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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Asha de Vos: Why are blue whales so enormous? |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

roam

v. to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander

synonym: wander, ramble, meander

(1) **roam** freely, (2) **roam** the countryside

I love to **roam** around the city and discover new neighborhoods.

dinosaur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

synonym: reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym: wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

krill

n. a small, shrimp-like crustacean that is a major food source for many marine animals

synonym: shrimp, plankton, zooplankton

(1) eat **krill**, (2) Antarctic **krill**

The decline in **krill** populations in recent years has raised concerns about the health of marine ecosystems.

accordion

n. a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound

synonym : squeezebox, concertina

(1) **accordion** music, (2) an **accordion** pleat

He played a beautiful melody on his **accordion**, charming everyone in the audience.

blubber

v. to speak or cry in a way that is noisy, emotional, and often difficult to understand; to sob or weep uncontrollably; (noun) a thick layer of fat that lies under the skin of marine mammals such as whales, seals, and walruses

synonym : snivel, blub, weep

(1) **blubber** uncontrollably, (2) seal **blubber**

The child began to **blubber** when he dropped his ice cream cone.

snout

n. the nose and mouth of an animal, especially when protruding or prominently featured

synonym : nose, muzzle, bill

(1) dig with the **snout**, (2) short **snouts**

The pig's **snout** was wet and covered in mud.

engulf

v. to swallow up; to surround and cover completely

synonym : swallow, submerge, inundate

(1) **engulf** the politician, (2) **engulf** in water

The fire quickly **engulfed** the entire building.

gulp

v. to swallow quickly and forcefully; to take in a large amount of air or liquid quickly and audibly because of surprise, fear, or excitement

synonym : swallow, chug, gulp down

(1) **gulp** water, (2) **gulp** air

He had to **gulp** down his coffee before rushing to work.

expel

v. to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country

synonym: deport, oust, dislodge

(1) **expel** him from his native country, (2) **expel** air from the lungs

He took a big drag of his cigarette and slowly **expelled** the smoke.

baleen

n. whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater

synonym: whisker, bristle, sieve

(1) **baleen** bristles, (2) **baleen** plates

The whale's **baleen** filters out small organisms for the animal to eat.

esophagus

n. the muscular tube that connects the mouth and throat to the stomach, which allows food to pass through

synonym: gullet, throat, food pipe

(1) **esophagus** reflux, (2) upper **esophagus**

The tumor in her **esophagus** was causing her difficulty in eating and drinking.

choke

v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something

synonym: strangle, suffocate, clog

(1) **choke** with anger, (2) **choke** off the blood supply

The baby started to **choke** on a piece of apple.

loaf

n. a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle

synonym: bread, boule, brioche

(1) crusty **loaf**, (2) **loaf** around during the day

On my way home from work, I picked up a **loaf** of bread from the bakery.

stout

adj. having a strong and sturdy build or physique; thick or robust in nature; brave and determined

synonym : robust, sturdy, strong

(1) **stout** shoes, (2) build a **stout** fence

The **stout** oak tree provided shade for the picnic attendees.

pedestal

n. a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed

synonym : base, stand, platform

(1) **pedestal** sink, (2) a stone **pedestal**

The statue was placed on a **pedestal** in the center of the park.

buoyancy

n. the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid

synonym : flotation, levitation, airiness

(1) **buoyancy** principle, (2) **buoyancy** compensator

The object's **buoyancy** helped it float on the water's surface.

counteract

v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it

synonym : balance, offset, compensate

(1) **counteract** the effect of poison, (2) **counteract** global warming

Our body's immune system produces antibodies to **counteract** disease.

gravitational

adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

synonym : weighty, heavy, earthbound

(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves

The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

Session 2: Spelling

1. upper es_____us
n. the muscular tube that connects the mouth and throat to the stomach, which allows food to pass through
2. ch__e off the blood supply
v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
3. gra_____nal energy
adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
4. ch__e with anger
v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
5. build a st__t fence
adj. having a strong and sturdy build or physique; thick or robust in nature; brave and determined
6. g__p water
v. to swallow quickly and forcefully; to take in a large amount of air or liquid quickly and audibly because of surprise, fear, or excitement
7. ac_____on music
n. a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound
8. l__f around during the day
n. a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
9. crusty l__f
n. a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle

ANSWERS: 1. esophagus, 2. choke, 3. gravitational, 4. choke, 5. stout, 6. gulp, 7. accordion, 8. loaf, 9. loaf

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|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| 10. r__m freely | <i>v.</i> | to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander |
| 11. bu____cy principle | <i>n.</i> | the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid |
| 12. Antarctic kr__l | <i>n.</i> | a small, shrimp-like crustacean that is a major food source for many marine animals |
| 13. bu____cy compensator | <i>n.</i> | the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid |
| 14. di____ur fossil | <i>n.</i> | a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin |
| 15. g__p air | <i>v.</i> | to swallow quickly and forcefully; to take in a large amount of air or liquid quickly and audibly because of surprise, fear, or excitement |
| 16. pe____al sink | <i>n.</i> | a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed |
| 17. a ma___l of beauty | <i>n.</i> | someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise |
| 18. dig with the sn__t | <i>n.</i> | the nose and mouth of an animal, especially when protruding or prominently featured |
| 19. en___f in water | <i>v.</i> | to swallow up; to surround and cover completely |
| 20. es____us reflux | <i>n.</i> | the muscular tube that connects the mouth and throat to the stomach, which allows food to pass through |

