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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

John Cameron: Why do we hiccup? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

hiccup

n. an involuntary movement of the muscles of the diaphragm and chest that causes a sudden intake of breath with a sound similar to a "hiccup"

synonym : hiccough

(1) stop my **hiccup**, (2) the cause of **hiccups**

The **hiccups** lasted for hours and were driving him crazy.

hog

n. a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

synonym : pig, swine, boar

(1) **hog** farming, (2) **hog** all the glory

The farmer raised his **hogs** for meat and sold them at a local market.

longevity

n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

synonym : seniority, endurance

(1) **longevity** crisis, (2) **longevity** genes

He is proud of the **longevity** of the business.

sob

v. to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds

synonym : cry, weep, wail

(1) **sob** out a story, (2) **sob** quietly
She **sobbed** uncontrollably after hearing the news.

involuntary

adj. acting or done without or against one's will
synonym: coerced, forced, automatic

(1) **involuntary** manslaughter, (2) **involuntary** muscles
The drug's side effects can include **involuntary** loss of urine.

spasm

n. a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity

synonym: convulsion, cramp, twitch

(1) gastric **spasm**, (2) **spasm** of laughter

The patient's face twitched in **spasms** as the dentist started drilling her tooth.

contraction

n. the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount

synonym: shrinking, compression, reduction

(1) **contraction** of a disease, (2) **contraction** in the industry

The **contraction** of the economy has led to job losses.

diaphragm

n. a large, dome-shaped muscle located at the bottom of the chest cavity, essential for breathing and separating the chest and abdomen; a shallow, dome-shaped device with a flexible rim that is inserted into the vagina to cover the cervix and prevent sperm from reaching the uterus, serving as a method of birth control

synonym: midriff, pessary, shield

(1) **diaphragm** birth control, (2) **diaphragm** activity

Individuals with a weak **diaphragm** may experience difficulty breathing during physical activity.

inhale

v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
synonym: breathe in, take in, draw in

(1) **inhale** the smoke, (2) **inhale** the aroma

He **inhaled** deeply, trying to calm down.

glottis

n. the part of the human larynx (= the organ in the throat) consisting of the vocal cords and the opening between them, which is responsible for producing vocal sounds

synonym: vocal folds, voice box opening

(1) closed **glottis**, (2) relaxed **glottis**

The singer took lessons to improve her **glottis** control, allowing her to easily hit higher notes.

anatomical

adj. of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts

synonym: physical, bodily, structural

(1) **anatomical** structure, (2) **anatomical** elements

The **anatomical** model of the human body was used to teach medical students.

relic

n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

synonym: whiff, vestige, antique

(1) historical **relic**, (2) holy **relics**

This bronze sword is a **relic** of ancient times.

vestige

n. a trace, mark, or evidence of something that once existed but has now disappeared or diminished

synonym: trace, remnant, relic

(1) a **vestige** of a castle wall, (2) a **vestige** of the virus

The abandoned building was a **vestige** of the city's past, with nothing left but memories.

remnant

n. a small remaining quantity of something, considered separately from what has been lost or destroyed; a surviving piece or fragment of something

synonym: remainder, leftover, residue

(1) **remnant** of the past, (2) **remnants** of fabric

The only **remnant** left of the ancient civilization was the crumbling ruins of their temples.

stagnant

adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
synonym : still, stagnant, unmoving

(1) **stagnant** car sales, (2) **stagnant** economy

The **stagnant** water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
synonym : child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation

descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

gill

n. a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide

synonym : respiratory organ, lung

(1) **gill** slits, (2) **gill** apparatus

The fish's **gills** are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.

tadpole

n. the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater

synonym : polliwog, froglet, girssle

(1) **tadpole** stage, (2) **tadpole** development

I saw a **tadpole** swimming in the pond during my morning walk.

respiration

n. the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide

synonym : breathing, ventilation

(1) **respiration** rate, (2) artificial **respiration**

The doctor carefully monitored the patient's **respiration** during the surgery.

amphibian

n. a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water

synonym: frog, toad, salamander

(1) **amphibian** species, (2) **amphibian** habitat

Scientists are concerned about the rapid decline in **amphibian** populations around the world.

