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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Robyn J. Crook: How do animals experience pain? |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

prick

v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

synonym : poke, jab, sting

(1) **prick** a balloon, (2) **prick** up her ears

He accidentally **pricked** his finger with the needle.

sear

v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time

synonym : scorch, cook, burn

(1) **sear** tissue using a hot iron, (2) **sear** the memory into your mind

Be careful not to **sear** the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.

throb

v. to beat with a strong, regular rhythm, as a pulse or a heart

synonym: pulse, beat, pound

(1) **throb** at the thought of the accident, (2) **throb** with excitement

The wound continued to **throb** with pain, despite the medication.

ache

v. to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain

synonym: hurt, throb, smart

(1) **ache** abominably, (2) **ache** all the time

I **ache** all over after running a marathon yesterday.

enrich

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

synonym: enhance, improve, augment

(1) **enrich** a gas with a balloon, (2) **enrich** public services

Reading not only increases knowledge but also **enriches** life.

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.

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.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
synonym : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

nociceptor

n. a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain

(1) thermal **nociceptor**, (2) **nociceptor** fiber

The **nociceptors** in the skin are activated by heat, cold, and pressure.

recluse

n. a person who lives in solitude and isolation
synonym : hermit, solitary, loner

(1) live as a **recluse**, (2) solitary **recluse**

After years in the limelight, the actor decided to retreat from the public eye and become a **recluse**.

needless

adj. describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences

synonym : unnecessary, pointless, superfluous

(1) **needless** argument, (2) **needless** waste

This **needless** paperwork is wasting our time and resources.

invertebrate

n. a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks

synonym : animal, mollusk, worm

(1) **invertebrate** species, (2) study of **invertebrates**

Many species of marine **invertebrates**, such as corals and sponges, are important components of ocean ecosystems.

oyster

n. a bivalve mollusk with a rough irregular shell, often eaten raw or cooked, and sometimes used as a pearl-producing animal or a source of mother-of-pearl

synonym : shellfish, clam, mussel

(1) **oyster** shell, (2) **oyster** farm

I ordered a dozen **oysters** as an appetizer at the seafood restaurant.

jellyfish

n. a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging

synonym : medusa, sea nettle, moon jelly

(1) spineless **jellyfish**, (2) **jellyfish** sting

The beach was filled with hundreds of **jellyfish**, so swimming was not recommended.

recoil

v. to spring or flinch back, as in surprise, fear, or pain

synonym : flinch, shy, shrink

(1) **recoil** in horror, (2) **recoil** from a snake

The gun **recoiled** with a loud bang.

octopus

n. a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)

synonym : devilfish

(1) giant **octopus**, (2) venomous **octopus**

He experienced nausea after eating live **octopus**.

crayfish

n. a freshwater crustacean resembling a small lobster typically found in streams, rivers, and lakes and often used as a popular food source

synonym : crawfish, crawdad, freshwater lobster

(1) freshwater **crayfish**, (2) cooked **crayfish**

The seafood restaurant is known for its delicious **crayfish** dish.

hermit

n. a person who lives alone or in seclusion from society, typically for religious or spiritual reasons; a person who avoids social interactions or seeks solitude

synonym : recluse, solitary, anchorite

(1) **hermit** lifestyle, (2) mountain **hermit**

The **hermit-monk** spent his entire life in solitary contemplation, far from the world's hustle.

undesirable

adj. not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance

synonym: objectionable, distasteful, unwanted

(1) **undesirable** outcome, (2) **undesirable** behavior

The smell of the garbage was very **undesirable**.

zap

v. to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force

synonym: destroy, kill, exterminate

(1) **zap** a huge target, (2) **zap** bar code

They provided allies with powerful weapons that could **zap** the enemy from thousands of miles away.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

reflex

n. an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli

synonym: reaction, response, instinct

(1) **reflex** test, (2) knee **reflex**

My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the **reflex** hammer.

slug

n. a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink

(1) lazy **slug**, (2) reduce **slug** damage

I spotted a giant **slug** in the rain garden.

flinch

v. to make a quick, nervous movement in response to pain, fear, or surprise; to draw back or wince involuntarily

synonym: shudder, recoil, wince

(1) **flinch** at the noise, (2) **flinch** from the truth

I couldn't help but **flinch** when the door slammed shut.

