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Munir Virani: Why I love vultures | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

vulture

n. a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)

synonym : buzzard, scavenger, carrion bird

(1) **vulture** colony, (2) scavenging **vulture**

The **vulture's** sharp eyesight allows it to spot carrion from great distances.

disgust

n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

synonym : nauseate, hate, dislike

(1) public **disgust**, (2) show **disgust** at his actions

He was filled with **disgust** and fear for the threat of war.

greedy

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

synonym : avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

beagle

n. a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares

synonym : hound, dog, pup

(1) legal **beagle**, (2) **beagle** nose

His pet **beagle** sniffed at the ground, following the rabbit's

trail.

scarlet

n. a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red
synonym: crimson, ruby, vermilion

(1) **scarlet** petals, (2) **scarlet** lipstick

She wore a **scarlet** dress to the party, making her stand out in the crowd.

revelry

n. lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment

synonym: festivity, merrymaking, celebration

(1) **revelry** in the streets, (2) festival **revelry**

The street was filled with **revelry** on New Year's Eve.

putrid

adj. decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting

synonym: rotten, decaying, decomposing

(1) turn **putrid**, (2) **putrid** atmosphere

I had to throw away the **putrid** food in the fridge because it had gone bad.

goofy

adj. silly or foolish

synonym: silly, crazy, dopey

(1) wore a **goofy** hat, (2) with a **goofy** expression

He made a **goofy** face as he recalled this morning's events.

monogamy

n. the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner

synonym: marriage, monandry, monogamousness

(1) **monogamy** rules, (2) practice **monogamy**

Many religious institutions promote **monogamy** as the ideal form of marriage.

extinct

adj. no longer in existence

synonym : dead, obsolete, abolished

(1) **extinct** by human activity, (2) long- **extinct** volcano

Many species have become **extinct** due to habitat destruction and other human activities.

condor

n. a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America

synonym : eagle, vulture, raptor

(1) **condor** population, (2) endangered **condor**

The majestic **condor** soared through the sky, captivating everyone's attention.

caracara

n. a large bird of prey from the Falconidae family, commonly found in the Americas

synonym : falcon, bird of prey, raptor

(1) Venezuelan **caracara**, (2) crested **caracara**

The **caracara** habitat ranges from open grasslands to forests, depending on the specific species of the bird.

carcass

n. the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food

synonym : corpse, remains, body

(1) examine a **carcass**, (2) **carcass** disposal

The animal's **carcass** was found in the forest, most likely killed by a predator.

anthrax

n. a serious bacterial infection caused by *Bacillus anthracis* that can affect both humans and animals; it is characterized by a range of symptoms, including skin blisters, fever, and difficulty breathing, and can be fatal if left untreated

synonym : fever, splenic fever, wool sorters' disease

(1) **anthrax** infection, (2) **anthrax** vaccine

Scientists are currently researching new treatments for **anthrax** that could improve survival rates in infected individuals

decompose

v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

synonym: break down, rot, spoil

(1) **decompose** matter, (2) **decompose** into simpler molecules

After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to **decompose**.

ramification

n. the act or process of branching out or dividing into branches

synonym: fork, branching, complication

(1) **ramifications** of the scenario, (2) political **ramification**

The court's decision had many unforeseen **ramifications**.

protector

n. a person or thing that provides protection, support, or defense; a guardian or defender

synonym: guardian, defender, custodian

(1) environmental **protector**, (2) wildlife **protector**

The bodyguard acted as a **protector** for the celebrity.

moth

n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

cobra

n. a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened

synonym: serpent, snake

(1) **cobra** venom, (2) **cobra** bite

The king **cobra** slithered silently across the ground.

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.

cremate

v. to burn a dead body to reduce it to ash, often as part of a funeral or other death-related ritual

synonym : burn, incinerate, immolate

(1) **cremate** a body, (2) **cremate** the remains

They plan to **cremate** their loved ones according to their cultural traditions.

pastoral

adj. relating to the countryside, especially in a peaceful, idyllic, or rural setting; characterized by simplicity, natural beauty, and a focus on the care of livestock or farming

synonym : rural, rustic, bucolic

(1) **pastoral** landscape, (2) **pastoral** lifestyle

The **pastoral** scenery of the countryside was a refreshing change from the hectic city life.

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.

painkiller

n. medicine used to relieve physical pain

synonym : anesthetic, anodyne, analgesic

(1) a strong **painkiller**, (2) take a **painkiller** beforehand

Over-the-counter **painkillers** are less effective for patients who have taken many in the past.

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**.

feral

adj. wild, untamed, or having returned to a wild or untamed state after being domesticated; characteristic of an animal that lives and reproduces freely in its natural

habitat

synonym : untamed, savage, wild

(1) **feral** cat, (2) **feral** behavior

The teenagers vandalized the abandoned building and turned it into a **feral** hangout spot.

rabies

n. a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans; transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, most often through a bite, which can lead to paralysis, seizures, and death if left untreated

synonym : hydrophobia, lyssa

(1) contract **rabies**, (2) **rabies** virus infection

Pet owners need to keep their animals vaccinated against **rabies**.

horrific

adj. causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying

synonym : terrifying, alarming, shocking

(1) **horrific** experience, (2) **horrific** condition

The accident scene was **horrific**, with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.

witchcraft

n. the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices

synonym : sorcery, magic, wizardry

(1) **witchcraft** belief, (2) the power of **witchcraft**

Many people were accused of **witchcraft** during the Salem Witch Trials in the late 1600s.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym: misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

effortless

adj. requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish

synonym: easy, simple, uncomplicated

(1) **effortless** victory, (2) **effortless** beauty

The dancer made her performance look **effortless** and graceful.