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.

lizard

n. a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail

(1) giant **lizard**, (2) **lizard** leather

The **lizard's** tail regenerates if severed.

glorify

v. to praise or honor something or someone, often in an exaggerated or overly positive way; to elevate or exalt something or someone to a higher status or position

synonym: exalt, celebrate, honor

(1) **glorify** god, (2) **glorify** violence

Religious leaders often **glorify** their messengers to encourage people to follow their teachings.

burp

v. to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound

synonym: belch, eruct, hiccup

(1) **burp** the baby, (2) accidental **burp**

He couldn't help but **burp** loudly after drinking the fizzy soda.

sip v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

synonym: taste, sample, drink

(1) **sip** a drink, (2) take a **sip** of beer

He **sipped** his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

frightening *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

synonym: scary, terrifying, alarming

(1) cast **frightening** eyes, (2) **frightening** experience

The news of the pandemic was a **frightening** reminder of the fragility of human health.

Session 2: Spelling

1. relaxed gl_____s
n. the part of the human larynx (= the organ in the throat) consisting of the vocal cords and the opening between them, which is responsible for producing vocal sounds
2. accidental b__p
v. to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound
3. li___d leather
n. a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail
4. stop my hi___p
n. an involuntary movement of the muscles of the diaphragm and chest that causes a sudden intake of breath with a sound similar to a "hiccup"
5. gastric sp__m
n. a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity
6. st_____nt economy
adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water

ANSWERS: 1. glottis, 2. burp, 3. lizard, 4. hiccup, 5. spasm, 6. stagnant

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|---------------------------|--|
| 7. the cause of hi___ps | <i>n.</i> an involuntary movement of the muscles of the diaphragm and chest that causes a sudden intake of breath with a sound similar to a "hiccup" |
| 8. historical re__c | <i>n.</i> an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value |
| 9. holy re__cs | <i>n.</i> an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value |
| 10. s_b out a story | <i>v.</i> to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds |
| 11. am_____an habitat | <i>n.</i> a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water |
| 12. g__l slits | <i>n.</i> a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide |
| 13. fri_____ng experience | <i>adj.</i> causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming |
| 14. res_____on rate | <i>n.</i> the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide |
| 15. h_g farming | <i>n.</i> a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others |

ANSWERS: 7. hiccup, 8. relic, 9. relic, 10. sob, 11. amphibian, 12. gill, 13. frightening, 14. respiration, 15. hog

25. re___x test *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
26. ta_____e development *n.* the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater
27. re_____ts of fabric *n.* a small remaining quantity of something, considered separately from what has been lost or destroyed; a surviving piece or fragment of something
28. con_____on of a disease *n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount
29. st_____nt car sales *adj.* not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
30. am_____an species *n.* a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
31. h_g all the glory *n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others
32. giant li___d *n.* a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail
33. gl_____y god *v.* to praise or honor something or someone, often in an exaggerated or overly positive way; to elevate or exalt something or someone to a higher status or position

ANSWERS: 25. reflex, 26. tadpole, 27. remnant, 28. contraction, 29. stagnant, 30. amphibian, 31. hog, 32. lizard, 33. glorify

34. g__l apparatus *n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
35. inv_____ry manslaughter *adj.* acting or done without or against one's will
36. con_____on in the industry *n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount
37. gl_____y violence *v.* to praise or honor something or someone, often in an exaggerated or overly positive way; to elevate or exalt something or someone to a higher status or position
38. sp__m of laughter *n.* a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity
39. a ve_____e of a castle wall *n.* a trace, mark, or evidence of something that once existed but has now disappeared or diminished
40. third-generation des_____nt *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
41. lo_____ty crisis *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
42. cast fri_____ng eyes *adj.* causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming
43. in___e the aroma *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

ANSWERS: 34. gill, 35. involuntary, 36. contraction, 37. glorify, 38. spasm, 39. vestige, 40. descendant, 41. longevity, 42. frightening, 43. inhale

44. di_____gm activity *n.* a large, dome-shaped muscle located at the bottom of the chest cavity, essential for breathing and separating the chest and abdomen; a shallow, dome-shaped device with a flexible rim that is inserted into the vagina to cover the cervix and prevent sperm from reaching the uterus, serving as a method of birth control
45. ta_____e stage *n.* the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater
46. ana_____al elements *adj.* of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts
47. re_____t of the past *n.* a small remaining quantity of something, considered separately from what has been lost or destroyed; a surviving piece or fragment of something
48. inv_____ry muscles *adj.* acting or done without or against one's will
49. di_____gm birth control *n.* a large, dome-shaped muscle located at the bottom of the chest cavity, essential for breathing and separating the chest and abdomen; a shallow, dome-shaped device with a flexible rim that is inserted into the vagina to cover the cervix and prevent sperm from reaching the uterus, serving as a method of birth control
50. des_____nt of a pioneer *n.* children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