noxious

adj. harmful or poisonous to living beings; having an unpleasant or offensive smell or taste; causing intense or unpleasant emotions or feelings

synonym: harmful, toxic, poisonous

(1) **noxious** gas, (2) **noxious** substances

The **noxious** fumes from the factory were causing health problems for nearby residents.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. re___l from a snake | <i>v.</i> to spring or flinch back, as in surprise, fear, or pain |
| 2. giant oc____s | <i>n.</i> a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms) |
| 3. noc_____or fiber | <i>n.</i> a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain |
| 4. pr__k up her ears | <i>v.</i> to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication |
| 5. lazy s__g | <i>n.</i> a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink |
| 6. sn__l mail | <i>n.</i> a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body |
| 7. th__b at the thought of the accident | <i>v.</i> to beat with a strong, regular rhythm, as a pulse or a heart |
| 8. excite the ne____ns | <i>n.</i> a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body |

ANSWERS: 1. recoil, 2. octopus, 3. nociceptor, 4. prick, 5. slug, 6. snail, 7. throb, 8. neuron

9. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
10. hu____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
11. je_____sh sting *n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
12. a__e all the time *v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain
13. freshwater cr____sh *n.* a freshwater crustacean resembling a small lobster typically found in streams, rivers, and lakes and often used as a popular food source
14. thermal noc_____or *n.* a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain
15. ne___n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
16. cooked cr____sh *n.* a freshwater crustacean resembling a small lobster typically found in streams, rivers, and lakes and often used as a popular food source
17. z_p bar code *v.* to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force

ANSWERS: 9. humming, 10. humming, 11. jellyfish, 12. ache, 13. crayfish, 14. nociceptor, 15. neuron, 16. crayfish, 17. zap

18. s__r tissue using a hot iron *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
19. re___l in horror *v.* to spring or flinch back, as in surprise, fear, or pain
20. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
21. no_____s gas *adj.* harmful or poisonous to living beings; having an unpleasant or offensive smell or taste; causing intense or unpleasant emotions or feelings
22. study of inv_____ates *n.* a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
23. inv_____ate species *n.* a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
24. oy___r farm *n.* a bivalve mollusk with a rough irregular shell, often eaten raw or cooked, and sometimes used as a pearl-producing animal or a source of mother-of-pearl
25. no_____s substances *adj.* harmful or poisonous to living beings; having an unpleasant or offensive smell or taste; causing intense or unpleasant emotions or feelings
26. und_____le behavior *adj.* not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance

ANSWERS: 18. sear, 19. recoil, 20. electrify, 21. noxious, 22. invertebrate, 23. invertebrate, 24. oyster, 25. noxious, 26. undesirable

27. mountain he___t *n.* a person who lives alone or in seclusion from society, typically for religious or spiritual reasons; a person who avoids social interactions or seeks solitude
28. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
29. re___x test *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
30. en___h a gas with a balloon *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
31. ne_____ss argument *adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
32. venomous oc_____s *n.* a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
33. und_____le outcome *adj.* not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance
34. th__b with excitement *v.* to beat with a strong, regular rhythm, as a pulse or a heart
35. 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

ANSWERS: 27. hermit, 28. electrify, 29. reflex, 30. enrich, 31. needless, 32. octopus, 33. undesirable, 34. throb, 35. vertebrate

36. a__e abominably *v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain
37. sn__l pace *n.* a slow-moving mollusk with a spiral shell that it uses to protect its body
38. z_p a huge target *v.* to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force
39. fl___h from the truth *v.* to make a quick, nervous movement in response to pain, fear, or surprise; to draw back or wince involuntarily
40. pr__k a balloon *v.* to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication
41. he___t lifestyle *n.* a person who lives alone or in seclusion from society, typically for religious or spiritual reasons; a person who avoids social interactions or seeks solitude
42. s__r the memory into your mind *v.* to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time
43. solitary re_____e *n.* a person who lives in solitude and isolation
44. oy___r shell *n.* a bivalve mollusk with a rough irregular shell, often eaten raw or cooked, and sometimes used as a pearl-producing animal or a source of mother-of-pearl

ANSWERS: 36. ache, 37. snail, 38. zap, 39. flinch, 40. prick, 41. hermit, 42. sear, 43. recluse, 44. oyster

