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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Patricia Medici: The coolest animal you know nothing about ... and how we can save it | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

tapir

n. a large, herbivorous mammal with a long snout and flexible snout, native to Central and South America and Southeast Asia

(1) giant **tapir**, (2) **tapir** habitat

One of the **tapir's** main predators is the jaguar, which sometimes attacks and kills them.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

brink

n. the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place

synonym: edge, verge, threshold

(1) **brink** of war, (2) on the **brink**

We were on the **brink** of a financial crisis.

rhinoceros

n. (also rhino) a large, thick-skinned mammal with one or two horns on the nose, typically found in Africa and Asia.

synonym : rhino, horned beast, pachyderm

(1) **rhinoceros** habitat, (2) white **rhinoceros**

The baby **rhinoceros** at the wildlife sanctuary was recently born and is very cute.

lowland

n. low-lying country or region

synonym : marshland

(1) **lowland** crop, (2) **lowland** swamp

Much of our territory is located in the **lowland**.

herbivore

n. an animal that eats only plants, such as a cow or a deer

synonym : plant-eater, browser, graminivore

(1) **herbivore** diet, (2) **herbivore** animals

A giraffe is an **herbivore** that primarily eats leaves and twigs.

disperse

v. to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so

synonym : dissipate, spread, scatter

(1) **disperse** false information, (2) **disperse** the protesters

Before authorities **dispersed** the protesters, they yelled slogans.

feces

n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement

synonym : poop, stool, excrement

(1) **feces** sample, (2) human **feces**

Proper disposal of **feces** is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.

nocturnal

adj. relating to or occurring in the night; active or awake during the night

synonym : nighttime, nightly, after-dark

(1) **nocturnal** insects, (2) **nocturnal** habits

Nocturnal animals, such as owls and bats, are active at night.

solitary

adj. existing, living, or doing without others

synonym : lonely, unsociable, singular

(1) use of **solitary** confinement, (2) a **solitary** traveler

He never uttered a **solitary** word.

elusive

adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

synonym : mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

conservationist

n. a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife

synonym : environmentalist

(1) wildlife **conservationist**, (2) dedicated **conservationist**

The extinction of this species has been a significant concern for **conservationists**.

dataset

n. a structured collection of data that is compiled and processed in a computer system or program, typically for analysis, research, or machine learning purposes

synonym : data array, database

(1) **dataset** analysis, (2) publicly available **dataset**

The scientist analyzed the large **dataset** to conclude the experiment.

anesthetize

v. to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation

synonym : numb, sedate, drug

(1) **anesthetize** a patient, (2) **anesthetize** a wound

The dentist will **anesthetize** your mouth before removing your wisdom teeth.

disseminate

v. to spread or distribute widely, especially information or ideas; to scatter or disperse

synonym : spread, circulate, propagate

(1) **disseminate** propaganda, (2) **disseminate** knowledge

It is important to **disseminate** accurate information to the public to prevent false rumors from spreading.

anteater

n. a mammal that feeds on ants and termites, characterized by a long snout and a sticky tongue

synonym : antbear, numbat, echidna

(1) **anteater** habitat, (2) giant **anteater**

The **anteater's** long, sticky tongue is perfectly adapted to catching ants and insects.

biome

n. a major ecological community characterized by particular plant and animal species adapted to a specific climate and geographic region, such as desert, tundra, or rainforest

synonym : ecosystem, habitat, biota

(1) **biome** conservation, (2) marine **biome**

The rainforest is one of the most diverse **biomes** on the planet.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym : settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

ranching

n. the practice of raising livestock, typically cattle or sheep, on large areas of land, often referred to as ranches, for meat, wool, or other products

synonym : farming, agriculture, grazing

(1) **ranching** industry, (2) cattle **ranching**

The government introduced regulations to ensure sustainable **ranching** practices.

pastureland

n. an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock

synonym : grazing land, meadow, range

(1) **pastureland** management, (2) **pastureland** ecology

The cow grazed in the lush **pastureland**.

reconnect

v. to connect again after a break or interruption

synonym : reopen, rejoin, link up

(1) **reconnect** a telephone, (2) **reconnect** with family

After a long period of estrangement, they **reconnected** with each other.

floodplain

n. an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding

synonym : lowland, swamp, delta

(1) **floodplain** area, (2) **floodplain** management

The town was built on a **floodplain**, making it vulnerable to natural disasters.

