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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Rose Eveleth: Cicadas: The dormant army beneath your feet | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

dormant

adj. in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

synonym : inactive, sleeping, quiescent

(1) **dormant** volcano, (2) **dormant** account

The disease can remain **dormant** for years before it presents any symptoms.

cicada

n. a large, loud insect with long wings that is known for the sound it makes

synonym : locust, grasshopper, cricket

(1) **cicada** lifecycle, (2) brown **cicada**

The **cicadas'** loud chirping can be heard throughout the forest in the summer.

molt

v. to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated

synonym : shed, exuviate, doff

(1) **molt** its feathers, (2) **molt** at regular intervals

The snake **molted** its skin to grow bigger.

brood

- v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

synonym: offspring, hatch, family

(1) **brood** about the defeat, (2) a **brood** of chickens

The terrible result **brooded** over her all day long.

burrow

- v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

synonym: tunnel, dig, excavate

(1) **burrow** through the forest, (2) **burrow** into a mystery

You can't **burrow** through solid metal.

decibel

- n.* (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale

synonym: dB, sound level, volume

(1) **decibel** level, (2) adjust the **decibel**

The concert reached 100 **decibels**, causing many people to cover their ears.

mow

- v.* to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops

synonym: cut, trim, clip

(1) **mow** the field, (2) **mow** a yard

My father likes to **mow** the lawn early on Saturday mornings.

posse

- n.* a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait

synonym: crew, gang, retinue

(1) **posse** member, (2) **posse** of citizens

My friends and I formed a **posse** to search for the lost hiker.

predator

n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
synonym: vulture, bloodsucker

(1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**

The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

parasite

n. an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense

synonym: hitchhiker, leech, saprophyte

(1) blood-sucking **parasite**, (2) **parasite** disease

Tapeworms are **parasites** that live in the intestines of humans and animals.

fungus

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym: mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym: entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

abdomen

n. the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments

synonym: belly, gut, tummy

(1) **abdomen** pain, (2) insect **abdomen**

The weightlifter used his strong **abdomen** muscles to lift the heavy barbell.

spore

n. a reproductive cell that is capable of developing into a new individual without fertilization, especially one produced by certain bacteria, fungi, and algae

synonym : seed, reproductive cell, particle

(1) anthrax **spore**, (2) **spore** reproduction

Bacteria and some algae also produce **spores** as a means of survival and dispersal, and they are often found in soil, water, and other environments.

rupture

n. a break or tear in something, especially a bodily tissue or a physical object

synonym : fracture, break, tear

(1) a **rupture** between friends, (2) the **rupture** of a blood vessel

A fault line **rupture** can cause significant damage and destruction to surrounding areas.

shaker

n. a container or device used to mix or shake substances, typically used in cooking or for preparing drinks; a member of a religious sect that grew out of a Quaker revival in the United States in the 19th century

synonym : vibrator, agitator, mixer

(1) world- **shaker**, (2) protein **shaker**

The bartender quickly made a **shaker** of cocktails for the group of friends.

unsuspecting

adj. unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious

synonym : unaware, unassuming, gullible

(1) **unsuspecting** boys and girls, (2) **unsuspecting** victim

The thief stole the wallet from the **unsuspecting** tourist.

lifespan

n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

synonym : duration, lifetime, continuance

(1) **lifespan** extension, (2) **lifespan** retrieval curve

Generally speaking, men have a shorter **lifespan** than women.

Session 2: Spelling

1. li____an retrieval curve *n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
2. anthrax sp__e *n.* a reproductive cell that is capable of developing into a new individual without fertilization, especially one produced by certain bacteria, fungi, and algae
3. po__e of citizens *n.* a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait
4. de____l level *n.* (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale
5. po__e member *n.* a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait
6. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
7. a ru____e between friends *n.* a break or tear in something, especially a bodily tissue or a physical object
8. do____t account *adj.* in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

ANSWERS: 1. lifespan, 2. spore, 3. posse, 4. decibel, 5. posse, 6. predator, 7. rupture, 8. dormant

