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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Michel Dugon: The secrets of spider venom | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

incarnation

n. the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something

synonym: embodiment, personification, avatar

(1) former **incarnation**, (2) **incarnation** of stupidity

The novel is an **incarnation** of the author's experiences and imagination.

leggy

adj. having long, slender legs, often used to describe a woman or animal with particularly attractive or distinctive legs

synonym: tall, lanky, slender-legged

(1) **leggy** model, (2) **leggy** table

The runway model's **leggy** strides were the highlight of the fashion show.

bioengineering

n. the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products

synonym: biomedical engineering, genetic engineering, biotechnology

(1) **bioengineering** field, (2) **bioengineering** techniques

The **bioengineering** lab has state-of-the-art equipment and software for analyzing biological systems and designing new solutions.

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.

sporty

adj. having a stylish, athletic, or active appearance or character

synonym : athletic, active, stylish

(1) **sporty** car, (2) **sporty** outfit

The new car has a **sporty** design and a powerful engine, making it fun to drive on winding roads.

wrangle

n. a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter

synonym : argument, dispute, quarrel

(1) **wrangle** over money, (2) political **wrangle**

The two politicians had a heated **wrangle** over the proposed tax reform.

tarantula

n. a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs

synonym : spider, arachnid, hairy spider

(1) keep **tarantulas** as pets, (2) fear a **tarantula**

The furry **tarantula** crawled across the floor, causing some to scream.

ruthless

adj. lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

synonym : heartless, pitiless, merciless

(1) show **ruthless** behavior, (2) **ruthless** brutality

The dictator was known for his **ruthless** tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

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.

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.

fang

n. a long, pointed tooth, typically in the upper jaw, used for biting and chewing, as in snakes and some other animals

synonym: tooth, canine, tusk

(1) **fang** mark, (2) poison **fang**

The vampire bared its **fangs** and growled.

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.

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.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym: immobilize, disable, numb

(1) **paralyze** a city, (2) **paralyze** a person
The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

gruesome

adj. causing horror or disgust
synonym : appalling, horrific, terrible

(1) hear **gruesome** details, (2) **gruesome** accident
The **gruesome** crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.

toxin

n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

synonym : poison, venom, contaminant

(1) **toxin** exposure, (2) **toxin** production
Mold exposure can release dangerous **toxins** into the air.

viper

n. venomous snake
synonym : snake, serpent, adder

(1) brood of **vipers**, (2) **viper** poison
The pit **viper** coiled up, ready to strike at its prey.

lizard

n. a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail

(1) giant **lizard**, (2) **lizard** leather
The **lizard's** tail regenerates if severed.

snail

n. a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body

synonym : escargot, slug, whelk

(1) **snail** mail, (2) **snail** pace
The gardener found a **snail** slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.

anesthetic

n. a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed

without causing pain

synonym : sedative, anesthesia, painkiller

(1) **anesthetic** injection, (2) local **anesthetic**

The dentist administered an **anesthetic** to numb the patient's mouth before the procedure.

charismatic

adj. having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others

synonym : mesmerizing, alluring, captivating

(1) **charismatic** chairman, (2) **charismatic** personality

He was a **charismatic** leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.

cobra

n. a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened

synonym : serpent, snake

(1) **cobra** venom, (2) **cobra** bite

The king **cobra** slithered silently across the ground.

anesthetize

v. to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation

synonym : numb, sedate, drug

(1) **anesthetize** a patient, (2) **anesthetize** a wound

The dentist will **anesthetize** your mouth before removing your wisdom teeth.

droplet

n. a small drop of liquid

synonym : bead, drip, dewdrop

(1) **droplet** size, (2) **droplet** formation

A single **droplet** of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

capillary

n. a tube of small internal diameter; any of the minute tubes that carry blood

(1) a **capillary** tube, (2) **capillary** action

There are many **capillary** vessels in the gills of fish.

purify

v. to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

synonym: refine, filter, clarify

(1) **purify** hydrogen gas, (2) **purify** the blood

The equipment is frequently used to **purify** and distribute drinking water.

dilute

v. to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it

synonym: weaken, thin, reduce

(1) **dilute** acid with water, (2) **dilute** a great idea

She **diluted** the concentrated juice with water.

gamble

v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes

synonym: bet, venture, wager

(1) **gamble** \$100 on the race, (2) **gamble** away my fortune

Will you **gamble** on the result of the fight?

jackpot

n. a large cash prize or reward that is won by chance or luck; a situation in which one experiences an unexpectedly positive or fortunate outcome

synonym: prize, bonanza, windfall

(1) lottery **jackpot**, (2) win a **jackpot**

After hours of playing the slot machines, she finally hit the **jackpot** and won hundreds of dollars.

antimicrobial

adj. having the ability to prevent or combat the growth of microorganisms, particularly bacteria and fungi

synonym: antibacterial, germicidal, disinfectant

(1) **antimicrobial** properties, (2) **antimicrobial** treatment

The medical team used an **antimicrobial** solution to clean the surgical instruments.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

helpless

adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help

synonym : defenseless, powerless, susceptible

(1) **helpless** baby, (2) **helpless** victims

I feel so **helpless** without you.