ANSWERS: 10. roam, 11. buoyancy, 12. krill, 13. buoyancy, 14. dinosaur, 15. gulp, 16. pedestal, 17. marvel, 18. snout, 19. engulf, 20. esophagus

21. seal bl____r
- v. to speak or cry in a way that is noisy, emotional, and often difficult to understand; to sob or weep uncontrollably; (noun) a thick layer of fat that lies under the skin of marine mammals such as whales, seals, and walruses
22. r__m the countryside
- v. to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
23. cou_____ct the effect of poison
- v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
24. bl____r uncontrollably
- v. to speak or cry in a way that is noisy, emotional, and often difficult to understand; to sob or weep uncontrollably; (noun) a thick layer of fat that lies under the skin of marine mammals such as whales, seals, and walruses
25. technical ma____l
- n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
26. cou_____ct global warming
- v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
27. a_t view
- adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
28. eat kr__l
- n. a small, shrimp-like crustacean that is a major food source for many marine animals
29. ba____n bristles
- n. whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater

ANSWERS: 21. blubber, 22. roam, 23. counteract, 24. blubber, 25. marvel, 26. counteract, 27. aft, 28. krill, 29. baleen

30. ex__l air from the lungs *v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
31. an ac_____on pleat *n.* a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound
32. a stone pe_____al *n.* a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed
33. en___f the politician *v.* to swallow up; to surround and cover completely
34. short sn__ts *n.* the nose and mouth of an animal, especially when protruding or prominently featured
35. hulking di_____ur *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
36. st__t shoes *adj.* having a strong and sturdy build or physique; thick or robust in nature; brave and determined
37. ex__l him from his native country *v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
38. gra_____nal waves *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
39. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
40. ba___n plates *n.* whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater

ANSWERS: 30. expel, 31. accordion, 32. pedestal, 33. engulf, 34. snout, 35. dinosaur, 36. stout, 37. expel, 38. gravitational, 39. aft, 40. baleen

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Our body's immune system produces antibodies to _____ disease.
v. to act against something to reduce its bad or harmful effects or neutralize it
2. The object's _____ helped it float on the water's surface.
n. the ability or tendency of an object to float in a fluid
3. The _____ oak tree provided shade for the picnic attendees.
adj. having a strong and sturdy build or physique; thick or robust in nature; brave and determined
4. The whale's _____ filters out small organisms for the animal to eat.
n. whalebone, or a flexible material made from keratin that is used by whales (and some other animals) to filter krill and other small organisms from seawater
5. The tumor in her _____ was causing her difficulty in eating and drinking.
n. the muscular tube that connects the mouth and throat to the stomach, which allows food to pass through
6. The pig's _____ was wet and covered in mud.
n. the nose and mouth of an animal, especially when protruding or prominently featured
7. He had to _____ down his coffee before rushing to work.
v. to swallow quickly and forcefully; to take in a large amount of air or liquid quickly and audibly because of surprise, fear, or excitement
8. The _____ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
adj. relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)

ANSWERS: 1. counteract, 2. buoyancy, 3. stout, 4. baleen, 5. esophagus, 6. snout, 7. gulp, 8. gravitational

9. The decline in _____ populations in recent years has raised concerns about the health of marine ecosystems.
- n.* a small, shrimp-like crustacean that is a major food source for many marine animals
10. The statue was placed on a _____ in the center of the park.
- n.* a base or support on which something, typically a statue, column, etc., is placed
11. He played a beautiful melody on his _____ charming everyone in the audience.
- n.* a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound
12. The baby started to _____ on a piece of apple.
- v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
13. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.
- n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
14. On my way home from work, I picked up a _____ of bread from the bakery.
- n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
15. I love to _____ around the city and discover new neighborhoods.
- v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
16. The fire quickly _____ the entire building.
- v.* to swallow up; to surround and cover completely

ANSWERS: 9. krill, 10. pedestal, 11. accordion, 12. choke, 13. marvel, 14. loaf, 15. roam, 16. engulfed

17. He took a big drag of his cigarette and slowly _____ the smoke.
- v.* to officially force someone to leave a school, organization, or country
18. The child began to _____ when he dropped his ice cream cone.
- v.* to speak or cry in a way that is noisy, emotional, and often difficult to understand; to sob or weep uncontrollably; (noun) a thick layer of fat that lies under the skin of marine mammals such as whales, seals, and walruses
19. The discovery of a new _____ species made headlines in the scientific community.
- n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
20. The ___ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
- adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

ANSWERS: 17. expelled, 18. blubber, 19. dinosaur, 20. aft