17. symbiotic fu___s *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
18. li_____an extension *n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
19. brown ci___a *n.* a large, loud insect with long wings that is known for the sound it makes
20. br__d about the defeat *v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth
21. m_w the field *v.* to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops
22. ci___a lifecycle *n.* a large, loud insect with long wings that is known for the sound it makes
23. m__t its feathers *v.* to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated
24. sp__e reproduction *n.* a reproductive cell that is capable of developing into a new individual without fertilization, especially one produced by certain bacteria, fungi, and algae
25. blood-sucking pa_____te *n.* an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense

ANSWERS: 17. fungus, 18. lifespan, 19. cicada, 20. brood, 21. mow, 22. cicada, 23. molt, 24. spore, 25. parasite

26. a br__d of chickens *v.* to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth
27. protein sh___r *n.* a container or device used to mix or shake substances, typically used in cooking or for preparing drinks; a member of a religious sect that grew out of a Quaker revival in the United States in the 19th century
28. bu___w into a mystery *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
29. ab_____n pain *n.* the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments
30. uns_____ing victim *adj.* unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
31. adjust the de_____l *n.* (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale
32. pa_____te disease *n.* an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
33. bu___w through the forest *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

ANSWERS: 26. brood, 27. shaker, 28. burrow, 29. abdomen, 30. unsuspecting, 31. decibel, 32. parasite, 33. burrow

34. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
35. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
36. insect ab_____n *n.* the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments

ANSWERS: 34. bury, 35. bury, 36. abdomen

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The concert reached 100 _____ causing many people to cover their ears.
n. (also "dB") a unit used to measure the intensity of sound or the comparative loudness of two sounds based on a logarithmic scale

2. The disease can remain _____ for years before it presents any symptoms.
adj. in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

3. You can't _____ through solid metal.
v. to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

4. The terrible result _____ over her all day long.
v. to think much and deeply about something that makes one annoyed, anxious, or angry; (noun) a group of young birds or other animals all produced at one hatching or birth

5. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

6. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

7. My friends and I formed a _____ to search for the lost hiker.
n. a group of people who come together for a common purpose, often to pursue or capture a criminal; a group of people who share a common interest, belief, or trait

ANSWERS: 1. decibels, 2. dormant, 3. burrow, 4. brooded, 5. bury, 6. predator's, 7. posse

8. The thief stole the wallet from the _____ tourist.
adj. unaware of the presence of danger; not suspicious
9. Tapeworms are _____ that live in the intestines of humans and animals.
n. an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
10. My father likes to ____ the lawn early on Saturday mornings.
v. to cut down and trim grass or other vegetation, usually with a machine such as a lawnmower; to cut down or harvest crops
11. Generally speaking, men have a shorter _____ than women.
n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
12. A fault line _____ can cause significant damage and destruction to surrounding areas.
n. a break or tear in something, especially a bodily tissue or a physical object
13. The _____ loud chirping can be heard throughout the forest in the summer.
n. a large, loud insect with long wings that is known for the sound it makes
14. The snake _____ its skin to grow bigger.
v. to shed feathers, skin, or hair, especially in the process of growing a new coat or plumage; to undergo a process of renewal or transformation, often by shedding the old or outdated
15. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.
n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

ANSWERS: 8. unsuspecting, 9. parasites, 10. mow, 11. lifespan, 12. rupture, 13. cicadas', 14. molted, 15. fungus

16. The weightlifter used his strong _____ muscles to lift the heavy barbell.
- n.* the part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and other organs; the posterior part of an insect's body, typically divided into segments
17. The bartender quickly made a _____ of cocktails for the group of friends.
- n.* a container or device used to mix or shake substances, typically used in cooking or for preparing drinks; a member of a religious sect that grew out of a Quaker revival in the United States in the 19th century
18. Bacteria and some algae also produce _____ as a means of survival and dispersal, and they are often found in soil, water, and other environments.
- n.* a reproductive cell that is capable of developing into a new individual without fertilization, especially one produced by certain bacteria, fungi, and algae

ANSWERS: 16. abdomen, 17. shaker, 18. spores