ANSWERS: 44. diaphragm, 45. tadpole, 46. anatomical, 47. remnant, 48. involuntary, 49. diaphragm, 50. descendant

51. knee re___x

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

52. artificial res_____on

n. the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide

ANSWERS: 51. reflex, 52. respiration

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ model of the human body was used to teach medical students.
adj. of or relating to the structure of the body and its parts

2. The singer took lessons to improve her _____ control, allowing her to easily hit higher notes.
n. the part of the human larynx (= the organ in the throat) consisting of the vocal cords and the opening between them, which is responsible for producing vocal sounds

3. Individuals with a weak _____ may experience difficulty breathing during physical activity.
n. a large, dome-shaped muscle located at the bottom of the chest cavity, essential for breathing and separating the chest and abdomen; a shallow, dome-shaped device with a flexible rim that is inserted into the vagina to cover the cervix and prevent sperm from reaching the uterus, serving as a method of birth control

4. This bronze sword is a _____ of ancient times.
n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

5. The patient's face twitched in _____ as the dentist started drilling her tooth.
n. a sudden, involuntary contraction of a muscle, causing a range of sensations from mild discomfort to severe pain; a sudden outburst or brief episode of intense emotion or activity

6. The news of the pandemic was a _____ reminder of the fragility of human health.
adj. causing fear or alarm, or very surprising and alarming

ANSWERS: 1. anatomical, 2. glottis, 3. diaphragm, 4. relic, 5. spasms, 6. frightening

7. He _____ his tea slowly, savoring the taste.
v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink
8. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
9. The doctor carefully monitored the patient's _____ during the surgery.
n. the process of inhaling and exhaling air to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the environment; the total of the physiological processes by which living organisms metabolize oxygen and release carbon dioxide
10. The drug's side effects can include _____ loss of urine.
adj. acting or done without or against one's will
11. The _____ water in the pond is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
adj. not flowing or circulating; standing still; stagnant water
12. He _____ deeply, trying to calm down.
v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
13. Scientists are concerned about the rapid decline in _____ populations around the world.
n. a cold-blooded animal that can live both on land and in water
14. The _____ tail regenerates if severed.
n. a reptile that has a relatively long body, two pairs of legs, and a tapering tail
15. The farmer raised his _____ for meat and sold them at a local market.
n. a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

ANSWERS: 7. sipped, 8. descendants, 9. respiration, 10. involuntary, 11. stagnant, 12. inhaled, 13. amphibian, 14. lizard's, 15. hogs

16. The abandoned building was a _____ of the city's past, with nothing left but memories.
- n.* a trace, mark, or evidence of something that once existed but has now disappeared or diminished
17. He couldn't help but _____ loudly after drinking the fizzy soda.
- v.* to expel air from the stomach through the mouth in a noisy manner, often after eating or drinking too quickly; to emit a sudden and brief sound or movement, such as a mechanical device or engine; (noun) a sound or the release of air from the stomach through the mouth, often accompanied by a characteristic sound
18. He is proud of the _____ of the business.
- n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
19. The fish's _____ are necessary for extracting oxygen from the water.
- n.* a respiratory organ of fish and some other aquatic animals that extracts dissolved oxygen from water and excretes carbon dioxide
20. The _____ of the economy has led to job losses.
- n.* the act or process of becoming smaller or shorter in size, volume, or amount
21. 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
22. Religious leaders often _____ their messengers to encourage people to follow their teachings.
- v.* to praise or honor something or someone, often in an exaggerated or overly positive way; to elevate or exalt something or someone to a higher status or position

ANSWERS: 16. vestige, 17. burp, 18. longevity, 19. gills, 20. contraction, 21. reflex, 22. glorify

23. She _____ uncontrollably after hearing the news.

v. to cry or weep with short, sudden sounds

24. I saw a _____ swimming in the pond during my morning walk.

n. the aquatic larval stage of a frog or toad, characterized by a long tail and gills for breathing underwater

25. The only _____ left of the ancient civilization was the crumbling ruins of their temples.

n. a small remaining quantity of something, considered separately from what has been lost or destroyed; a surviving piece or fragment of something

26. The _____ lasted for hours and were driving him crazy.

n. an involuntary movement of the muscles of the diaphragm and chest that causes a sudden intake of breath with a sound similar to a "hiccup"

ANSWERS: 23. sobbed, 24. tadpole, 25. remnant, 26. hiccups