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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Lauren Sallan: How to win at evolution and survive a mass extinction | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

congratulation

n. the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another

synonym : praise, compliment, felicitation

(1) **congratulation** on a promotion, (2) a matter for **congratulation**

The **congratulations** from her friends and family were overwhelming after she won the championship.

culmination

n. the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time

synonym : climax, completion, ending

(1) the **culmination** of her ambition, (2) **culmination** altitude

Their achievements stand as a **culmination** of centuries of development.

asteroid

n. a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter

synonym : minor planet, planetoid, rocky planetesimal

(1) **asteroid** mining, (2) **asteroid** explorer

Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the **asteroid** belt to understand the early solar system better.

predate

v. to have existed or happened earlier than something
synonym: foredate, antedate, precede

(1) **predate** A.D. 200., (2) **predate** the modern age

The idea of virtual worlds **predates** computers.

starvation

n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death

synonym: hunger, malnutrition, emaciation

(1) die of **starvation**, (2) **starvation** wages

The drought led to widespread **starvation** in the region.

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.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

paleontology

n. the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth

synonym: fossilology, prehistoric biology

(1) vertebrate **paleontology**, (2) **paleontology** museum

My interest in **paleontology** research began when I visited a natural history museum and saw a display of fossils from the Jurassic period.

trawl

v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information

synonym: fish, dredge, drag

(1) **trawl** the Internet for free music, (2) **trawl** for fish

The fisherman used a net to **trawl** the bottom of the river for his catch.

rev *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

pivotal *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something

synonym : crucial, essential, important

(1) **pivotal** moment, (2) **pivotal** role

The CEO's decision was **pivotal** in the success of the company's expansion plans.

dinosaur *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

synonym : reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

armored *adj.* protected by armor or reinforced with metal plates or other heavy materials

synonym : fortified, protected, shielded

(1) **armored** vehicle, (2) **armored** suit

The **armored** tank could withstand the enemy's attacks without any damage.

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.

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.

scuttle

v. to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side

synonym: scamper, scurry, flee

(1) **scuttle** out of a room, (2) **scuttle** the treaty

The mice **scuttled** across the kitchen floor in search of food.

cower

v. to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally

synonym: crouch, tremble, cringe

(1) **cower** in fear, (2) **cower** under pressure

The actress **cowered** in humiliation as the audience booed her performance.

tetrapod

n. a vertebrate animal with four feet or leg-like appendages, especially a member of the group that includes amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; a specific type of coastal defense structure which has large, four-legged concrete or rock structures commonly used in coastal engineering to protect shorelines from erosion and the impact of waves

synonym: quadruped, four-legged animal, amphibian

(1) amphibious **tetrapod**, (2) aquatic **tetrapod**

Dinosaurs were ancient **tetrapods** that ruled the Earth millions of years ago.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

meek

adj. showing humility, gentleness, or submissiveness; lacking in assertiveness or aggressiveness; often used about someone who is excessively passive or deferential

synonym : humble, modest, mild

(1) **meek** personality, (2) **meek** acceptance

The **meek** employee was often overlooked for promotions despite his hard work.

inherit

v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

synonym : obtain, gain, acquire

(1) **inherit** estate, (2) **inherit** ancestral property

After his death, his sons **inherited** his business.

outnumber

v. to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number

synonym : surpass, exceed

(1) **outnumber** our opponents, (2) **outnumber** males

The number of tourists in the city now **outnumbers** the locals.

devastate

v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

synonym : demolish, destroy, crush

(1) **devastate** an area, (2) **devastate** the economy

Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which **devastate** coastal areas.

overlord

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

synonym : master, tyrant, autocrat

(1) evil **overlord**, (2) colonial **overlord**

In the feudal system, the **overlord** owned most of the wealth.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym : bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

proliferate

v. to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner

synonym : multiply, spread, propagate

(1) **proliferate** cells, (2) **proliferate** weeds

The number of COVID cases continued to **proliferate** in many countries worldwide.

Session 2: Spelling

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. in_____te the quality of his life | <i>v.</i> to introduce new methods, ideas, or products |
| 2. as_____id explorer | <i>n.</i> a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter |
| 3. pro_____te cells | <i>v.</i> to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner |
| 4. vertebrate pal_____ogy | <i>n.</i> the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth |
| 5. pr_____e A.D. 200. | <i>v.</i> to have existed or happened earlier than something |
| 6. ar_____d vehicle | <i>adj.</i> protected by armor or reinforced with metal plates or other heavy materials |
| 7. as_____id mining | <i>n.</i> a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter |
| 8. apex pr_____or | <i>n.</i> an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others |
| 9. con_____ion on a promotion | <i>n.</i> the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another |
| 10. pal_____ogy museum | <i>n.</i> the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth |
| 11. de_____te an area | <i>v.</i> to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage |

ANSWERS: 1. innovate, 2. asteroid, 3. proliferate, 4. paleontology, 5. predate, 6. armored, 7. asteroid, 8. predator, 9. congratulation, 10. paleontology, 11. devastate

12. in____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
13. hulking di____ur *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
14. pro____te weeds *v.* to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner
15. m__k acceptance *adj.* showing humility, gentleness, or submissiveness; lacking in assertiveness or aggressiveness; often used about someone who is excessively passive or deferential
16. di____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
17. cul____on altitude *n.* the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
18. ra__r blade *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
19. m__k personality *adj.* showing humility, gentleness, or submissiveness; lacking in assertiveness or aggressiveness; often used about someone who is excessively passive or deferential
20. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 12. innovate, 13. dinosaur, 14. proliferate, 15. meek, 16. disrupt, 17. culmination, 18. razor, 19. meek, 20. rev

