

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Catherine Mohr: How I became part sea urchin | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

manta

n. a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world

synonym: stingray, devilfish, mobula

(1) **manta** conservation, (2) **manta** dive

The marine biologist observed a graceful **manta** ray gliding through the ocean.

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.

hammerhead

n. a type of hammer with a head that is wider than the handle; a type of shark with a distinctive hammer-shaped head

(1) **hammerhead** structure, (2) **hammerhead** crane

The **hammerhead** shark is known for its distinctive T-shaped head and unique swimming style.

urchin

n. a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small,

spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines

synonym : mischief, waif, guttersnipe

(1) **urchin** child, (2) street **urchin**

The young boy was an **urchin** wandering the streets without a home.

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.

tangle

n. a confused mass of something twisted together

synonym : knot, snarl, entanglement

(1) in a **tangle**, (2) **tangle** wires

The cords behind my computer were a **tangled** mess.

topmost

adj. situated at or forming the highest or uppermost point; highest or most prominent on a list or ranking

synonym : highest, uppermost, peak

(1) **topmost** peak, (2) **topmost** priority

The **topmost** floor of the skyscraper offered a breathtaking view of the city skyline.

adrenaline

n. (also "epinephrine") 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.

yank

v. to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement

synonym: draw, jerk, tug

(1) **yank** out a tooth, (2) **yank** at a rope

He tried to **yank** the memories from his brain.

plume

n. a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat

synonym: feather, honor, token

(1) **plume** of smoke, (2) **plume** of feathers

The bird had a beautiful **plume** on its head.

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.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

attenuate

v. to weaken or reduce the intensity of something, such as a sound, feeling, or substance; to make something thinner or less dense

synonym: weaken, reduce, diminish

(1) **attenuate** the signal, (2) **attenuate** the power

The scientist was able to **attenuate** the virus by altering its genetic code.

crank

n. a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person

synonym : eccentric, oddball, kook

(1) **crank** handle, (2) **crank** caller

The fishing reel had a **crank** that made it easy to reel in the catch.

cummerbund

n. a broad waistband or sash, often pleated, worn with a tuxedo or dinner jacket

synonym : sash, waistband, belt

(1) wearing a **cummerbund**, (2) classic **cummerbund**

To complete the formal look, I must wear a black **cummerbund** with my tuxedo.

dissipate

v. to disperse or scatter widely

synonym : scatter, disperse, evaporate

(1) **dissipate** heat, (2) **dissipate** stress

The fog **dissipated**, and the air cleared up.

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.

gibberish

n. unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing

synonym : nonsense, babble, drivel

(1) **gibberish** language, (2) meaningless **gibberish**

He spoke in **gibberish**, and no one could understand what he was trying to say.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym : poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

orthopedist

n. a medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating injuries and other problems related to the skeletal system and muscles

synonym: bone doctor, musculoskeletal specialist

(1) **orthopedist** specialist, (2) sports **orthopedist**

I need to schedule an appointment with a certified **orthopedist** to examine my knee.

pelvic

adj. of or relating to the pelvis, the lower part of the trunk of the human body, between the hips

(1) **pelvic** pain, (2) **pelvic** exam

The **pelvic** region is an important area of the human anatomy.

horseback

n. the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse

synonym: equestrian, horse riding, mounted

(1) **horseback** trek, (2) **horseback** adventure

We went on a scenic trail ride on **horseback** through the mountains.

postpone

v. to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date

synonym: delay, defer, reschedule

(1) **postpone** meeting, (2) **postpone** event

Due to inclement weather, the game has been **postponed** until next week.

convalescence

n. the process of recovering from an illness or injury, during which the body gradually returns to health and strength

synonym: recovery, recuperation, rehabilitation

(1) post-surgery **convalescence**, (2) prolonged **convalescence**

After her surgery, she had a long **convalescence** period at home to recover.

comet

n. a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

synonym : meteor, asteroid, meteoroid

(1) the surface of the **comet**, (2) **comet** Halley

The **comet's** bright tail could be seen in the night sky.

