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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Prosanta Chakrabarty: Clues to prehistoric times, found in blind cavefish | TED Talk https://www.ted.com/talks/prosanta_chakrabarty_clues_to_prehistoric_times_found_in_blind_cavefish



All Words

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Session 1: Word List

ichthyology

n. the scientific study of fish, including their behavior, classification, anatomy, and ecology

synonym: fish science, fish biology

(1) expert in ichthyology, (2) ichthyology research

The university's marine biology department offers specialized courses in **ichthyology** for advanced students.

boring

adj. lacking interest or excitement; tedious or dull

synonym: dull, tedious, monotonous

(1) **boring** work, (2) **boring** day

The lecture was so **boring** that many people fell asleep.

exciting

adj. causing a lot of interest or excitement

synonym: exhilarating, stimulating, thrilling

(1) **exciting** football player, (2) **exciting** news

The findings of the experiment were both **exciting** and unexpected.

discovery

 n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known

synonym: finding, uncovering, detection

(1) a scientific discovery, (2) the great discovery of the

century

Her research team made an important discovery.

cave

n. a large hole in the side of a hill, cliff, mountain, or under the ground

synonym: cavern, grotto, burrow

(1) domiciliary **caves**, (2) the mouth of the **cave**Bats reside in sheltered **caves**.

biology

- the scientific study of life and the natural processes of living things
- (1) evolutionary **biology**, (2) cell and molecular **biology** In junior high school, we had to dissect a frog in **biology** class.

geology

 a science that deals with the history of the earth as recorded in rocks

synonym: earth science

(1) bureau of **geology**, (2) local **geology**He was a visiting **geology** professor at the University of Tokyo.

landmass

- a large area of land, especially one that is distinct from surrounding areas by its topography, geology, or biota
 synonym: continent, mainland, landform
- (1) large **landmass**, (2) continental **landmass**Australia is the world's smallest continent by **landmass**.

stick

to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

synonym: pierce, adhere, stay

(1) stick a key in a lock, (2) fire stick

You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

evolution

- n. a gradual process of transformation of living things
- *synonym*: elaboration, expansion, transition
- (1) human **evolution**, (2) **evolution** theory

They study the **evolution** of the universe.

sight

- n. the ability to see; anything that is seen
- synonym: vision, spectacle, view
- (1) an unexpected sight, (2) dull sight

Many famous **sights** are within walking distance.

blind

- adj. unable to see; unable or unwilling to perceive or understand the true nature of something
- synonym: sightless, unseeing, random
- (1) **blind** to the beauties, (2) **blind** spot

She was nearly **blind** due to severe diabetes.

essentially

- adv. relating to the essential features or concepts of anything
- synonym: fundamentally, basically, virtually
- (1) **essentially** correct, (2) become **essentially** same

Essentially, a society is an organism.

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.

adapt

- to make fit for or change to suit a new purpose or environment
- synonym: adjust, acclimate, accustom
- (1) **adapt** fully to the environment, (2) **adapt** as needed I advised him to **adapt** to his new surroundings.

environment

 the natural world such as air, water, and land in which humans, animals, and plants live synonym: atmosphere, surroundings, climate

environment affairs, (2) chaotic environment
 Every human is responsible for taking care of the Earth's

environment.

eyesight

n. the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness

synonym: vision, sight, eyes

(1) impaired eyesight, (2) acute eyesight

His excellent **eyesight** allowed him to spot the bird in the

dense foliage.

evolve

v. to develop gradually, or to cause the development of something or someone gradually

synonym: develop, mature, grow

(1) **evolve**, (2) **evolve** over the past decade

Eyeless fish **evolved** in dark caves.

slightly

adv. in a small degree or extent; a little

synonym: barely, narrowly, scarcely

(1) increase slightly, (2) slightly alkaline soils

He moved his body slightly to the left.

relative

adj. considered and evaluated through comparison with something else

synonym: comparative, proximate, congeneric

(1) a remote **relative**, (2) **relative** factors

Most countries prohibit sexual activity between certain close relatives.

mammoth

adj. exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene

synonym: huge, large

(1) woolly **mammoth**, (2) a **mammoth** ship

The minister decided to review its **mammoth** public works projects.

diverge

v. to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or deviate from a path or course

synonym: separate, split, part

(1) **diverge** from tradition, (2) **diverge** from the main topic As tectonic plates **diverge**, new oceanic crust is formed along mid-ocean ridges.

split

v. to divide, or to make something divide into two or more parts, especially along a particular line

synonym: break, divide, break apart

(1) **split** a bill, (2) **split** a reward equally

Companies often **split** their shares to lower the stock price and encourage investors to buy.

develop

to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

synonym: evolve, progress, advance

(1) **develop** a strategy, (2) **develop** a skill

We must **develop** a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.