penicillin

n. an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections

synonym : antibiotic, bacitracin

(1) **penicillin** allergy, (2) **penicillin** sensitivity testing

The doctor prescribed **penicillin** to treat the bacterial infection.

sibling

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

synonym : brother, sister, relative

(1) have a **sibling** quarrel, (2) play with my **siblings**

Children often copy their parents or elder **siblings**.

squash

v. to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

synonym : smash, crush, compress

(1) **squash** a package, (2) **squash** a rebellion

I like to **squash** my grapes when making homemade wine.

insignificant

adj. of little importance, influence, or power

synonym : unimportant, trivial, irrelevant

(1) **insignificant** amount, (2) an **insignificant** mistake

He made me feel small and **insignificant**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. political wr____e *n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
2. ane____ic injection *n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
3. co__a venom *n.* a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened
4. keep ta____las as pets *n.* a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs
5. the ve____us jellyfish's sting *adj.* extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
6. poison f__g *n.* a long, pointed tooth, typically in the upper jaw, used for biting and chewing, as in snakes and some other animals
7. an ins____ant mistake *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
8. f__g mark *n.* a long, pointed tooth, typically in the upper jaw, used for biting and chewing, as in snakes and some other animals
9. sq____h a rebellion *v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

ANSWERS: 1. wrangle, 2. anesthetic, 3. cobra, 4. tarantula, 5. venomous, 6. fang, 7. insignificant, 8. fang, 9. squash

10. giant li___d *n.* a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail
11. ru____ss brutality *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
12. le__y table *adj.* having long, slender legs, often used to describe a woman or animal with particularly attractive or distinctive legs
13. have ve____us eyes *adj.* extremely poisonous or injurious; containing or producing venom; marked by deep ill will
14. fear a ta____la *n.* a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs
15. di___e acid with water *v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
16. sn__l pace *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
17. vi__r poison *n.* venomous snake
18. pa____ze a person *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
19. hear gr____me details *adj.* causing horror or disgust
20. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
21. sq___h a package *v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

ANSWERS: 10. lizard, 11. ruthless, 12. leggy, 13. venomous, 14. tarantula, 15. dilute, 16. snail, 17. viper, 18. paralyze, 19. gruesome, 20. ancestor, 21. squash

22. le__y model *adj.* having long, slender legs, often used to describe a woman or animal with particularly attractive or distinctive legs
23. have a si____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
24. ind____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
25. ga___e away my fortune *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
26. ind____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
27. ant____ial treatment *adj.* having the ability to prevent or combat the growth of microorganisms, particularly bacteria and fungi
28. a ca____ry tube *n.* a tube of small internal diameter; any of the minute tubes that carry blood
29. 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
30. ca____ry action *n.* a tube of small internal diameter; any of the minute tubes that carry blood
31. ins____ant amount *adj.* of little importance, influence, or power
32. play with my si____gs *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
33. brood of vi__rs *n.* venomous snake
34. wr____e over money *n.* a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter

ANSWERS: 22. leggy, 23. sibling, 24. industrious, 25. gamble, 26. industrious, 27. antimicrobial, 28. capillary, 29. scorpion, 30. capillary, 31. insignificant, 32. sibling, 33. viper, 34. wrangle

35. ane_____ze a wound *v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation
36. di___e a great idea *v.* to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it
37. dr_____t formation *n.* a small drop of liquid
38. the ve__m of a lizard *n.* a toxic substance produced by an animal, typically a snake or insect, and injected into prey or an enemy by biting or stinging
39. sp___y car *adj.* having a stylish, athletic, or active appearance or character
40. 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
41. show ru_____ss behavior *adj.* lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others
42. pu___y the blood *v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
43. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
44. gr_____me accident *adj.* causing horror or disgust

ANSWERS: 35. anesthetize, 36. dilute, 37. droplet, 38. venom, 39. sporty, 40. venom, 41. ruthless, 42. purify, 43. ancestor, 44. gruesome

45. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
46. bio_____ing techniques *n.* the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products
47. inc_____on of stupidity *n.* the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something
48. bio_____ing field *n.* the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products
49. pu___y hydrogen gas *v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
50. sn__l mail *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
51. win a ja_____t *n.* a large cash prize or reward that is won by chance or luck; a situation in which one experiences an unexpectedly positive or fortunate outcome
52. he_____ss victims *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
53. ga___e \$100 on the race *v.* to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
54. cha_____ic chairman *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others
55. cha_____ic personality *adj.* having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others

ANSWERS: 45. predator, 46. bioengineering, 47. incarnation, 48. bioengineering, 49. purify, 50. snail, 51. jackpot, 52. helpless, 53. gamble, 54. charismatic, 55. charismatic

56. co__a bite *n.* a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened
57. ane_____ze a patient *v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation
58. pen_____in sensitivity testing *n.* an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
59. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
60. local ane_____ic *n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain
61. pen_____in allergy *n.* an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections
62. former inc_____on *n.* the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something
63. sp___y outfit *adj.* having a stylish, athletic, or active appearance or character
64. dr_____t size *n.* a small drop of liquid
65. to__n exposure *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