landslide

n. a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

synonym : avalanche, mudslide, rockfall

(1) **landslide** victory, (2) prevent a **landslide**

The massive **landslide** buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.

marvelous

adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

synonym : wonderful, amazing, superb

(1) **marvelous** performance, (2) **marvelous** power

The view from the top of the mountain was **marvelous**.

introvert

n. a shy and reticent person

synonym : observer, loner, solitary

(1) **introvert** personality, (2) **introvert** behavior

Being an **introvert** is not a weakness, and it's just a different way of interacting with the world.

pierce

v. to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument

synonym : jab, penetrate, stab

(1) **pierce** the armored shells, (2) **pierce** a mystery

The extreme cold **pierced** our bones.

epilogue

n. a concluding section or speech that follows the main body of a literary work or other performance; a postscript that concludes an event or speech

synonym : afterword, conclusion, postscript

(1) **epilogue** scene, (2) write an **epilogue**

The novel's **epilogue** provides a glimpse into the characters' lives after the story's main events.

reschedule

- v. to change the time or date of an event, appointment, or other scheduled activity; to rearrange or adjust a timetable

synonym: postpone, defer

(1) **reschedule** flight, (2) **reschedule** date

I need to **reschedule** my dentist appointment due to a conflicting work meeting.

scavenge

- v. to search for or gather useful material, particularly food or other resources, from discarded waste or other sources

synonym: search, scrounge, rummage

(1) **scavenge** for food, (2) **scavenge** for iron scraps

The raccoon **scavenged** through the garbage cans in search of food.

superpower

- n. a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities

synonym: great power, empire, hegemony

(1) **superpower** country, (2) **superpower** leader

The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a **superpower** in comic books and movies.

confer

- v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

synonym: consult, meet, discuss

(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor

The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. y__k out a tooth | <i>v.</i> | to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement |
| 2. sup_____er leader | <i>n.</i> | a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities |
| 3. a sort of ma___l | <i>n.</i> | any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body |
| 4. ham_____ad crane | <i>n.</i> | a type of hammer with a head that is wider than the handle; a type of shark with a distinctive hammer-shaped head |
| 5. ep_____ue scene | <i>n.</i> | a concluding section or speech that follows the main body of a literary work or other performance; a postscript that concludes an event or speech |
| 6. a primitive ma___l | <i>n.</i> | any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body |
| 7. s__b in the chest | <i>v.</i> | to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife |
| 8. cr__k handle | <i>n.</i> | a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person |

ANSWERS: 1. yank, 2. superpower, 3. mammal, 4. hammerhead, 5. epilogue, 6. mammal, 7. stab, 8. crank

9. street ur___n *n.* a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines
10. 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
11. write an ep____ue *n.* a concluding section or speech that follows the main body of a literary work or other performance; a postscript that concludes an event or speech
12. co___r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
13. po____ne event *v.* to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date
14. pe___c exam *adj.* of or relating to the pelvis, the lower part of the trunk of the human body, between the hips
15. pi___e the armored shells *v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument
16. 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
17. ur___n child *n.* a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines

ANSWERS: 9. urchin, 10. toxin, 11. epilogue, 12. confer, 13. postpone, 14. pelvic, 15. pierce, 16. toxin, 17. urchin

18. ham_____ad structure *n.* a type of hammer with a head that is wider than the handle; a type of shark with a distinctive hammer-shaped head
19. ma__a conservation *n.* a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world
20. sc_____ge for iron scraps *v.* to search for or gather useful material, particularly food or other resources, from discarded waste or other sources
21. meaningless gi_____sh *n.* unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing
22. at_____te the signal *v.* to weaken or reduce the intensity of something, such as a sound, feeling, or substance; to make something thinner or less dense
23. ma_____us power *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
24. ma__a dive *n.* a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world
25. cr__k caller *n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
26. in_____rt personality *n.* a shy and reticent person
27. prevent a la_____de *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