stronghold

n. a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations

synonym : fortress, bastion, citadel

(1) the last **stronghold**, (2) **stronghold** bastion

The castle served as a **stronghold** for the kingdom, protecting against invaders.

grassland

n. a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock

synonym : meadow, plain, savanna

(1) endangered **grassland**, (2) vast **grassland**

Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale **grasslands** in many parts of the world.

shrub

n. a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil

synonym : bush, hedge, fern

(1) tree and **shrubs**, (2) small **shrub**

These are **shrubs** with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.

epicenter

n. the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake

synonym: ground zero, focus, center

(1) the **epicenter** of the sports world, (2) **epicenter** magnitude

The **epicenter** of the earthquake was located deep beneath the earth's surface.

eradicate

v. to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad

synonym: destroy, eliminate, exterminate

(1) **eradicate** the deficit, (2) **eradicate** racial discrimination

We are trying to **eradicate** this disease from the world.

sugarcane

n. a tall, tropical grass that is grown for its sweet, juice-filled stalks, which are used to make sugar and other products

(1) **sugarcane** plantation, (2) sugar made from **sugarcane**

Sugarcane juice was a popular drink in the hot weather.

soybean

n. a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications

synonym: soya, edamame

(1) **soybean** oil, (2) **soybean** production

The farmer harvested his **soybean** crop and took it to market.

poach

v. to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings

synonym: steal, snatch

(1) **poach** on his land, (2) **poach** deer

The chef **poached** the eggs perfectly for the benedict breakfast dish.

slap

v. to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly

synonym : smack, hit, whack

(1) **slap** on the back, (2) **slap** a heavy fine

The politician tried to **slap** down the rumors about his personal life.

pact

n. a formal agreement between two or more parties

synonym : agreement, treaty, covenant

(1) a nonaggression **pact**, (2) aviation **pact**

The two countries made a **pact** to reduce their carbon emissions.

namesake

n. a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else

(1) the **namesake** of her mother, (2) less famous than its **namesake**

He is my **namesake**, but we're not related.

Session 2: Spelling

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. the na____ke of her mother | <i>n.</i> a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else |
| 2. so____n oil | <i>n.</i> a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications |
| 3. small sh__b | <i>n.</i> a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil |
| 4. er_____te the deficit | <i>v.</i> to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad |
| 5. marine bi__e | <i>n.</i> a major ecological community characterized by particular plant and animal species adapted to a specific climate and geographic region, such as desert, tundra, or rainforest |
| 6. an____er habitat | <i>n.</i> a mammal that feeds on ants and termites, characterized by a long snout and a sticky tongue |
| 7. so____n production | <i>n.</i> a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications |
| 8. fe__s sample | <i>n.</i> waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement |

ANSWERS: 1. namesake, 2. soybean, 3. shrub, 4. eradicate, 5. biome, 6. anteater, 7. soybean, 8. feces

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 9. ep_____er magnitude | <i>n.</i> the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake |
| 10. lo_____d swamp | <i>n.</i> low-lying country or region |
| 11. pas_____nd management | <i>n.</i> an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock |
| 12. su_____ne plantation | <i>n.</i> a tall, tropical grass that is grown for its sweet, juice-filled stalks, which are used to make sugar and other products |
| 13. er_____te racial discrimination | <i>v.</i> to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad |
| 14. wildlife con_____ist | <i>n.</i> a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife |
| 15. tree and sh____bs | <i>n.</i> a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil |
| 16. po__h deer | <i>v.</i> to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings |
| 17. a nonaggression p__t | <i>n.</i> a formal agreement between two or more parties |
| 18. cattle ra_____ng | <i>n.</i> the practice of raising livestock, typically cattle or sheep, on large areas of land, often referred to as ranches, for meat, wool, or other products |
| 19. use of so_____ry confinement | <i>adj.</i> existing, living, or doing without others |

ANSWERS: 9. epicenter, 10. lowland, 11. pastureland, 12. sugarcane, 13. eradicate, 14. conservationist, 15. shrub, 16. poach, 17. pact, 18. ranching, 19. solitary

20. co_____ze planets *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
21. dis_____te propaganda *v.* to spread or distribute widely, especially information or ideas; to scatter or disperse
22. the last str_____ld *n.* a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations
23. endangered gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
24. ane_____ze a patient *v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation
25. no_____al habits *adj.* relating to or occurring in the night; active or awake during the night
26. ra_____ng industry *n.* the practice of raising livestock, typically cattle or sheep, on large areas of land, often referred to as ranches, for meat, wool, or other products
27. vast gr_____nd *n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
28. da_____t analysis *n.* a structured collection of data that is compiled and processed in a computer system or program, typically for analysis, research, or machine learning purposes

