideas that lack substance or depth; (verb) to make something soft, light, or loose by shaking or stirring it up; to make a mistake or blunder, especially while performing or speaking in public

ANSWERS: 8. formidable, 9. avian, 10. prowl, 11. extinct, 12. steer, 13. keel, 14. rainforest, 15. fluff

16. The Kiwi, an endemic species of New Zealand, is a curious example of a _____ bird.

adj. unable to fly, either because of a physical lack of wings or because of an inability to sustain flight

17. 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

18. We went on an exhilarating _____ adventure, climbing steep mountain slopes and glaciers.

adj. relating to or characteristic of high mountains, especially the Alps; of or relating to cold, snowy, or rugged terrain

19. The old barn was _____ into a modern event space.

v. to use something again for a different purpose than it was originally intended

20. We saw a _____ pack roaming the outback during our trip to Australia.

n. a wild dog native to Australia, known for its distinctive howl and for being a pest to farmers

21. The chickens return to their _____ at sunset every night.

n. a place where birds rest or sleep, typically on a branch or in a birdhouse or coop

22. The birds live in tropical forests, _____ and arid semi-desert environments.

n. a mixed forest and grassland ecosystem where the trees are far enough apart that the canopy doesn't close

ANSWERS: 16. flightless, 17. swamp, 18. alpine, 19. repurposed, 20. dingo, 21. roost, 22. savannahs,

23. Indigenous Australians use the _____ feathers for various decorative and practical purposes.
- n.* a large flightless bird native to Australia, similar in appearance to the ostrich but smaller and with softer feathers
24. The weightlifter could easily lift the _____ dumbbell with one hand.
- adj.* small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact
25. I could eat a whole _____ in one bite if I wanted to.
- n.* a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand
26. The _____ in the road caused several accidents and had to be repaired immediately.
- n.* something that bulges out or sticks out from a surface or body; a projection that is visible from the outside
27. The last known sighting of a flightless _____ was recorded in the late 17th century.
- n.* a flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, characterized by its stout body, small wings, and hooked beak; an extinct bird species that was last seen in the late 17th century
28. _____ milk is known to be rich in protein and essential vitamins.
- adj.* of or relating to mammals, a class of warm-blooded vertebrate animals that typically nurse their young and have hair or fur on their skin; characterized by mammalian qualities, such as nurturing and protective behavior
29. The _____ powerful legs force it to run and kick.
- n.* a large flightless bird native to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands, known for its distinctive appearance and strong, dangerous claws

ANSWERS: 23. emu's, 24. puny, 25. kiwi, 26. protrusion, 27. dodo, 28. Mammalian, 29. cassowary's

30. The mountain _____ lived off the land and had a deep connection to nature.
n. a person or animal that lives in a particular place or region; an inhabitant of a specific location
31. A large proportion of railway workers in _____ colonies were white.
n. a person who moved with a group of others to live in a different country or area
32. We decided to _____ through the park, enjoying the warm weather and beautiful scenery.
v. to walk at a slow, leisurely pace; to stroll or saunter; (noun) a leisurely or relaxed walk, often taken for pleasure or exercise
33. Smoking can increase a person's _____ to lung cancer.
n. a tendency or inclination to a particular behavior or condition, often due to genetic or environmental factors
34. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
35. The farmers raise _____ for their meat, eggs, and feathers.
n. a large flightless bird native to Africa with a long neck, legs, and bill
36. We took a boat tour to witness the magnificent _____ colony along the rugged coastline.
n. a flightless sea bird that is found in the Southern Hemisphere and is known for its distinctive black and white coloring and its upright, waddling gait
37. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

ANSWERS: 30. dweller, 31. settler, 32. amble, 33. predisposition, 34. ancestor, 35. ostriches, 36. penguin, 37. predator's

38. 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
39. You should _____ your shirt into your trousers.
v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
40. The marathon runner felt a cramp in her _____ at the 20th mile.
n. the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg
41. After his injury, the athlete was _____ for months while he recovered.
adj. limited or restricted in movement or activity, typically due to physical rather than mental reasons; rooted or grounded in physical reality rather than imagination or abstract thought
42. He shaved with a _____ to get a close shave.
n. a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
43. He tried to _____ the phone from my hand, but I held on tight.
v. to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort

ANSWERS: 38. mammal, 39. tuck, 40. thigh, 41. earthbound, 42. razor, 43. swipe