ANSWERS: 18. hammerhead, 19. manta, 20. scavenge, 21. gibberish, 22. attenuate, 23. marvelous, 24. manta, 25. crank, 26. introvert, 27. landslide

28. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
29. res_____le flight *v.* to change the time or date of an event, appointment, or other scheduled activity; to rearrange or adjust a timetable
30. ort_____st specialist *n.* a medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating injuries and other problems related to the skeletal system and muscles
31. ho_____ck adventure *n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
32. 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
33. post-surgery con_____nce *n.* the process of recovering from an illness or injury, during which the body gradually returns to health and strength
34. talented ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
35. adr_____ne addiction *n.* (also "epinephrine") 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
36. gi_____sh language *n.* unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing

ANSWERS: 28. confer, 29. reschedule, 30. orthopedist, 31. horseback, 32. venom, 33. convalescence, 34. physicist, 35. adrenaline, 36. gibberish

37. in_____rt behavior *n.* a shy and reticent person
38. at_____te the power *v.* to weaken or reduce the intensity of something, such as a sound, feeling, or substance; to make something thinner or less dense
39. 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
40. y__k at a rope *v.* to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement
41. classic cum_____nd *n.* a broad waistband or sash, often pleated, worn with a tuxedo or dinner jacket
42. di_____te heat *v.* to disperse or scatter widely
43. adr_____ne receptor *n.* (also "epinephrine") 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
44. co__t Halley *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
45. pe___c pain *adj.* of or relating to the pelvis, the lower part of the trunk of the human body, between the hips
46. pi___e a mystery *v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument

ANSWERS: 37. introvert, 38. attenuate, 39. venom, 40. yank, 41. cummerbund, 42. dissipate, 43. adrenaline, 44. comet, 45. pelvic, 46. pierce

47. sup_____er country *n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
48. 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
49. 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
50. to_____t priority *adj.* situated at or forming the highest or uppermost point; highest or most prominent on a list or ranking
51. the surface of the co__t *n.* a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun
52. pl__e of feathers *n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat
53. la_____de victory *n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope
54. in a ta___e *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
55. sports ort_____st *n.* a medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating injuries and other problems related to the skeletal system and muscles

ANSWERS: 47. superpower, 48. penguin, 49. penguin, 50. topmost, 51. comet, 52. plume, 53. landslide, 54. tangle, 55. orthopedist

56. ho_____ck trek *n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
57. ta___e wires *n.* a confused mass of something twisted together
58. di_____te stress *v.* to disperse or scatter widely
59. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
60. pl___e of smoke *n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat
61. ma_____us performance *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
62. to_____t peak *adj.* situated at or forming the highest or uppermost point; highest or most prominent on a list or ranking
63. sc_____ge for food *v.* to search for or gather useful material, particularly food or other resources, from discarded waste or other sources
64. res_____le date *v.* to change the time or date of an event, appointment, or other scheduled activity; to rearrange or adjust a timetable
65. prolonged con_____nce *n.* the process of recovering from an illness or injury, during which the body gradually returns to health and strength
66. wearing a cum_____nd *n.* a broad waistband or sash, often pleated, worn with a tuxedo or dinner jacket

ANSWERS: 56. horseback, 57. tangle, 58. dissipate, 59. physicist, 60. plume, 61. marvelous, 62. topmost, 63. scavenge, 64. reschedule, 65. convalescence, 66. cummerbund

67. s__b at the enemy with a knife

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

68. po____ne meeting

v. to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date

ANSWERS: 67. stab, 68. postpone

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I need to _____ my dentist appointment due to a conflicting work meeting.
 - v. to change the time or date of an event, appointment, or other scheduled activity; to rearrange or adjust a timetable

2. 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

3. The view from the top of the mountain was _____.
 - adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent

4. The scientist was able to _____ the virus by altering its genetic code.
 - v. to weaken or reduce the intensity of something, such as a sound, feeling, or substance; to make something thinner or less dense

5. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
 - v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something

6. The _____ bright tail could be seen in the night sky.
 - n. a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust that goes around the sun

