

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Claudia Aguirre: Why is yawning contagious? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

yawn

v. to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen

synonym: gape, stretch, open

(1) **yawn** in sleepiness, (2) lazy **yawn**

He couldn't help but **yawn** during the long and boring presentation.

contagious

adj. able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

synonym: infectious, transmissible, communicable

(1) **contagious** enthusiasm, (2) **contagious** virus

The disease is highly **contagious** and spreads quickly.

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.

domino

n. a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events

synonym: tile, block, ivory

(1) **domino** chain, (2) **domino** effect

We knocked over a stack of **dominoes** and watched them fall one by one.

mimicry

n. the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh

synonym: imitation, apery

(1) vocal **mimicry**, (2) floral **mimicry**

Some insects use **mimicry** to avoid detection by predators.

chameleon

n. a lizard-like reptile that can change its color to blend into its environment as a form of protective camouflage; a person who can adapt their behavior, speech, or appearance to fit various social situations or expectations

synonym: shape-shifter, transformer, mimic

(1) **chameleon** colors, (2) **chameleon** behavior

The **chameleon's** ability to change colors enabled it to blend seamlessly with its surroundings.

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym: mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds

He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

unintentional

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

synonym: accidental, unforeseen, spontaneous

(1) avoid **unintentional** harm, (2) **unintentional** insult

The mistake was **unintentional** and made in good faith.

copycat

n. a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

synonym : imitator, mimic, copyist

(1) **copycat** behavior, (2) **copycat** website

The company accused their competitor of being a **copycat** and stealing its design.

maneuver

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

synonym : gimmick, trick, action

(1) political **maneuvers**, (2) made a great **maneuver**

In this class, we learn the basic **maneuver** of the plane.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

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.

MRI

n. (abbreviation for magnetic resonance imaging) a medical imaging technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body

(1) **MRI** brain image, (2) cardiac **MRI**

The **MRI** machine uses powerful magnets to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

partake

v. to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink

synonym: consume, share, participate

(1) **partake** in a celebration, (2) **partake** in an activity

Let's all **partake** in the potluck and share our favorite dishes.

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

enact

v. to make a law; to put something into practice

synonym: legislate, pass, decree

(1) **enact** new legislation, (2) **enact** the smoking ban

The government **enacted** this law in 1925.

primate

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

synonym: ape, monkey, lemur

(1) **primate** species, (2) **primate** sanctuary

Many scientists study **primate** behavior and intelligence.

smack

v. to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke

synonym: hit, slap, strike

(1) **smack** on the lips, (2) **smack** his knee

The baseball player **smacked** the ball out of the park, securing a home run.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ch_____on colors
n. a lizard-like reptile that can change its color to blend into its environment as a form of protective camouflage; a person who can adapt their behavior, speech, or appearance to fit various social situations or expectations
2. en__t new legislation
v. to make a law; to put something into practice
3. cardiac M_l
n. (abbreviation for magnetic resonance imaging) a medical imaging technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body
4. avoid uni_____nal harm
adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental
5. lazy y__n
v. to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen
6. pr_____e species
n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
7. M_l brain image
n. (abbreviation for magnetic resonance imaging) a medical imaging technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body

ANSWERS: 1. chameleon, 2. enact, 3. MRI, 4. unintentional, 5. yawn, 6. primate, 7. MRI

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| 8. en__t the smoking ban | v. | to make a law; to put something into practice |
| 9. uni_____nal insult | adj. | not done or made on purpose; accidental |
| 10. im_____e painting styles | v. | to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something |
| 11. do___o chain | n. | a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events |
| 12. ch_____on behavior | n. | a lizard-like reptile that can change its color to blend into its environment as a form of protective camouflage; a person who can adapt their behavior, speech, or appearance to fit various social situations or expectations |
| 13. a theoretical concept in neu_____nce | n. | the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system |
| 14. con_____us virus | adj. | able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease |
| 15. floral mi_____y | n. | the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh |
| 16. im_____e animal sounds | v. | to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something |

ANSWERS: 8. enact, 9. unintentional, 10. imitate, 11. domino, 12. chameleon, 13. neuroscience, 14. contagious, 15. mimicry, 16. imitate

17. political ma_____ers *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
18. pr_____e sanctuary *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
19. re____x test *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
20. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
21. sm__k his knee *v.* to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke
22. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
23. pa_____e in an activity *v.* to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink
24. y__n in sleepiness *v.* to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen
25. made a great ma_____er *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

ANSWERS: 17. maneuver, 18. primate, 19. reflex, 20. mimic, 21. smack, 22. neuroscience, 23. partake, 24. yawn, 25. maneuver

26. con_____us enthusiasm *adj.* able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease
27. excite the ne____ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
28. 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
29. knee re____x *n.* an automatic and unthinking response to a particular stimulus; a physical reaction to external stimuli
30. do____o effect *n.* a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events
31. pa_____e in a celebration *v.* to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink
32. vocal mi_____y *n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh
33. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
34. co_____t behavior *n.* a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

ANSWERS: 26. contagious, 27. neuron, 28. neuron, 29. reflex, 30. domino, 31. partake, 32. mimicry, 33. empathy, 34. copycat

35. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
36. sm__k on the lips *v.* to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke
37. em____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
38. co____t website *n.* a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand

ANSWERS: 35. mimic, 36. smack, 37. empathy, 38. copycat

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The ____ machine uses powerful magnets to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.
 - n. (abbreviation for magnetic resonance imaging) a medical imaging technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body

2. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
 - n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

3. In this class, we learn the basic _____ of the plane.
 - n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

4. The baseball player _____ the ball out of the park, securing a home run.
 - v. to hit something or someone with force, often making a loud noise; to deliver a sharp criticism or rebuke

5. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
 - n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

6. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
 - v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

7. The government _____ this law in 1925.
 - v. to make a law; to put something into practice

ANSWERS: 1. MRI, 2. neuroscience, 3. maneuver, 4. smacked, 5. Empathy, 6. mimic, 7. enacted

8. 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
9. We knocked over a stack of _____ and watched them fall one by one.
- n.* a small, flat, rectangular block used in a game that has pairs of dots on one or both sides; a consequence of an event that sets off a chain reaction of similar events
10. Let's all _____ in the potluck and share our favorite dishes.
- v.* to participate or share in something; to consume or enjoy food or drink
11. 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
12. The company accused their competitor of being a _____ and stealing its design.
- n.* a person who imitates or copies the behavior, speech, or appearance of another individual; a product or design that is made to look like a popular or successful product from another company or brand
13. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.
- v.* to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
14. The _____ ability to change colors enabled it to blend seamlessly with its surroundings.
- n.* a lizard-like reptile that can change its color to blend into its environment as a form of protective camouflage; a person who can adapt their behavior, speech, or appearance to fit various social situations or expectations

ANSWERS: 8. reflex, 9. dominoes, 10. partake, 11. neuron, 12. copycat, 13. imitated, 14. chameleon's

15. Some insects use _____ to avoid detection by predators.

n. the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh

16. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

17. The disease is highly _____ and spreads quickly.

adj. able to be passed on to others through contact or proximity, especially by infection or disease

18. He couldn't help but _____ during the long and boring presentation.

v. to involuntarily open one's mouth wide and exhale due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen; (noun) an involuntary reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness, boredom, or a lack of oxygen

19. The mistake was _____ and made in good faith.

adj. not done or made on purpose; accidental

ANSWERS: 15. mimicry, 16. primate, 17. contagious, 18. yawn, 19. unintentional