subtle

adj. not readily apparent or visible

synonym: slight, nuanced, exquisite

(1) subtle changes, (2) a subtle poison

A famous artist painted the room in a **subtle** pink hue.

genetic

adj. of or relating to genes (= parts of the DNA in cells) or the science of genes

synonym: hereditary, genetical, inborn

(1) have **genetic** testing, (2) a **genetic** disorder

Understanding protein folding is a vital step in deciphering the **genetic** code.

architecture

n. the art and science of designing and constructing buildings

synonym: design, structure, layout

(1) **architecture** design, (2) classic **architecture**The city is known for its impressive **architecture** and beautiful old buildings.

rhodopsin

- n. a light-sensitive protein found in the retina of the eye, responsible for vision in low-light conditionssynonym: visual purple, purpuroxanthin, retinene
- (1) visual **rhodopsin**, (2) photosensitive **rhodopsin**Light entering the eye causes a chemical change in the **rhodopsin**, which begins the vision process.

function

n. the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose

synonym: purpose, mapping, job

(1) **function** properly, (2) immune **function**The brain is an incredibly complex organ that controls the body's **function**.

maintain

v. to continue to uphold or sustain; to keep in a particular state or condition; to assert or declare something to be true

synonym: preserve, uphold, sustain

(1) **maintain** order, (2) **maintain** good health I need to **maintain** my car regularly to prevent any major mechanical issues.

experiment

 the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge

synonym: experimentation, investigation

(1) experiment design, (2) series of experiments

His **experiments** showed highly positive results.

vision

the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see

synonym: sight, image, concept

(1) a prodigious vision, (2) telescopic vision Driving is difficult for me because of my poor **vision**.

sinkhole

a depression or hollow in the ground, often caused by the collapse of the surface layer after a cave or other underground space has been formed; a natural or human-made hole whose edges are formed by layers of soft rock or soil that have been eroded away

synonym: swallow hole, pit, depression

(1) urban **sinkhole**, (2) **sinkhole** formation The homeowner's insurance didn't cover the damage caused

by the **sinkhole** on their property.

bat

a nocturnal animal with wings that flies and feeds at night, similar to a mouse; a piece of wood with a handle used for hitting the ball in sports including baseball, cricket, and table tennis

synonym: cane, rod, stick

(1) bat cave, (2) bat an eye

The cave was a habitat for **bats**.

freshwater

- adj. living in, found in, or connecting with water that does not contain salt
- (1) freshwater area, (2) freshwater aquatic bird This microbe is a parasite of **freshwater** fish.

- to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different synonym: disunite, isolate, ramify
- (1) **separate** video into chapter, (2) **separate** cream from milk

We need to **separate** the aspect of his personality from the

separate

part of his competence when making an investment decision.

continent

one of the earth's large landmasses; (adjective)
 abstaining from your feelings, especially your desire to have sex

synonym: landmass, (adjective) chaste, (adjective) pure

(1) the inland of a **continent**, (2) **continent** urinary diversion Flight across the **continent** was a daring adventure in its day.

precise

adj. sharply exact or accurate or delimited synonym: accurate, exact, distinct

precise analyses, (2) estimate precise costs
 The content is precise and informative for me.

ancient

adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old

synonym: archaic, age-old, obsolete

(1) pre-Christian ancient, (2) ancient storiesThey have been living near water since ancient times.

extinct

adj. no longer in existencesynonym: 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.

destroy

v. to ruin or damage severely or completely; to eradicate or eliminate completely

synonym: demolish, ruin, obliterate

destroy the ecosystem, (2) destroyed evidence
 The building was destroyed in the fire and had to be rebuilt.

dam

 a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy

synonym: barricade, barrier, embankment

(1) dam-building program, (2) dam collapsing

The break in the **dam** threatened the valley.

unfortunately

adv. by bad luck; unluckily

synonym: regrettably, unluckily, alas

(1) **unfortunately** caught in a shower, (2) even more **unfortunately**

The treatments were done but, **unfortunately**, were unsuccessful.

groundwater

 water that is present beneath the surface of the ground, especially in soil or in pores and crevices in rock

synonym: aquifer, well water, underground water

(1) **groundwater** supply, (2) contaminated **groundwater** The town's main source of water is natural **groundwater**.

diagnose

 to determine or distinguish the nature of a problem or an illness through a careful analysis

synonym: identify, analyze, interpret

(1) **diagnose** the problem, (2) **diagnose** with CT scans This device is used to **diagnose** brain cancer and other tumors.

humble

adj. having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's quality or importance

synonym: modest, unpretentious, abject

(1) a **humble** cottage, (2) **humble** opinion The nobler, the more **humble**.

planet

 any of the nine large celestial bodies that circle in the solar system; any celestial body that revolves around a star

synonym: earth, world, globe

(1) **planet** like the Earth, (2) save the **planet** Mercury is the closest **planet** to the sun.