21. the cul_____on of her ambition *n.* the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
22. in_____t ancestral property *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
23. co__r under pressure *v.* to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally
24. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
25. die of sta_____on *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
26. a matter for con_____ion *n.* the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
27. evil ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
28. de_____te the economy *v.* to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage
29. ou_____er males *v.* to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number
30. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 21. culmination, 22. inherit, 23. cower, 24. ancestor, 25. starvation, 26. congratulation, 27. overlord, 28. devastate, 29. outnumber, 30. disrupt

31. tr__l for fish
v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
32. op_____ne occasion
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
33. pi_____l moment
adj. relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
34. ar_____d suit
adj. protected by armor or reinforced with metal plates or other heavy materials
35. sc_____e out of a room
v. to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side
36. sexual pr_____ors
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
37. colonial ov_____rd
n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
38. r_v up the crowd
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 31. trawl, 32. opportune, 33. pivotal, 34. armored, 35. scuttle, 36. predator, 37. overlord, 38. rev

39. pi____l role *adj.* relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
40. aquatic te____od *n.* a vertebrate animal with four feet or leg-like appendages, especially a member of the group that includes amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; a specific type of coastal defense structure which has large, four-legged concrete or rock structures commonly used in coastal engineering to protect shorelines from erosion and the impact of waves
41. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
42. an____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
43. amphibious te____od *n.* a vertebrate animal with four feet or leg-like appendages, especially a member of the group that includes amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; a specific type of coastal defense structure which has large, four-legged concrete or rock structures commonly used in coastal engineering to protect shorelines from erosion and the impact of waves
44. co__r in fear *v.* to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally

ANSWERS: 39. pivotal, 40. tetrapod, 41. opportune, 42. ancestor, 43. tetrapod, 44. cower

45. di_____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
46. tr__l the Internet for free music *v.* to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
47. ou_____er our opponents *v.* to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number
48. pr_____e the modern age *v.* to have existed or happened earlier than something
49. an electric ra__r *n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair
50. sc_____e the treaty *v.* to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project; (noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side
51. sta_____on wages *n.* a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
52. in_____t estate *v.* to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died

ANSWERS: 45. dinosaur, 46. trawl, 47. outnumber, 48. predate, 49. razor, 50. scuttle, 51. starvation, 52. inherit

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. The mice _____ across the kitchen floor in search of food.
v. to run or move quickly with short, hurried steps; to deliberately sink a ship by creating holes or damage in its hull; to abandon or destroy a plan or project;
(noun) a metal container with a handle and a lid, typically used for carrying coal or other materials; a small hatch or opening in a ship's deck or side
3. The _____ from her friends and family were overwhelming after she won the championship.
n. the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
4. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
5. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
6. Dinosaurs were ancient _____ that ruled the Earth millions of years ago.
n. a vertebrate animal with four feet or leg-like appendages, especially a member of the group that includes amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; a specific type of coastal defense structure which has large, four-legged concrete or rock structures commonly used in coastal engineering to protect shorelines from erosion and the impact of waves

ANSWERS: 1. ancestor, 2. scuttled, 3. congratulations, 4. rev, 5. opportune, 6. tetrapods

7. In the feudal system, the _____ owned most of the wealth.
n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
8. Scientists are studying the composition and origins of the _____ belt to understand the early solar system better.
n. a small rocky body orbiting the sun, typically in the region between Mars and Jupiter
9. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
10. The CEO's decision was _____ in the success of the company's expansion plans.
adj. relating to or acting as a pivot or central point; crucial or essential to the success or outcome of something
11. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
12. After his death, his sons _____ his business.
v. to receive money, property, or a title from someone after they have died
13. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
14. Earthquakes can also trigger tsunamis, which _____ coastal areas.
v. to wreck a place or an area or cause significant damage

ANSWERS: 7. overlord, 8. asteroid, 9. predator's, 10. pivotal, 11. disrupt, 12. inherited, 13. innovate, 14. devastate

15. My interest in _____ research began when I visited a natural history museum and saw a display of fossils from the Jurassic period.
n. the study of fossils and the history of life on Earth
16. The actress _____ in humiliation as the audience booed her performance.
v. to crouch or curl up in fear or apprehension; to shrink or recoil from something threatening, usually physically or mentally
17. The fisherman used a net to _____ the bottom of the river for his catch.
v. to fish by dragging a net, often along the bottom of the ocean or river; to search or examine something thoroughly, often looking for a specific item or information
18. The idea of virtual worlds _____ computers.
v. to have existed or happened earlier than something
19. The _____ employee was often overlooked for promotions despite his hard work.
adj. showing humility, gentleness, or submissiveness; lacking in assertiveness or aggressiveness; often used about someone who is excessively passive or deferential
20. The _____ tank could withstand the enemy's attacks without any damage.
adj. protected by armor or reinforced with metal plates or other heavy materials
21. The drought led to widespread _____ in the region.
n. a severe lack of food that leads to malnutrition and, ultimately, death
22. The number of tourists in the city now _____ the locals.
v. to be more numerous or greater in number than another group or entity; to exceed in quantity or number

ANSWERS: 15. paleontology, 16. cowered, 17. trawl, 18. predates, 19. meek, 20. armored, 21. starvation, 22. outnumber

23. The discovery of a new _____ species made headlines in the scientific community.
- n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
24. The number of COVID cases continued to _____ in many countries worldwide.
- v.* to grow or increase rapidly in number; to reproduce or spread rapidly, especially in an uncontrolled manner
25. Their achievements stand as a _____ of centuries of development.
- n.* the peak highest point or climax of something, especially happening after a long time
26. He shaved with a _____ to get a close shave.
- n.* a sharp blade used for shaving or cutting hair

ANSWERS: 23. dinosaur, 24. proliferate, 25. culmination, 26. razor