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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Kristen Marhaver: Why I still have hope for coral reefs

| TED Talk

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

ill_have_hope_for_coral_reefs

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

smashing

adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed

synonym: great, wonderful, breaking

(1) a **smashing** blow, (2) give **smashing** results

The band's new album was a **smashing** success, reaching the top of the charts.

overgrown

adj. covered in plants that have been allowed to grow naturally and have not been controlled

synonym: leafy, lush, verdant

(1) an **overgrown** garden, (2) **overgrown** child

The wooden gate had been damaged, and the hedge had become **overgrown**.

algae

n. A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots

(1) **algae** biofuel, (2) blue **algae**

Algae has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.

weep

v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain

synonym: cry, sob, mourn

(1) **weep** bitter tears, (2) **weep** for joy

I'm easily moved to tears, so I would **weep** in sympathy if I saw that movie.

spit

v. to eject saliva or other liquid from the mouth
synonym: expectorate, saliva, spew

(1) **spit** a bullet, (2) **spit** a mouthful of saliva
She tried to **spit** out the gum that she had been chewing.

bleach

v. to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as bleach
synonym: whiten, lighten, blanch

(1) **bleach** stains, (2) **bleach** hair
I need to **bleach** this shirt to remove the stains.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death
If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
synonym: perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age
Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

seafloor

n. the bottom of the ocean
synonym: ocean floor, benthic zone, abyssal plain

(1) **seafloor** exploration, (2) **seafloor** mapping
The oceanographer studied the **seafloor** topography to understand how it had changed over time.

ratchet

n. a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

synonym : gear, wrench, spanner

(1) **ratchet** wrench, (2) **ratchet** effect

He turned the bolt with the **ratchet**, making sure it was secure.

sketchy

adj. lacking in detail or completeness; vague, uncertain, or unreliable; suspicious or questionable

synonym : suspicious, dubious, questionable

(1) **sketchy** sources, (2) **sketchy** behavior

The neighborhood had a **sketchy** reputation due to its high crime rate.

ragged

adj. (of clothing) frayed or not in good condition; tattered

synonym : tattered, frayed, worn

(1) **ragged** edge, (2) **ragged** clothing

The old flag was **ragged** and torn.

shoreline

n. a line that separates land and sea

(1) **shoreline** erosion, (2) coral-reef **shoreline**

Flooding occurs along the city's **shoreline** due to the storm surge.

boulder

n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

synonym : rock, stone, clump

(1) **boulder** field, (2) lava **boulder**

The hikers had to climb over a **boulder** that was blocking their path.

polyp

n. (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract

synonym : polypus, hydra, anemone

(1) the **polyp** on the hydra's tentacle, (2) gastric **polyp**

The coral reef was home to various **polyps** and other sea creatures.

reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym: recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

regrow

v. to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation

synonym: regenerate

(1) **regrow** hair, (2) **regrow** vegetation

Lizards can **regrow** their tails if they are cut off.

overfishing

n. the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem

synonym: overharvesting, over-exploitation, depletion

(1) **overfishing** crisis, (2) **overfishing** ban

The ocean's ecosystem is being threatened by **overfishing**, causing many species to become endangered.

sew

v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle

synonym: stitch, darn, tailor

(1) **sew** with thread, (2) **sew** a button

My mother taught me how to **sew**.

dredge

v. to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process

synonym: dig, scoop, unearth

(1) **dredge** up memories, (2) **dredge** a river

The environmental group demanded that the government stop the plans to **dredge** the wetlands for oil drilling.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym: brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

pessimistic

adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome

synonym: cynical, defeatist, despairing

(1) take a **pessimistic** view of life, (2) **pessimistic** for our survival

She was unduly **pessimistic** about her future.

mourn

v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone

synonym: grieve, lament, weep

(1) **mourn** with deep grief, (2) **mourn** death

We **mourned** the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. re____m a competitive position *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
2. the po__p on the hydra's tentacle *n.* (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract
3. sk____y sources *adj.* lacking in detail or completeness; vague, uncertain, or unreliable; suspicious or questionable
4. st_____ze blood sugar levels *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
5. al__e biofuel *n.* A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
6. mo__n with deep grief *v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
7. gastric po__p *n.* (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract

ANSWERS: 1. reclaim, 2. polyp, 3. sketchy, 4. stabilize, 5. algae, 6. mourn, 7. polyp

8. se____or mapping *n.* the bottom of the ocean
9. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
10. s__t a mouthful of saliva *v.* to eject saliva or other liquid from the mouth
11. ra_____t wrench *n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement
12. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
13. lava bo_____r *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
14. se____or exploration *n.* the bottom of the ocean
15. a sm_____ng blow *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
16. an ov_____wn garden *adj.* covered in plants that have been allowed to grow naturally and have not been controlled
17. take a pes_____ic view of life *adj.* tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
18. st_____ze prices *v.* to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
19. sh_____ne erosion *n.* a line that separates land and sea