Session 2: Spelling

1.	dull sit	n.	the ability to see; anything that is seen
2.	visual rhin	n.	a light-sensitive protein found in the retina of the eye, responsible for vision in low-light conditions
3.	the muscle tissue of a verte	adj.	relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish
4.	sete cream from milk	<i>v</i> .	to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different
5.	b_t an eye	n.	a nocturnal animal with wings that flies and feeds at night, similar to a mouse; a piece of wood with a handle used for hitting the ball in sports including baseball, cricket, and table tennis
6.	eve over the past decade	<i>v</i> .	to develop gradually, or to cause the development of something or someone gradually
7.	contaminated groer	n.	water that is present beneath the surface of the ground, especially in soil or in pores and crevices in rock
8.	ant stories	adj.	relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
9.	die from tradition	<i>v</i> .	to move or extend in different directions from a common point; to branch off or

ANSWERS: 1. sight, 2. rhodopsin, 3. vertebrate, 4. separate, 5. bat, 6. evolve, 7. groundwater, 8. ancient, 9. diverge

deviate from a path or course

n.	a light-sensitive protein found in the retina of the eye, responsible for vision in low-light conditions
adv.	in a small degree or extent; a little
n.	the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose
adj.	sharply exact or accurate or delimited
n.	a large area of land, especially one that is distinct from surrounding areas by its topography, geology, or biota
n.	a depression or hollow in the ground, often caused by the collapse of the surface layer after a cave or other underground space has been formed; a natural or human-made hole whose edges are formed by layers of soft rock or soil that have been eroded away
adj.	of or relating to genes (= parts of the DNA in cells) or the science of genes
adv.	relating to the essential features or concepts of anything
adj.	no longer in existence
	adv. n. adj. n. adv.

ANSWERS: 10. rhodopsin, 11. slightly, 12. function, 13. precise, 14. landmass, 15. sinkhole, 16. genetic, 17. essentially, 18. extinct

- 19. a ma____h ship
- 20. b_t cave
- 21. di___se with CT scans
- 22. telescopic vi n
- 23. su___e changes
- 24. ad tas needed
- 25. bo g day
- 26. fre____er area
- 27. d m-building program
- 28. an unexpected si t
- 29. sp_t a bill

- adj. exceedingly large or extensive; (noun)any of numerous extinct elephantswidely distributed in the Pleistocene
- n. a nocturnal animal with wings that flies and feeds at night, similar to a mouse; a piece of wood with a handle used for hitting the ball in sports including baseball, cricket, and table tennis
- to determine or distinguish the nature of a problem or an illness through a careful analysis
- the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence;
 the faculty of being able to see
- adj. not readily apparent or visible
- v. to make fit for or change to suit a new purpose or environment
- adj. lacking interest or excitement; tedious or dull
- adj. living in, found in, or connecting with water that does not contain salt
- a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy
- *n*. the ability to see; anything that is seen
- v. to divide, or to make something divide into two or more parts, especially along a particular line

ANSWERS: 19. mammoth, 20. bat, 21. diagnose, 22. vision, 23. subtle, 24. adapt, 25. boring, 26. freshwater, 27. dam, 28. sight, 29. split

30.	main good health	<i>v</i> .	to continue to uphold or sustain; to keep in a particular state or condition; to assert or declare something to be true
31.	a gec disorder	adj.	of or relating to genes (= parts of the DNA in cells) or the science of genes
32.	domiciliary ces	n.	a large hole in the side of a hill, cliff, mountain, or under the ground
33.	series of expnts	n.	the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge
34.	ichgy research	n.	the scientific study of fish, including their behavior, classification, anatomy, and ecology
35.	fuon properly	n.	the purpose or use of an object, system, or process; a particular activity or operation that is designed to serve a specific purpose; a mathematical concept that describes a relationship between two sets of values, called the input and output sets; (verb) to operate or work in a specific way, or to perform a particular task or purpose
36.	evon theory	n.	a gradual process of transformation of living things
37.	bureau of gey	n.	a science that deals with the history of the earth as recorded in rocks
38.	expnt design	n.	the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge
39.	expert in ichgy	n.	the scientific study of fish, including their behavior, classification, anatomy, and ecology

ANSWERS: 30. maintain, 31. genetic, 32. cave, 33. experiment, 34. ichthyology, 35. function, 36. evolution, 37. geology, 38. experiment, 39. ichthyology

adj. considered and evaluated through 40. a remote re ve comparison with something else a science that deals with the history of 41. local ge___y the earth as recorded in rocks 42. bo___g work adj. lacking interest or excitement; tedious or dull 43. a scientific di____ry the act or process of finding information, n. a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known 44. bl__d spot adj. unable to see; unable or unwilling to perceive or understand the true nature of something to put something, usually a sharp 45. fire st k object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material to grow or expand; to improve or refine 46. de paskill through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created the ability to think about or see the 47. a prodigious vi n future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see 48. fre____er aquatic bird adj. living in, found in, or connecting with water that does not contain salt