Session 2: Spelling

1. eff_____ss victory *adj.* requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish
2. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
3. ex_____t by human activity *adj.* no longer in existence
4. co__a bite *n.* a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened
5. take a pai_____er beforehand *n.* medicine used to relieve physical pain
6. cr_____e a body *v.* to burn a dead body to reduce it to ash, often as part of a funeral or other death-related ritual
7. sc_____t lipstick *n.* a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red
8. n__b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
9. a n__b mind *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
10. practice mo_____my *n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner
11. mo_____my rules *n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner

ANSWERS: 1. effortless, 2. misunderstand, 3. extinct, 4. cobra, 5. painkiller, 6. cremate, 7. scarlet, 8. numb, 9. numb, 10. monogamy, 11. monogamy

12. de_____se into simpler molecules *v.* to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
13. political ram_____ion *n.* the act or process of branching out or dividing into branches
14. eff_____ss beauty *adj.* requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish
15. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
16. an_____x vaccine *n.* a serious bacterial infection caused by *Bacillus anthracis* that can affect both humans and animals; it is characterized by a range of symptoms, including skin blisters, fever, and difficulty breathing, and can be fatal if left untreated
17. festival re_____y *n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
18. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
19. ca_____s disposal *n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food
20. public di_____t *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
21. wit_____ft belief *n.* the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices

ANSWERS: 12. decompose, 13. ramification, 14. effortless, 15. moth, 16. anthrax, 17. revelry, 18. determinant, 19. carcass, 20. disgust, 21. witchcraft

22. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
23. environmental pr____or *n.* a person or thing that provides protection, support, or defense; a guardian or defender
24. an____x infection *n.* a serious bacterial infection caused by Bacillus anthracis that can affect both humans and animals; it is characterized by a range of symptoms, including skin blisters, fever, and difficulty breathing, and can be fatal if left untreated
25. turn pu____d *adj.* decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting
26. gr____y person *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
27. ho____ic experience *adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
28. mis____and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
29. legal be____e *n.* a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares
30. a strong pai____er *n.* medicine used to relieve physical pain
31. contract ra____s *n.* a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans; transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, most often through a bite, which can lead to paralysis, seizures, and death if left untreated

ANSWERS: 22. moth, 23. protector, 24. anthrax, 25. putrid, 26. greedy, 27. horrific, 28. misunderstand, 29. beagle, 30. painkiller, 31. rabies

32. crested ca____ra *n.* a large bird of prey from the Falconidae family, commonly found in the Americas
33. show di____t at his actions *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
34. gr____y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
35. wildlife pr____or *n.* a person or thing that provides protection, support, or defense; a guardian or defender
36. co____r population *n.* a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America
37. pa____al lifestyle *adj.* relating to the countryside, especially in a peaceful, idyllic, or rural setting; characterized by simplicity, natural beauty, and a focus on the care of livestock or farming
38. scavenging vu____e *n.* a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)
39. cr____e the remains *v.* to burn a dead body to reduce it to ash, often as part of a funeral or other death-related ritual
40. ho____ic condition *adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
41. ra____s virus infection *n.* a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans; transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, most often through a bite, which can lead to paralysis, seizures, and death if left untreated

ANSWERS: 32. caracara, 33. disgust, 34. greedy, 35. protector, 36. condor, 37. pastoral, 38. vulture, 39. cremate, 40. horrific, 41. rabies

42. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
43. with a go__y expression *adj.* silly or foolish
44. examine a ca____s *n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food
45. Venezuelan ca____ra *n.* a large bird of prey from the Falconidae family, commonly found in the Americas
46. ram_____ions of the scenario *n.* the act or process of branching out or dividing into branches
47. pu___d atmosphere *adj.* decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting
48. long-ex_____t volcano *adj.* no longer in existence
49. re_____y in the streets *n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
50. apex pr_____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
51. endangered co____r *n.* a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America
52. ware a go__y hat *adj.* silly or foolish
53. vu_____e colony *n.* a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)

ANSWERS: 42. bury, 43. goofy, 44. carcass, 45. caracara, 46. ramification, 47. putrid, 48. extinct, 49. revelry, 50. predator, 51. condor, 52. goofy, 53. vulture

54. co__a venom *n.* a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened
55. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
56. b__y in the earth *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
57. sc_____t petals *n.* a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red
58. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
59. the power of wit_____ft *n.* the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices
60. pa_____al landscape *adj.* relating to the countryside, especially in a peaceful, idyllic, or rural setting; characterized by simplicity, natural beauty, and a focus on the care of livestock or farming
61. fe__l behavior *adj.* wild, untamed, or having returned to a wild or untamed state after being domesticated; characteristic of an animal that lives and reproduces freely in its natural habitat
62. be___e nose *n.* a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares

ANSWERS: 54. cobra, 55. determinant, 56. bury, 57. scarlet, 58. predator, 59. witchcraft, 60. pastoral, 61. feral, 62. beagle

63. de_____se matter

v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements

64. fe__l cat

adj. wild, untamed, or having returned to a wild or untamed state after being domesticated; characteristic of an animal that lives and reproduces freely in its natural habitat

ANSWERS: 63. decompose, 64. feral

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ sharp eyesight allows it to spot carrion from great distances.
n. a large bird of prey with a bald head, sharp beak, and keen eyesight, feeding mainly on carrion (the flesh of dead animals)

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

3. His pet _____ sniffed at the ground, following the rabbit's trail.
n. a small dog with a smooth coat, long ears, and a strong sense of smell, used for hunting hares

4. I had to throw away the _____ food in the fridge because it had gone bad.
adj. decaying or rotting and emitting a foul or offensive odor; morally corrupt, foul, or depraved; repulsive or disgusting

5. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

6. The teenagers vandalized the abandoned building and turned it into a _____ hangout spot.
adj. wild, untamed, or having returned to a wild or untamed state after being domesticated; characteristic of an animal that lives and reproduces freely in its natural habitat

7. Many people were accused of _____ during the Salem Witch Trials in the late 1600s.
n. the practice of using magical or supernatural powers or abilities to influence events or people, often used to describe ancient, mystical, or pagan practices

ANSWERS: 1. vulture's, 2. bury, 3. beagle, 4. putrid, 5. misunderstand, 6. feral, 7. witchcraft

8. They plan to _____ their loved ones according to their cultural traditions.
v. to burn a dead body to reduce it to ash, often as part of a funeral or other death-related ritual
9. After the earthquake, many of the buildings in the city were left in ruins and began to _____.
v. to break down or cause to break down over time into simpler substances or elements
10. The court's decision had many unforeseen _____.
n. the act or process of branching out or dividing into branches
11. He made a _____ face as he recalled this morning's events.
adj. silly or foolish
12. The street was filled with _____ on New Year's Eve.
n. lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
13. The _____ habitat ranges from open grasslands to forests, depending on the specific species of the bird.
n. a large bird of prey from the Falconidae family, commonly found in the Americas
14. The majestic _____ soared through the sky, captivating everyone's attention.
n. a large bird of prey with a wingspan of up to ten feet, primarily found in South America
15. His _____ behavior led him to steal from the company.
adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

ANSWERS: 8. cremate, 9. decompose, 10. ramifications, 11. goofy, 12. revelry, 13. caracara, 14. condor, 15. greedy

16. Scientists are currently researching new treatments for _____ that could improve survival rates in infected individuals
- n.* a serious bacterial infection caused by *Bacillus anthracis* that can affect both humans and animals; it is characterized by a range of symptoms, including skin blisters, fever, and difficulty breathing, and can be fatal if left untreated
17. Pet owners need to keep their animals vaccinated against _____.
- n.* a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans; transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, most often through a bite, which can lead to paralysis, seizures, and death if left untreated
18. The accident scene was _____ with bodies and debris scattered everywhere.
- adj.* causing horror or disgust; gruesome and terrifying
19. The animal's _____ was found in the forest, most likely killed by a predator.
- n.* the dead body of an animal, especially one that has been killed for food
20. The dancer made her performance look _____ and graceful.
- adj.* requiring little or no effort; not difficult or strenuous; easy to accomplish
21. Many species have become _____ due to habitat destruction and other human activities.
- adj.* no longer in existence
22. The bodyguard acted as a _____ for the celebrity.
- n.* a person or thing that provides protection, support, or defense; a guardian or defender
23. He was filled with _____ and fear for the threat of war.
- n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

ANSWERS: 16. anthrax, 17. rabies, 18. horrific, 19. carcass, 20. effortless, 21. extinct, 22. protector, 23. disgust

24. The _____ scenery of the countryside was a refreshing change from the hectic city life.
- adj.* relating to the countryside, especially in a peaceful, idyllic, or rural setting; characterized by simplicity, natural beauty, and a focus on the care of livestock or farming
25. The king _____ slithered silently across the ground.
- n.* a venomous snake found in Africa and Asia that can raise its head and spread a hood when threatened
26. Over-the-counter _____ are less effective for patients who have taken many in the past.
- n.* medicine used to relieve physical pain
27. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
28. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
- n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
29. She wore a _____ dress to the party, making her stand out in the crowd.
- n.* a bright red color; a vivid, deep, or intense red
30. My left arm became _____.
- adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity

ANSWERS: 24. pastoral, 25. cobra, 26. painkillers, 27. determinant, 28. predator's, 29. scarlet, 30. numb

31. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.

- n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

32. Many religious institutions promote _____ as the ideal form of marriage.

- n.* the practice of being married to only one person at a time; the state of having a mutually exclusive romantic or sexual relationship with one partner

ANSWERS: 31. moth, 32. monogamy