ANSWERS: 8. seafloor, 9. rot, 10. spit, 11. ratchet, 12. rot, 13. boulder, 14. seafloor, 15. smashing, 16. overgrown, 17. pessimistic, 18. stabilize, 19. shoreline

31. give sm_____ng results *adj.* very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
32. coral-reef sh_____ne *n.* a line that separates land and sea
33. di_____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
34. ov_____wn child *adj.* covered in plants that have been allowed to grow naturally and have not been controlled
35. sk_____y behavior *adj.* lacking in detail or completeness; vague, uncertain, or unreliable; suspicious or questionable
36. mo__n death *v.* to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
37. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
38. dr___e up memories *v.* to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process
39. ra_____t effect *n.* a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement

ANSWERS: 31. smashing, 32. shoreline, 33. dinosaur, 34. overgrown, 35. sketchy, 36. mourn, 37. starve, 38. dredge, 39. ratchet

40. s_w with thread *v.* to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
41. ove_____ng crisis *n.* the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem
42. w__p bitter tears *v.* to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
43. ra___d clothing *adj.* (of clothing) frayed or not in good condition; tattered
44. re___w vegetation *v.* to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation
45. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
46. bl___h hair *v.* to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as bleach
47. re___w hair *v.* to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation
48. dr___e a river *v.* to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process

ANSWERS: 40. sew, 41. overfishing, 42. weep, 43. ragged, 44. regrow, 45. starve, 46. bleach, 47. regrow, 48. dredge

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will _____.
v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
2. _____ has jammed the inlet to the water turbine.
n. A simple plant that grows in or near water and lacks typical leaves and roots
3. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.
v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
4. The ocean's ecosystem is being threatened by _____ causing many species to become endangered.
n. the removal of too many fish from a body of water, causing a decline in population levels and harm to the ecosystem
5. The neighborhood had a _____ reputation due to its high crime rate.
adj. lacking in detail or completeness; vague, uncertain, or unreliable; suspicious or questionable
6. We _____ the loss of our dear friend at the memorial service.
v. to feel or express sorrow, grief, or sadness, especially over the death of someone
7. I need to _____ this shirt to remove the stains.
v. to remove color or stains, whiten, or sterilize using a solution of chemicals or other substances, such as bleach
8. 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

ANSWERS: 1. rot, 2. Algae, 3. stabilizes, 4. overfishing, 5. sketchy, 6. mourned, 7. bleach, 8. dinosaur

9. The wooden gate had been damaged, and the hedge had become _____.
adj. covered in plants that have been allowed to grow naturally and have not been controlled
10. The hikers had to climb over a _____ that was blocking their path.
n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
11. She was unduly _____ about her future.
adj. tending to see the worst aspect of things or expecting the worst possible outcome
12. My mother taught me how to _____.
v. to join, fasten, or repair two pieces of something by putting the thread through them with a needle
13. Lizards can _____ their tails if they are cut off.
v. to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation
14. Flooding occurs along the city's _____ due to the storm surge.
n. a line that separates land and sea
15. The environmental group demanded that the government stop the plans to _____ the wetlands for oil drilling.
v. to remove debris or objects from a body of water or other areas by scooping or dragging, often using special equipment called a dredge; to bring something to the surface by this process
16. The coral reef was home to various _____ and other sea creatures.
n. (of zoology) a small, typically sessile, marine animal with a hollow, cylindrical body and tentacles surrounding a central mouth, often found in colonies and sometimes forming coral reefs; (of gastroenterology) an abnormal tissue growth that can occur in the colon, rectum, or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract

ANSWERS: 9. overgrown, 10. boulder, 11. pessimistic, 12. sew, 13. regrow, 14.

shoreline, 15. dredge, 16. polyps

17. I'm easily moved to tears, so I would _____ in sympathy if I saw that movie.
v. to cry tears because of sadness, rage, or pain
18. The band's new album was a _____ success, reaching the top of the charts.
adj. very successful or impressive; causing something to be broken or destroyed
19. You may be entitled to _____ some tax.
v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
20. He turned the bolt with the _____ making sure it was secure.
n. a mechanical device with a toothed wheel that can rotate in only one direction used to transmit or control motion or to prevent backward movement
21. The old flag was _____ and torn.
adj. (of clothing) frayed or not in good condition; tattered
22. She tried to _____ out the gum that she had been chewing.
v. to eject saliva or other liquid from the mouth
23. The oceanographer studied the _____ topography to understand how it had changed over time.
n. the bottom of the ocean
24. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.
v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

ANSWERS: 17. weep, 18. smashing, 19. reclaim, 20. ratchet, 21. ragged, 22. spit, 23. seafloor, 24. starve