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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Rose Eveleth: The loathsome lethal mosquito | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

wasp

n. a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals

synonym: insect, hornet, yellow jacket

(1) **wasp** nest, (2) **wasp** sting

A giant **wasp** flew into the room, and everyone panicked.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

mosquito

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

synonym: insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

itch

v. to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it

synonym: scratch, tingle, irritate

(1) **itch** constantly, (2) **itch** to speak

I can't stop **itching** my arm because of the mosquito bite.

detest

v. to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly

synonym : hate, loathe, despise

(1) **detest** violence, (2) **detest** being late

I **detest** the way people are quick to judge others without knowing their side of the story.

swarm

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

synonym : horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

asphyxiate

v. to make someone unable to breathe, usually resulting in unconscious or death

synonym : suffocate, choke, stifle

(1) **asphyxiate** him to death, (2) **asphyxiate** rival companies

Three people were **asphyxiated** in the crowd crush of the demo.

caribou

n. a large North American deer that is found in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions

synonym : reindeer, deer

(1) **caribou** herd, (2) reintroduce **caribou**

Caribou migrate long distances across the tundra in search of food.

scourge

n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

synonym : plague, disaster, curse

(1) **scourge** of AIDS, (2) bring a **scourge** under control

The plague was a **scourge** that killed millions of people.

insidious

adj. tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way

synonym : sly, cunning, subtle

(1) **insidious** plot, (2) **insidious** behavior

The disease has an **insidious** onset, making it difficult to diagnose.

saliva

n. the clear liquid that is secreted into the mouth by glands in the walls of the mouth and throat, helping to lubricate food during chewing and digestion

synonym : spit, drool, slobber

(1) dog's **saliva**, (2) dry mouth with little **saliva**

The dentist asked him to spit out the excess **saliva** into the sink.

antiseptic

n. a substance or preparation that prevents infection, decay, or putrefaction by killing or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms; (adjective) of or relating to something that inhibits the growth and reproduction of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, or viruses

synonym : disinfectant, sanitizer, sterilizer

(1) **antiseptic** solution, (2) natural **antiseptic**

He cleaned the wound with a skin **antiseptic** to prevent infection.

numb

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

synonym : dazed, insensitive, emotionless

(1) **numb** with cold, (2) a **numb** mind

My left arm became **numb**.

serrated

adj. having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges

synonym : jagged, toothed, notched

(1) **serrated** leaves, (2) **serrated** knife

The saw had a **serrated** edge that allowed it to cut through the thick branches with ease.

mandible

n. the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect

synonym : jawbone, bone, maxilla

(1) broken **mandible**, (2) insect **mandible**

The dentist inspected the patient's **mandible** during the routine check-up.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym : sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate

This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

proboscis

n. an elongated, protruding nose, snout, or appendage, especially of certain mammals or insects, used for grasping or feeding

synonym : snout, trunk, nose

(1) mosquito **proboscis**, (2) **proboscis** structure

The butterfly used its **proboscis** to collect nectar from the flower.

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.

citronella

n. a fragrant oil derived from a type of lemongrass plant, typically used in candles, sprays, or other products as an insect repellent, particularly against mosquitoes

synonym : lemongrass, mosquito plant

(1) **citronella** spray, (2) **citronella** oil

I lit the **citronella** candle to keep mosquitoes away during our outdoor dinner.

dengue

n. a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, characterized by fever, severe joint and muscle pain, and a rash

synonym: breakbone fever, infectious tropical disease

(1) **dengue** mosquito, (2) **dengue** outbreak

Many people in this region have contracted **dengue** fever from mosquito bites.

dastard

n. a dishonorable or despicable coward

synonym: coward, chicken, cad

(1) you **dastard**, (2) the **dastard's** way of thinking

You cannot criticize him as an arrogant **dastard**.

pollinator

n. an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds

synonym: fertilizer, pollenizer, pollen carrier

(1) **pollinator** species, (2) beneficial **pollinator**

Bees are important **pollinators** for many crops and plants.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a sw__m of mosquitoes *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
2. of__d his sensibilities *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
3. de__t being late *v.* to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly
4. beneficial pol_____or *n.* an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds
5. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
6. de__t violence *v.* to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly
7. i__h to speak *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
8. cit_____la spray *n.* a fragrant oil derived from a type of lemongrass plant, typically used in candles, sprays, or other products as an insect repellent, particularly against mosquitoes
9. asp_____te rival companies *v.* to make someone unable to breathe, usually resulting in unconscious or death

ANSWERS: 1. swarm, 2. offend, 3. detest, 4. pollinator, 5. numb, 6. detest, 7. itch, 8. citronella, 9. asphyxiate

10. blood-sucking pa_____te *n.* an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
11. asp_____te him to death *v.* to make someone unable to breathe, usually resulting in unconscious or death
12. de___e mosquito *n.* a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, characterized by fever, severe joint and muscle pain, and a rash
13. the da_____d's way of thinking *n.* a dishonorable or despicable coward
14. mosquito pr_____is *n.* an elongated, protruding nose, snout, or appendage, especially of certain mammals or insects, used for grasping or feeding
15. ca__e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
16. i__h constantly *v.* to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
17. insect ma_____le *n.* the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect
18. pr_____is structure *n.* an elongated, protruding nose, snout, or appendage, especially of certain mammals or insects, used for grasping or feeding
19. se_____ed leaves *adj.* having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges

ANSWERS: 10. parasite, 11. asphyxiate, 12. dengue, 13. dastard, 14. proboscis, 15. carve, 16. itch, 17. mandible, 18. proboscis, 19. serrated

20. locust sw__m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
21. de___e outbreak *n.* a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, characterized by fever, severe joint and muscle pain, and a rash
22. mo_____to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
23. w__p nest *n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
24. ant_____ic solution *n.* a substance or preparation that prevents infection, decay, or putrefaction by killing or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms; (adjective) of or relating to something that inhibits the growth and reproduction of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, or viruses
25. you da____d *n.* a dishonorable or despicable coward
26. sc_____e of AIDS *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
27. pol_____or species *n.* an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds

ANSWERS: 20. swarm, 21. dengue, 22. mosquito, 23. wasp, 24. antiseptic, 25. dastard, 26. scourge, 27. pollinator

28. reintroduce ca____u *n.* a large North American deer that is found in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions
29. pa____te disease *n.* an organism that lives on or in another organism and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense
30. dry mouth with little sa____a *n.* the clear liquid that is secreted into the mouth by glands in the walls of the mouth and throat, helping to lubricate food during chewing and digestion
31. mo____to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
32. ca__e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
33. of____d a customer *v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
34. w__p sting *n.* a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
35. dog's sa____a *n.* the clear liquid that is secreted into the mouth by glands in the walls of the mouth and throat, helping to lubricate food during chewing and digestion
36. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
37. se____ed knife *adj.* having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges

ANSWERS: 28. caribou, 29. parasite, 30. saliva, 31. mosquito, 32. carve, 33. offend, 34. wasp, 35. saliva, 36. numb, 37. serrated

38. natural ant_____ic *n.* a substance or preparation that prevents infection, decay, or putrefaction by killing or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms; (adjective) of or relating to something that inhibits the growth and reproduction of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, or viruses
39. in_____us behavior *adj.* tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way
40. ca_____u herd *n.* a large North American deer that is found in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions
41. cit_____la oil *n.* a fragrant oil derived from a type of lemongrass plant, typically used in candles, sprays, or other products as an insect repellent, particularly against mosquitoes
42. broken ma_____le *n.* the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect
43. in_____us plot *adj.* tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way
44. bring a sc_____e under control *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

ANSWERS: 38. antiseptic, 39. insidious, 40. caribou, 41. citronella, 42. mandible, 43. insidious, 44. scourge

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Bees are important _____ for many crops and plants.
 - n.* an animal or insect, such as bees, butterflies, birds, etc., that carries pollen from a male part of a flower to a female part of a flower, fertilizing it and allowing it to produce seeds

2. He cleaned the wound with a skin _____ to prevent infection.
 - n.* a substance or preparation that prevents infection, decay, or putrefaction by killing or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms; (adjective) of or relating to something that inhibits the growth and reproduction of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, or viruses

3. Many people in this region have contracted _____ fever from mosquito bites.
 - n.* a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, characterized by fever, severe joint and muscle pain, and a rash

4. Three people were _____ in the crowd crush of the demo.
 - v.* to make someone unable to breathe, usually resulting in unconscious or death

5. _____ migrate long distances across the tundra in search of food.
 - n.* a large North American deer that is found in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions

6. The dentist asked him to spit out the excess _____ into the sink.
 - n.* the clear liquid that is secreted into the mouth by glands in the walls of the mouth and throat, helping to lubricate food during chewing and digestion

7. I _____ the way people are quick to judge others without knowing their side of the story.
 - v.* to feel intense hatred or aversion towards someone or something; to dislike or despise greatly

ANSWERS: 1. pollinators, 2. antiseptic, 3. dengue, 4. asphyxiated, 5. Caribou, 6. saliva, 7. detest

8. A _____ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.
n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
9. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
10. You cannot criticize him as an arrogant _____.
n. a dishonorable or despicable coward
11. I lit the _____ candle to keep mosquitoes away during our outdoor dinner.
n. a fragrant oil derived from a type of lemongrass plant, typically used in candles, sprays, or other products as an insect repellent, particularly against mosquitoes
12. The dentist inspected the patient's _____ during the routine check-up.
n. the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect
13. 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
14. A giant _____ flew into the room, and everyone panicked.
n. a flying insect with a narrow waist and a sting, typically feeding on nectar and known for its aggressive behavior towards other insects and animals
15. The butterfly used its _____ to collect nectar from the flower.
n. an elongated, protruding nose, snout, or appendage, especially of certain mammals or insects, used for grasping or feeding

ANSWERS: 8. swarm, 9. carved, 10. dastard, 11. citronella, 12. mandible, 13. parasites, 14. wasp, 15. proboscis

16. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

17. My left arm became _____.

adj. unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

18. The disease has an _____ onset, making it difficult to diagnose.

adj. tending to entrap or beguile unawares; working or spreading in a hidden and usually harmful way

19. I can't stop _____ my arm because of the mosquito bite.

v. to have an uncomfortable feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it

20. The saw had a _____ edge that allowed it to cut through the thick branches with ease.

adj. having a saw-toothed or notched edge; of or relating to leaves, knives, or other objects with jagged edges

21. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for _____.

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

22. The plague was a _____ that killed millions of people.

n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

ANSWERS: 16. offended, 17. numb, 18. insidious, 19. itching, 20. serrated, 21. mosquitos, 22. scourge