ANSWERS: 56. cobra, 57. anesthetize, 58. penicillin, 59. predator, 60. anesthetic, 61. penicillin, 62. incarnation, 63. sporty, 64. droplet, 65. toxin

66. to__n production *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
67. he____ss baby *adj.* unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
68. li____d leather *n.* a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail
69. 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
70. pa____ze a city *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
71. ant____ial properties *adj.* having the ability to prevent or combat the growth of microorganisms, particularly bacteria and fungi
72. lottery ja____t *n.* a large cash prize or reward that is won by chance or luck; a situation in which one experiences an unexpectedly positive or fortunate outcome

ANSWERS: 66. toxin, 67. helpless, 68. lizard, 69. scorpion, 70. paralyze, 71. antimicrobial, 72. jackpot

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The dentist administered an _____ to numb the patient's mouth before the procedure.
 - n.* a substance that is administered to a person or an animal to produce a loss of sensation or consciousness so that medical or surgical procedures can be performed without causing pain

2. The doctor prescribed _____ to treat the bacterial infection.
 - n.* an antibiotic drug derived from mold and used to treat bacterial infections

3. The equipment is frequently used to _____ and distribute drinking water.
 - v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

4. The dentist will _____ your mouth before removing your wisdom teeth.
 - v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation

5. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
 - n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

6. He made me feel small and _____.
 - adj.* of little importance, influence, or power

7. The _____ tail regenerates if severed.
 - n.* a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail

ANSWERS: 1. anesthetic, 2. penicillin, 3. purify, 4. anesthetize, 5. siblings, 6. insignificant, 7. lizard's

8. The medical team used an _____ solution to clean the surgical instruments.

adj. having the ability to prevent or combat the growth of microorganisms, particularly bacteria and fungi

9. 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

10. Mold exposure can release dangerous _____ into the air.

n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

11. 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

12. I like to _____ my grapes when making homemade wine.

v. to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

13. The new car has a _____ design and a powerful engine, making it fun to drive on winding roads.

adj. having a stylish, athletic, or active appearance or character

14. She _____ the concentrated juice with water.

v. to make a substance less concentrated by adding a liquid or another substance to it

ANSWERS: 8. antimicrobial, 9. venom, 10. toxins, 11. scorpion's, 12. squash, 13. sporty, 14. diluted

15. The _____ snake bit him, causing him to go into shock.

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

16. A single _____ of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

n. a small drop of liquid

17. The king _____ slithered silently across the ground.

n. a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened

18. The dictator was known for his _____ tactics and had no qualms about using violence to maintain power.

adj. lacking in pity or compassion; willing to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, regardless of the consequences for others

19. He was a _____ leader and could persuade others to follow his ideas.

adj. having a strong and magnetic personality that attracts and influences others

20. After hours of playing the slot machines, she finally hit the _____ and won hundreds of dollars.

n. a large cash prize or reward that is won by chance or luck; a situation in which one experiences an unexpectedly positive or fortunate outcome

21. The runway model's _____ strides were the highlight of the fashion show.

adj. having long, slender legs, often used to describe a woman or animal with particularly attractive or distinctive legs

22. The novel is an _____ of the author's experiences and imagination.

n. the embodiment of a concept or idea in a physical form; a person or thing that personifies something

ANSWERS: 15. venomous, 16. droplet, 17. cobra, 18. ruthless, 19. charismatic, 20. jackpot, 21. leggy, 22. incarnation

23. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
24. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
25. The _____ lab has state-of-the-art equipment and software for analyzing biological systems and designing new solutions.
n. the application of engineering principles to the design and production of biological systems and products
26. The venom from the snake bite _____ his arm.
v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
27. The pit _____ coiled up, ready to strike at its prey.
n. venomous snake
28. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
29. Will you _____ on the result of the fight?
v. to take risky action in the hope of being successful; to play or game for money or other stakes
30. The furry _____ crawled across the floor, causing some to scream.
n. a large, venomous spider with a round body and long, hairy legs
31. The _____ crime scene was difficult for the detectives to stomach.
adj. causing horror or disgust

ANSWERS: 23. ancestor, 24. industrious, 25. bioengineering, 26. paralyzed, 27. viper, 28. predator's, 29. gamble, 30. tarantula, 31. gruesome

32. The gardener found a _____ slowly making its way through the lettuce patch.
n. a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
33. The vampire bared its _____ and growled.
n. a long, pointed tooth, typically in the upper jaw, used for biting and chewing, as in snakes and some other animals
34. The two politicians had a heated _____ over the proposed tax reform.
n. a noisy or contentious dispute or argument, particularly one involving multiple parties; a physical altercation or brawl; (verb) to have a dispute or argument, often over a trivial matter
35. I feel so _____ without you.
adj. unable to take care of oneself or to do things without help
36. There are many _____ vessels in the gills of fish.
n. a tube of small internal diameter; any of the minute tubes that carry blood

ANSWERS: 32. snail, 33. fangs, 34. wrangle, 35. helpless, 36. capillary