7. The fog _____ and the air cleared up.
 - v. to disperse or scatter widely

8. The _____ region is an important area of the human anatomy.
 - adj. of or relating to the pelvis, the lower part of the trunk of the human body, between the hips

ANSWERS: 1. reschedule, 2. venom, 3. marvelous, 4. attenuate, 5. confer, 6. comet's, 7. dissipated, 8. pelvic

9. Being an _____ is not a weakness, and it's just a different way of interacting with the world.
- n.* a shy and reticent person
10. The ability to fly like a bird is often considered a _____ in comic books and movies.
- n.* a country or nation that has significant global influence or formidable military, economic, or technological strength; a supernatural ability or force capable of extraordinary feats or feats beyond normal human capabilities
11. 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
12. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
- n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
13. The extreme cold _____ our bones.
- v.* to cut or make a way through with a sharp instrument
14. The novel's _____ provides a glimpse into the characters' lives after the story's main events.
- n.* a concluding section or speech that follows the main body of a literary work or other performance; a postscript that concludes an event or speech
15. The massive _____ buried the small village under a thick layer of rock and dirt.
- n.* a large, sudden movement of a mass of rock, earth, or other material down a slope

ANSWERS: 9. introvert, 10. superpower, 11. toxins, 12. physicist, 13. pierced, 14. epilogue, 15. landslide

16. He tried to _____ the memories from his brain.

v. to pull something or someone forcefully with a sudden movement

17. Due to inclement weather, the game has been _____ until next week.

v. to delay or reschedule something to a later time or date

18. The _____ shark is known for its distinctive T-shaped head and unique swimming style.

n. a type of hammer with a head that is wider than the handle; a type of shark with a distinctive hammer-shaped head

19. The cords behind my computer were a _____ mess.

n. a confused mass of something twisted together

20. The young boy was an _____ wandering the streets without a home.

n. a poor and mischievous young child, usually living on the street or in a disadvantaged community; a small, spiny marine animal with a round body and long, pointed spines

21. To complete the formal look, I must wear a black _____ with my tuxedo.

n. a broad waistband or sash, often pleated, worn with a tuxedo or dinner jacket

22. The marine biologist observed a graceful _____ ray gliding through the ocean.

n. a large, flat-bodied fish related to rays found in warm ocean waters around the world

23. The _____ floor of the skyscraper offered a breathtaking view of the city skyline.

adj. situated at or forming the highest or uppermost point; highest or most prominent on a list or ranking

ANSWERS: 16. yank, 17. postponed, 18. hammerhead, 19. tangled, 20. urchin, 21. cummerbund, 22. manta, 23. topmost

24. I need to schedule an appointment with a certified _____ to examine my knee.
- n.* a medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating injuries and other problems related to the skeletal system and muscles
25. We went on a scenic trail ride on _____ through the mountains.
- n.* the back of a horse; the act of riding on a horse
26. He was _____ many times with scissors.
- v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
27. The raccoon _____ through the garbage cans in search of food.
- v.* to search for or gather useful material, particularly food or other resources, from discarded waste or other sources
28. He spoke in _____ and no one could understand what he was trying to say.
- n.* unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing
29. After her surgery, she had a long _____ period at home to recover.
- n.* the process of recovering from an illness or injury, during which the body gradually returns to health and strength
30. The band has released a lot of _____ rock music.
- n.* (also "epinephrine") 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
31. The bird had a beautiful _____ on its head.
- n.* a large feather or group of feathers worn as an ornament or a symbol of achievement or distinction, especially on a hat

ANSWERS: 24. orthopedist, 25. horseback, 26. stabbed, 27. scavenged, 28. gibberish, 29. convalescence, 30. adrenaline-pumping, 31. plume

32. The fishing reel had a _____ that made it easy to reel in the catch.
- n.* a mechanical device that converts rotary motion into linear motion or vice versa; an eccentric or unpredictable person
33. 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
34. 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

ANSWERS: 32. crank, 33. penguin, 34. mammal