45. knee re___x *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
46. ne_____ss waste *adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
47. en___h public services *v.* to make better or improve in quality by adding something else
48. ver_____te biology *adj.* relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
49. fl___h at the noise *v.* to make a quick, nervous movement in response to pain, fear, or surprise; to draw back or wince involuntarily
50. reduce s___g damage *n.* a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink
51. spineless je_____sh *n.* a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging
52. live as a re_____e *n.* a person who lives in solitude and isolation

ANSWERS: 45. reflex, 46. needless, 47. enrich, 48. vertebrate, 49. flinch, 50. slug, 51. jellyfish, 52. recluse

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He accidentally _____ his finger with the needle.
 - v. to make a small hole or puncture or to cause a slight, sharp pain; to stimulate or provoke a reaction or response; to use needles to administer a vaccine or medication

2. The beach was filled with hundreds of _____ so swimming was not recommended.
 - n. a marine creature with a soft, jelly-like body and tentacles for stinging

3. The _____ spent his entire life in solitary contemplation, far from the world's hustle.
 - n. a person who lives alone or in seclusion from society, typically for religious or spiritual reasons; a person who avoids social interactions or seeks solitude

4. The gun _____ with a loud bang.
 - v. to spring or flinch back, as in surprise, fear, or pain

5. Be careful not to _____ the meat too long, as it can become tough and chewy.
 - v. to char, scorch, or burn the surface of something with intense heat; (of pain or experience) to be deeply felt or remembered over a long time

6. The wound continued to _____ with pain, despite the medication.
 - v. to beat with a strong, regular rhythm, as a pulse or a heart

7. The _____ fumes from the factory were causing health problems for nearby residents.
 - adj. harmful or poisonous to living beings; having an unpleasant or offensive smell or taste; causing intense or unpleasant emotions or feelings

ANSWERS: 1. pricked, 2. jellyfish, 3. hermit-monk, 4. recoiled, 5. sear, 6. throb, 7. noxious

8. I _____ all over after running a marathon yesterday.
- v.* to experience a dull, persistent pain or discomfort, typically of moderate or low intensity; to feel a continuous dull pain
9. This _____ paperwork is wasting our time and resources.
- adj.* describing something unnecessary, pointless, or superfluous and could be avoided without any harm or adverse consequences
10. The seafood restaurant is known for its delicious _____ dish.
- n.* a freshwater crustacean resembling a small lobster typically found in streams, rivers, and lakes and often used as a popular food source
11. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
12. The smell of the garbage was very _____.
- adj.* not wanted or looked upon favorably; unwanted or unpleasant in nature, character, or appearance
13. He experienced nausea after eating live _____.
- n.* a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
14. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
- n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
15. I spotted a giant _____ in the rain garden.
- n.* a common name for any terrestrial gastropod mollusk that appears to lack a shell with soft and black or brown color; a bullet, a shot of alcoholic drink

ANSWERS: 8. ache, 9. needless, 10. crayfish, 11. electrify, 12. undesirable, 13. octopus, 14. neuron, 15. slug

16. Many species of marine _____ such as corals and sponges, are important components of ocean ecosystems.
- n.* a class of animals that do not have a backbone; they include insects, worms, and mollusks
17. I ordered a dozen _____ as an appetizer at the seafood restaurant.
- n.* a bivalve mollusk with a rough irregular shell, often eaten raw or cooked, and sometimes used as a pearl-producing animal or a source of mother-of-pearl
18. I couldn't help but _____ when the door slammed shut.
- v.* to make a quick, nervous movement in response to pain, fear, or surprise; to draw back or wince involuntarily
19. The _____ in the skin are activated by heat, cold, and pressure.
- n.* a sensory nerve ending that is capable of detecting harmful stimuli, such as heat, cold, pressure, or tissue damage, and transmitting this information to the brain
20. My leg kicked involuntarily when the doctor tapped my knee with the _____ hammer.
- n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
21. 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
22. 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

ANSWERS: 16. invertebrates, 17. oysters, 18. flinch, 19. nociceptors, 20. reflex, 21. vertebrate, 22. snail

23. They provided allies with powerful weapons that could ____ the enemy from thousands of miles away.

v. to strike, destroy, get rid of, or kill something or someone suddenly and with force

24. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

25. After years in the limelight, the actor decided to retreat from the public eye and become a _____.

n. a person who lives in solitude and isolation

26. Reading not only increases knowledge but also _____ life.

v. to make better or improve in quality by adding something else

ANSWERS: 23. zap, 24. humming, 25. recluse, 26. enriches