ANSWERS: 20. colonize, 21. disseminate, 22. stronghold, 23. grassland, 24. anesthetize, 25. nocturnal, 26. ranching, 27. grassland, 28. dataset

29. de____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
30. de____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
31. aviation p__t *n.* a formal agreement between two or more parties
32. human fe__s *n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
33. the ep_____er of the sports world *n.* the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake
34. a so____ry traveler *adj.* existing, living, or doing without others
35. s__p on the back *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
36. po__h on his land *v.* to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings
37. ta__r habitat *n.* a large, herbivorous mammal with a long snout and flexible snout, native to Central and South America and Southeast Asia

ANSWERS: 29. dedicate, 30. dedicate, 31. pact, 32. feces, 33. epicenter, 34. solitary, 35. slap, 36. poach, 37. tapir

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 38. publicly available da_____t | <i>n.</i> a structured collection of data that is compiled and processed in a computer system or program, typically for analysis, research, or machine learning purposes |
| 39. di_____se the protesters | <i>v.</i> to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so |
| 40. he_____re animals | <i>n.</i> an animal that eats only plants, such as a cow or a deer |
| 41. giant an_____er | <i>n.</i> a mammal that feeds on ants and termites, characterized by a long snout and a sticky tongue |
| 42. pas_____nd ecology | <i>n.</i> an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock |
| 43. flo_____in management | <i>n.</i> an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding |
| 44. re_____ct with family | <i>v.</i> to connect again after a break or interruption |
| 45. lo_____d crop | <i>n.</i> low-lying country or region |
| 46. re_____ct a telephone | <i>v.</i> to connect again after a break or interruption |
| 47. co_____ze for cultivation | <i>v.</i> to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers |
| 48. dis_____te knowledge | <i>v.</i> to spread or distribute widely, especially information or ideas; to scatter or disperse |

ANSWERS: 38. dataset, 39. disperse, 40. herbivore, 41. anteater, 42. pastureland, 43. floodplain, 44. reconnect, 45. lowland, 46. reconnect, 47. colonize, 48. disseminate

49. on the br__k *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
50. an el____e criminal *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
51. bi__e conservation *n.* a major ecological community characterized by particular plant and animal species adapted to a specific climate and geographic region, such as desert, tundra, or rainforest
52. flo_____in area *n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding
53. di_____se false information *v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
54. no_____al insects *adj.* relating to or occurring in the night; active or awake during the night
55. dedicated con_____ist *n.* a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife
56. white rhi_____os *n.* (also rhino) a large, thick-skinned mammal with one or two horns on the nose, typically found in Africa and Asia.
57. sugar made from su_____ne *n.* a tall, tropical grass that is grown for its sweet, juice-filled stalks, which are used to make sugar and other products
58. str_____ld bastion *n.* a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations
59. less famous than its na_____ke *n.* a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else

ANSWERS: 49. brink, 50. elusive, 51. biome, 52. floodplain, 53. disperse, 54. nocturnal, 55. conservationist, 56. rhinoceros, 57. sugarcane, 58. stronghold, 59. namesake

60. rhi_____os habitat *n.* (also rhino) a large, thick-skinned mammal with one or two horns on the nose, typically found in Africa and Asia.
61. ane_____ze a wound *v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation
62. s__p a heavy fine *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
63. br__k of war *n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
64. he_____re diet *n.* an animal that eats only plants, such as a cow or a deer
65. giant ta__r *n.* a large, herbivorous mammal with a long snout and flexible snout, native to Central and South America and Southeast Asia
66. track down an el_____e fact *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

ANSWERS: 60. rhinoceros, 61. anesthetize, 62. slap, 63. brink, 64. herbivore, 65. tapir, 66. elusive

