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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Prosanta Chakrabarty: Four billion years of evolution in six minutes | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

dispel

v. to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

synonym: chase away, allay, disperse

(1) **dispel** a painful feeling, (2) **dispel** baseless rumors

This program aims to **dispel** certain misconceptions about the disease.

hardwired

adj. built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics

synonym: innate, ingrained, automatic

(1) **hardwired** behavior, (2) **hardwired** connection

The instinct to protect one's offspring is **hardwired** into many animal species.

placenta

n. a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb

(1) **placenta** blood, (2) fetal **placenta**

The **placenta** produces various hormones that help maintain the pregnancy.

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.

vertebrate

adj. relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

synonym: animal, chordate, backboned

(1) the muscle tissue of a **vertebrate**, (2) **vertebrate** biology

The presence of a backbone is a defining characteristic of **vertebrate** animals.

trait

n. a particular feature of your nature

synonym: attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

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.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation **descendant**

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

amphibian

n. a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water

synonym: frog, toad, salamander

(1) **amphibian** species, (2) **amphibian** habitat

Scientists are concerned about the rapid decline in **amphibian** populations around the world.

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.

portray

v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

synonym : depict, describe, illustrate

(1) **portray** feelings in words, (2) accurately **portray** the condition

We often **portray** political problems as religious issues.

chimpanzee

n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

synonym : ape, chimp, pan troglodytes

(1) **chimpanzee** behavior, (2) **chimpanzee** society

Many zoos have **chimpanzee** exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

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.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym : misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

convoluted

adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

synonym : intricate, complex, bending

(1) **convoluted** plot, (2) **convoluted** legal language

James Joyce's books are full of long, **convoluted** sentences.

corruptible

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

synonym : bribable, dishonest, venal

(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges

Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

archaea

n. a group of single-celled microorganisms distinguished from bacteria by their unique cell wall structure and biochemical characteristics, which are found in extreme environments such as hot springs and salt flats

synonym : microbe, microorganism

(1) **archaea** microorganism, (2) thermophile **archaea**

The study of **archaea** is important for understanding the origins of life on Earth

multicellular

adj. characterized by the presence of multiple or many cells, as opposed to unicellular (having only one cell)

synonym : multicelled, many-celled, complex

(1) **multicellular** tissues, (2) **multicellular** life

Multicellular organisms are composed of many specialized cells working together.

fungus

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym : mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

primate

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

synonym : ape, monkey, lemur

(1) **primate** species, (2) **primate** sanctuary

Many scientists study **primate** behavior and intelligence.

ape

n. a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons

synonym : monkey, primate, simian

(1) jungle **ape**, (2) play the **ape**

The scientist studied the behavior of **apes** in the wild.

hubris

n. excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin

synonym : arrogance, conceit, pride

(1) political **hubris**, (2) **hubris** in business

The athlete's **hubris** resulted in him underestimating his competition and losing the game.

Session 2: Spelling

1. con_____ed plot *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
2. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
3. fossil re_____e *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
4. jungle a_e *n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
5. am_____an species *n.* a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
6. ha_____ed behavior *adj.* built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics
7. ar_____a microorganism *n.* a group of single-celled microorganisms distinguished from bacteria by their unique cell wall structure and biochemical characteristics, which are found in extreme environments such as hot springs and salt flats
8. ver_____te biology *adj.* relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

ANSWERS: 1. convoluted, 2. misunderstand, 3. reptile, 4. ape, 5. amphibian, 6. hardwired, 7. archaea, 8. vertebrate

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 9. ex_____t by human activity | <i>adj.</i> no longer in existence |
| 10. am_____an habitat | <i>n.</i> a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water |
| 11. hu____s in business | <i>n.</i> excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin |
| 12. fu____s infection | <i>n.</i> a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive |
| 13. fetal pl_____ta | <i>n.</i> a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb |
| 14. pr_____e sanctuary | <i>n.</i> any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans |
| 15. 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 |
| 16. po_____y feelings in words | <i>v.</i> to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work |
| 17. chi_____ee society | <i>n.</i> a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur |
| 18. political hu____s | <i>n.</i> excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin |

ANSWERS: 9. extinct, 10. amphibian, 11. hubris, 12. fungus, 13. placenta, 14. primate, 15. mammal, 16. portray, 17. chimpanzee, 18. hubris

19. pl_____ta blood *n.* a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb
20. des_____nt of a pioneer *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
21. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
22. con_____ed legal language *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
23. di___l a painful feeling *v.* to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea
24. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
25. play the a_e *n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
26. di___l baseless rumors *v.* to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea
27. mis_____and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
28. accurately po_____y the condition *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
29. cor_____le officials *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
30. pr_____e species *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

ANSWERS: 19. placenta, 20. descendant, 21. trait, 22. convoluted, 23. dispel, 24. descendant, 25. ape, 26. dispel, 27. misunderstand, 28. portray, 29. corruptible, 30. primate

31. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
32. long-ex____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence
33. mul____lar tissues *adj.* characterized by the presence of multiple or many cells, as opposed to unicellular (having only one cell)
34. chi____ee behavior *n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
35. 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
36. chemical tr__t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
37. mul____lar life *adj.* characterized by the presence of multiple or many cells, as opposed to unicellular (having only one cell)
38. earliest human an____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
39. re____e exhibition *n.* a cold-blooded animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land, such as snakes, lizards, and turtles
40. the muscle tissue of a ver____te *adj.* relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
41. cor____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
42. ha____ed connection *adj.* built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics

ANSWERS: 31. ancestor, 32. extinct, 33. multicellular, 34. chimpanzee, 35. mammal, 36. trait, 37. multicellular, 38. ancestor, 39. reptile, 40. vertebrate, 41. corruptible, 42. hardwired

43. symbiotic fu___s

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

44. thermophile ar____a

n. a group of single-celled microorganisms distinguished from bacteria by their unique cell wall structure and biochemical characteristics, which are found in extreme environments such as hot springs and salt flats

ANSWERS: 43. fungus, 44. archaea

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
2. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
3. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
n. a particular feature of your nature
4. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.
adj. no longer in existence
5. _____ organisms are composed of many specialized cells working together.
adj. characterized by the presence of multiple or many cells, as opposed to unicellular (having only one cell)
6. The scientist studied the behavior of _____ in the wild.
n. a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
7. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.
n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

ANSWERS: 1. ancestor, 2. misunderstand, 3. traits, 4. extinct, 5. Multicellular, 6. apes, 7. fungus

8. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.
adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
9. The _____ produces various hormones that help maintain the pregnancy.
n. a temporary organ that feeds a fetus (= unborn and developing baby) inside its mother's womb
10. 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
11. The instinct to protect one's offspring is _____ into many animal species.
adj. built-in or innate, often referring to behavior or traits that are instinctive or automatic, as if pre-programmed in the brain or genetics
12. Scientists are concerned about the rapid decline in _____ populations around the world.
n. a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
13. The presence of a backbone is a defining characteristic of _____ animals.
adj. relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
14. The athlete's _____ resulted in him underestimating his competition and losing the game.
n. excessive pride, arrogance, or overconfidence, often leading to someone's downfall or ruin
15. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.
n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

ANSWERS: 8. corruptible, 9. placenta, 10. reptile, 11. hardwired, 12. amphibian, 13. vertebrate, 14. hubris, 15. primate

16. The study of _____ is important for understanding the origins of life on Earth
- n.* a group of single-celled microorganisms distinguished from bacteria by their unique cell wall structure and biochemical characteristics, which are found in extreme environments such as hot springs and salt flats
17. We often _____ political problems as religious issues.
- v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
18. Marine _____ populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.
- n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
19. James Joyce's books are full of long, _____ sentences.
- adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
20. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
- n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
21. Many zoos have _____ exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.
- n.* a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur
22. This program aims to _____ certain misconceptions about the disease.
- v.* to remove something, especially a feeling of fear, doubt, and false idea

ANSWERS: 16. archaea, 17. portray, 18. mammal, 19. convoluted, 20. descendants, 21. chimpanzee, 22. dispel