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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Eric Whitacre: Virtual Choir Live | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

idyllic

adj. pertaining to an idealized or picturesque version of rural life; blissfully serene, pleasingly perfect, or charmingly simple

synonym: picturesque, pastoral, scenic

(1) **idyllic** setting, (2) **idyllic** vacation

The village was known for its **idyllic** way of life and picturesque scenery.

whoosh

n. a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound

synonym: swoosh, swish, whizz

(1) **whoosh** of a falling object, (2) hear a **whoosh**

The **whoosh** of the wind through the trees was the only sound in the forest.

hush

v. to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential

synonym: clam up, quieten, settle down

(1) **hush** for a while, (2) **hush** up a case

Please **hush** your voice so that the baby can sleep.

thunderclap

n. a sudden, loud, and explosive sound or noise, typically associated with thunderstorms, characterized by a strong and abrupt onset, resembling the sound of a clap or crash

synonym : boom, crack, peal

(1) **thunderclap** headache, (2) **thunderclap** roar

The sudden **thunderclap** frightened the children and made them run indoors.

dorm

n. a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus

synonym : residence hall, hostel, boarding house

(1) **dorm** room, (2) university **dorm**

Living in a **dorm** can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.

singe

v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake

synonym : sear, char, burn

(1) **singe** off the hair over the flames, (2) **singe** the edges of a fabric

I didn't realize the iron was still hot and **singed** my dress.

humility

n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self

synonym : humbleness, modesty, unpretentiousness

(1) develop an attitude of **humility**, (2) lack of **humility**

We were filled with **humility** at the sight of the Queen.

whirlwind

n. a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage

synonym : tornado, waterspout, dust devil

(1) economic **whirlwind**, (2) **whirlwind** of events

We went on a **whirlwind** visit to the sightseeing spot.

beak

n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
synonym : nib, pecker, snoot

(1) sharp **beak**, (2) a tip of the **beak**

The bird's **beak** evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.

peck

v. to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble

synonym : beak, nibble, pick

(1) **peck** on the cheek, (2) **peck** at feed

The wood **pecker** would peck at the tree high up in the branches.

pomegranate

n. red fruit with a tough outer layer and sweet, juicy, edible seeds inside; a bitter white membrane surrounds the seeds

(1) delicious **pomegranate** dessert, (2) **pomegranate** juice
I love adding **pomegranate** seeds to my salads.

thorn

n. a sharp, pointed projection or spine on a plant or animal; something that causes discomfort or irritation, especially in a difficult or unpleasant situation

synonym : spike, prickle, spine

(1) **thorn** bush, (2) **thorn** injury

The **thorn** in her finger caused her much pain until she could remove it.

awaken

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
synonym : rouse, arouse, revive

(1) **awaken** at daybreak, (2) **awaken** a child

The friend's death **awakens** them.

Session 2: Spelling

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|---------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. si__e off the hair over the flames | v. | to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake |
| 2. si__e the edges of a fabric | v. | to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake |
| 3. economic wh_____nd | n. | a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage |
| 4. a tip of the b__k | n. | the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird |
| 5. p__k on the cheek | v. | to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble |
| 6. aw___n at daybreak | v. | to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping |
| 7. p__k at feed | v. | to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble |
| 8. thu_____ap headache | n. | a sudden, loud, and explosive sound or noise, typically associated with thunderstorms, characterized by a strong and abrupt onset, resembling the sound of a clap or crash |
| 9. th__n injury | n. | a sharp, pointed projection or spine on a plant or animal; something that causes discomfort or irritation, especially in a difficult or unpleasant situation |

ANSWERS: 1. singe, 2. singe, 3. whirlwind, 4. beak, 5. peck, 6. awaken, 7. peck, 8. thunderclap, 9. thorn

10. university d__m *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
11. d__m room *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
12. wh_____nd of events *n.* a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage
13. h__h for a while *v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential
14. pom_____te juice *n.* red fruit with a tough outer layer and sweet, juicy, edible seeds inside; a bitter white membrane surrounds the seeds
15. hear a wh__h *n.* a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound
16. develop an attitude of hu_____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
17. th__n bush *n.* a sharp, pointed projection or spine on a plant or animal; something that causes discomfort or irritation, especially in a difficult or unpleasant situation

ANSWERS: 10. dorm, 11. dorm, 12. whirlwind, 13. hush, 14. pomegranate, 15. whoosh, 16. humility, 17. thorn

18. h__h up a case *v.* to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential
19. id____c setting *adj.* pertaining to an idealized or picturesque version of rural life; blissfully serene, pleasingly perfect, or charmingly simple
20. id____c vacation *adj.* pertaining to an idealized or picturesque version of rural life; blissfully serene, pleasingly perfect, or charmingly simple
21. aw___n a child *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
22. sharp b__k *n.* the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
23. lack of hu____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
24. wh___h of a falling object *n.* a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound
25. delicious pom______te dessert *n.* red fruit with a tough outer layer and sweet, juicy, edible seeds inside; a bitter white membrane surrounds the seeds
26. thu______ap roar *n.* a sudden, loud, and explosive sound or noise, typically associated with thunderstorms, characterized by a strong and abrupt onset, resembling the sound of a clap or crash

ANSWERS: 18. hush, 19. idyllic, 20. idyllic, 21. awaken, 22. beak, 23. humility, 24. whoosh, 25. pomegranate, 26. thunderclap

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The sudden _____ frightened the children and made them run indoors.
n. a sudden, loud, and explosive sound or noise, typically associated with thunderstorms, characterized by a strong and abrupt onset, resembling the sound of a clap or crash
2. The village was known for its _____ way of life and picturesque scenery.
adj. pertaining to an idealized or picturesque version of rural life; blissfully serene, pleasingly perfect, or charmingly simple
3. I didn't realize the iron was still hot and _____ my dress.
v. to burn something slightly or superficially, usually by mistake
4. Please _____ your voice so that the baby can sleep.
v. to make or become silent, especially by urging or persuading others to be quiet or by speaking softly or gently; to keep something secret or confidential
5. We were filled with _____ at the sight of the Queen.
n. the quality or condition of being humble; a low estimate of one's self
6. The bird's _____ evolves according to the type of prey it can take on the area.
n. the hard and pointed or curved mouse of a bird
7. The _____ of the wind through the trees was the only sound in the forest.
n. a rushing or swishing sound, such as that made by something moving quickly through the air or by a sudden gust of wind; (verb) to move swiftly with a rushing or whooshing sound

ANSWERS: 1. thunderclap, 2. idyllic, 3. singed, 4. hush, 5. humility, 6. beak, 7. whoosh

8. Living in a _____ can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.
- n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
9. We went on a _____ visit to the sightseeing spot.
- n.* a very strong wind that moves rapidly in circles and causes a lot of damage
10. I love adding _____ seeds to my salads.
- n.* red fruit with a tough outer layer and sweet, juicy, edible seeds inside; a bitter white membrane surrounds the seeds
11. The wood_____ would peck at the tree high up in the branches.
- v.* to strike or bite someone or something repeatedly, usually with the beak or bill; to give a quick, small kiss or nibble
12. The _____ in her finger caused her much pain until she could remove it.
- n.* a sharp, pointed projection or spine on a plant or animal; something that causes discomfort or irritation, especially in a difficult or unpleasant situation
13. The friend's death _____ them.
- v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping

ANSWERS: 8. dorm, 9. whirlwind, 10. pomegranate, 11. pecker, 12. thorn, 13. awakens