ANSWERS: 40. relative, 41. geology, 42. boring, 43. discovery, 44. blind, 45. stick, 46. develop, 47. vision, 48. freshwater

Vocab-Builder Ref from "Prosanta Chakrabarty: Clues to prehistoric times, found in blind cavefish | TED Talk" (47 words)

ANSWERS: 49. mammoth, 50. landmass, 51. environment, 52. sinkhole, 53. slightly, 54. blind, 55. biology, 56. diverge, 57. evolution, 58. exciting

ANSWERS: 59. split, 60. stick, 61. environment, 62. eyesight, 63. discovery, 64. groundwater, 65. unfortunately, 66. planet, 67. relative, 68. unfortunately

69.	cont urinary diversion	n.	one of the earth's large landmasses; (adjective) abstaining from your feelings, especially your desire to have sex
70.	eve	v.	to develop gradually, or to cause the development of something or someone gradually
71.	estimate pre costs	adj.	sharply exact or accurate or delimited
72.	acute eyht	n.	the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness
73.	a hue cottage	adj.	having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's quality or importance
74.	evolutionary biy	n.	the scientific study of life and the natural processes of living things
75.	pre-Christian ant	adj.	relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
76.	long-ext volcano	adj.	no longer in existence
77.	plt like the Earth	n.	any of the nine large celestial bodies that circle in the solar system; any celestial body that revolves around a star
78.	hue opinion	adj.	having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's quality or importance
79.	adt fully to the environment	<i>v</i> .	to make fit for or change to suit a new purpose or environment
80.	verte biology	adj.	relating to animals that have a backbone or spinal column, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

ANSWERS: 69. continent, 70. evolve, 71. precise, 72. eyesight, 73. humble, 74. biology, 75. ancient, 76. extinct, 77. planet, 78. humble, 79. adapt, 80. vertebrate

81.	dey the ecosystem	<i>v</i> .	to ruin or damage severely or completely; to eradicate or eliminate completely
82.	essly correct	adv.	relating to the essential features or concepts of anything
83.	a sue poison	adj.	not readily apparent or visible
84.	arcure design	n.	the art and science of designing and constructing buildings
85.	main order	ν.	to continue to uphold or sustain; to keep in a particular state or condition; to assert or declare something to be true
86.	deyed evidence	ν.	to ruin or damage severely or completely; to eradicate or eliminate completely
87.	sete video into chapter	<i>v</i> .	to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different
88.	dise the problem	<i>v</i> .	to determine or distinguish the nature of a problem or an illness through a careful analysis
89.	the inland of a cont	n.	one of the earth's large landmasses; (adjective) abstaining from your feelings, especially your desire to have sex
90.	dep a strategy	v.	to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

ANSWERS: 81. destroy, 82. essentially, 83. subtle, 84. architecture, 85. maintain, 86. destroy, 87. separate, 88. diagnose, 89. continent, 90. develop

- 91. classic arc____ure
- 92. the mouth of the c__e
- 93. d m collapsing
- 94. ex___ng football player

- n. the art and science of designing and constructing buildings
- n. a large hole in the side of a hill, cliff, mountain, or under the ground
- a wall constructed over a river to block the flow of water, mainly used to generate energy
- adj. causing a lot of interest or excitement

ANSWERS: 91. architecture, 92. cave, 93. dam, 94. exciting

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1.	Driving is difficult for me because of my poor
n.	the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see
2.	This device is used to brain cancer and other tumors.
<i>v</i> .	to determine or distinguish the nature of a problem or an illness through a careful analysis
3.	His showed highly positive results.
n.	the scientific test conducted to observe what happens and gain new knowledge
4.	The building was in the fire and had to be rebuilt.
ν.	to ruin or damage severely or completely; to eradicate or eliminate completely
5.	He moved his body to the left.
ad	v. in a small degree or extent; a little
6.	I advised him to to his new surroundings.
ν.	to make fit for or change to suit a new purpose or environment
7.	Understanding protein folding is a vital step in deciphering the code.
ad	i. of or relating to genes (= parts of the DNA in cells) or the science of genes
8.	The town's main source of water is natural
n.	water that is present beneath the surface of the ground, especially in soil or in pores and crevices in rock
	SWERS: 1. vision, 2. diagnose, 3. experiments, 4. destroyed, 5. slightly, 6. adapt, genetic, 8. groundwater

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ANSWERS: 9. separate, 10. mammoth, 11. sinkhole, 12. geology, 13. architecture, 14. precise, 15. split, 16. function

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