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. After a long period of estrangement, they _____ with each other.
v. to connect again after a break or interruption
2. The cow grazed in the lush _____.
n. an area of land covered with grass used for grazing livestock
3. One of the _____ main predators is the jaguar, which sometimes attacks and kills them.
n. a large, herbivorous mammal with a long snout and flexible snout, native to Central and South America and Southeast Asia
4. _____ juice was a popular drink in the hot weather.
n. a tall, tropical grass that is grown for its sweet, juice-filled stalks, which are used to make sugar and other products
5. A giraffe is an _____ that primarily eats leaves and twigs.
n. an animal that eats only plants, such as a cow or a deer
6. The rainforest is one of the most diverse _____ on the planet.
n. a major ecological community characterized by particular plant and animal species adapted to a specific climate and geographic region, such as desert, tundra, or rainforest
7. The two countries made a _____ to reduce their carbon emissions.
n. a formal agreement between two or more parties
8. The town was built on a _____ making it vulnerable to natural disasters.
n. an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding

ANSWERS: 1. reconnected, 2. pastureland, 3. tapir's, 4. Sugarcane, 5. herbivore, 6. biomes, 7. pact, 8. floodplain,

9. The extinction of this species has been a significant concern for _____.
- n.* a person who advocates or acts to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife
10. The scientist analyzed the large _____ to conclude the experiment.
- n.* a structured collection of data that is compiled and processed in a computer system or program, typically for analysis, research, or machine learning purposes
11. The politician tried to _____ down the rumors about his personal life.
- v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
12. We are trying to _____ this disease from the world.
- v.* to get rid of or destroy something completely, especially something bad
13. The farmer harvested his _____ crop and took it to market.
- n.* a legume crop widely cultivated for its nutritious seeds, often ground into meal or pressed into oil for food products, with other uses including animal feed, fuel, and industrial applications
14. These are _____ with no trunks that rarely grow taller than 3 meters.
- n.* a woody plant that is smaller than a tree and has several main stems emerging from the soil
15. He never uttered a _____ word.
- adj.* existing, living, or doing without others
16. It is important to _____ accurate information to the public to prevent false rumors from spreading.
- v.* to spread or distribute widely, especially information or ideas; to scatter or disperse

ANSWERS: 9. conservationists, 10. dataset, 11. slap, 12. eradicate, 13. soybean, 14. shrubs, 15. solitary, 16. disseminate

17. Proper disposal of _____ is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.
- n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
18. He is my _____ but we're not related.
- n.* a person or thing with the same name as somebody or something else
19. He _____ his life to helping others.
- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
20. The castle served as a _____ for the kingdom, protecting against invaders.
- n.* a fortress or secure place that is difficult to capture, especially one used as a center of military operations
21. The dentist will _____ your mouth before removing your wisdom teeth.
- v.* to administer a drug or other substance that causes a loss of sensation or consciousness, often to perform a medical procedure; to numb or dull a physical or emotional sensation
22. _____ animals, such as owls and bats, are active at night.
- adj.* relating to or occurring in the night; active or awake during the night
23. Before authorities _____ the protesters, they yelled slogans.
- v.* to spread out or distribute over a broad region, or to cause something to do so
24. The government introduced regulations to ensure sustainable _____ practices.
- n.* the practice of raising livestock, typically cattle or sheep, on large areas of land, often referred to as ranches, for meat, wool, or other products

ANSWERS: 17. feces, 18. namesake, 19. dedicated, 20. stronghold, 21. anesthetize, 22. Nocturnal, 23. dispersed, 24. ranching

25. The baby _____ at the wildlife sanctuary was recently born and is very cute.
- n.* (also rhino) a large, thick-skinned mammal with one or two horns on the nose, typically found in Africa and Asia.
26. The _____ long, sticky tongue is perfectly adapted to catching ants and insects.
- n.* a mammal that feeds on ants and termites, characterized by a long snout and a sticky tongue
27. We were on the _____ of a financial crisis.
- n.* the point at which something is about to happen; the edge of a steep place
28. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
- v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
29. Meadows and pastures are examples of smaller-scale _____ in many parts of the world.
- n.* a large area of land covered mainly by grass, with few or no trees, and typically used for grazing livestock
30. The _____ of the earthquake was located deep beneath the earth's surface.
- n.* the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake
31. Much of our territory is located in the _____.
- n.* low-lying country or region
32. The chef _____ the eggs perfectly for the benedict breakfast dish.
- v.* to illegally hunt, fish, or take wildlife from private or protected land or waters without permission; to cook food by gently simmering it in a liquid, often with added spices or seasonings

ANSWERS: 25. rhinoceros, 26. anteater's, 27. brink, 28. colonized, 29. grasslands, 30. epicenter, 31. lowland, 32. poached

33. The physicist who found the _____ particle won the Nobel Prize.

adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

ANSWERS: 33. elusive