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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Maria R. D'Orsogna: Why do animals form swarms? | TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/maria\\_r\\_d\\_orsogna\\_why\\_d\\_o\\_animals\\_form\\_swarms](https://www.ted.com/talks/maria_r_d_orsogna_why_d_o_animals_form_swarms)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

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## Session 1: Word List

### locust

*n.* a type of grasshopper that can travel in large swarms and cause extensive damage to crops; can also refer to various other insects such as cicadas or katydids

*synonym*: grasshopper, cicada, cricket

(1) **locust** army, (2) **locust** plague

The **locust** infestation destroyed the crops, causing widespread famine.

### solitary

*adj.* existing, living, or doing without others

*synonym*: lonely, unsociable, singular

(1) use of **solitary** confinement, (2) a **solitary** traveler

He never uttered a **solitary** word.

### hind

*adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal

*synonym*: back, rear, posterior

(1) **hind** toe, (2) **hind** paw

The farmer noticed a **hind** leg injury on one of his cows and called the vet for help.

### slew

*v.* to turn or slip abruptly and sharply; (past for of) slay;  
(noun) a large number or amount or extent

*synonym*: slide, curve, (noun) heap

(1) **slew** around suddenly, (2) have a **slew** of ideas  
He **slew** many Trojan warriors in this war.

## shun

*v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

*synonym*: avoid, evade, steer clear of

(1) **shun** a person, (2) **shun** office politics

He **shunned** going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

## 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**.

## 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.

## anchovy

*n.* a small saltwater fish with a strong flavor, often used in cooking and as a pizza topping

*synonym*: sardine

(1) pasta with **anchovy**, (2) **anchovy** fillets

I don't particularly enjoy **anchovy** on my pizza.

## 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.

## congregate

*v.* to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area

*synonym* : assemble, converge, gather

(1) **congregate** at the park, (2) **congregate** in a mosque

The protesters plan to **congregate** in front of the city hall to raise awareness for their cause.

## catastrophic

*adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

*synonym* : fatal, disastrous, destructive

(1) victim of **catastrophic** injuries, (2) **catastrophic** climate change

The extinction rate of aquatic animals was **catastrophic**.

## pheromone

*n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

*synonym* : scent, odor, aroma

(1) **pheromone** trail, (2) sexual **pheromone**

The perfume industry often uses synthetic **pheromones** to enhance their products' appeal.

## veer

*v.* to change direction suddenly or sharply; to turn or swerve from one course or direction to another

*synonym* : swerve, diverge, shift

(1) **veer** toward danger, (2) **veer** to the left

The car **veered** off the road and crashed into a tree.

## exhaustion

*n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength

*synonym* : fatigue, weariness, tiredness

(1) **exhaustion** of energy, (2) emotional **exhaustion**

The long work hours were taking a toll on her mental **exhaustion**.

## humming

*adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

*synonym*: buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

## individualism

*n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant

*synonym*: self-reliance, autonomy, self-sufficiency

(1) rampant **individualism**, (2) nation of **individualism**

An ethic of **individualism** encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.

## drone

*n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control

*synonym*: hum, whirr, idler

(1) **drone** flight, (2) the speaker's **drone**

He heard a **drone** of sirens roar from the neighboring town.

## confine

*v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something

*synonym*: restrict, limit, contain

(1) **confine** themselves solely, (2) **confine** the scope of use

The animal was **confined** in a small cage.

## collide

*v.* to hit something violently when moving

*synonym*: clash, slam, contradict

(1) **collide** head-on, (2) **collide** in midair

The interests of the two countries **collide**.

## crowdsourcing

*n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet

(1) **crowdsourcing** apps, (2) **crowdsourcing** in climate policy

The company used this **crowdsourcing** platform to gather

ideas for its next product.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. lo___t army                  | <i>n.</i> a type of grasshopper that can travel in large swarms and cause extensive damage to crops; can also refer to various other insects such as cicadas or katydids        |
| 2. lo___t plague                | <i>n.</i> a type of grasshopper that can travel in large swarms and cause extensive damage to crops; can also refer to various other insects such as cicadas or katydids        |
| 3. sexual ph_____ne             | <i>n.</i> a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species                 |
| 4. cro_____ing apps             | <i>n.</i> the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet |
| 5. h__d toe                     | <i>adj.</i> situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal  |
| 6. use of so_____ry confinement | <i>adj.</i> existing, living, or doing without others   |
| 7. a n__b mind                  | <i>adj.</i> unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity  |

ANSWERS: 1. locust, 2. locust, 3. pheromone, 4. crowdsourcing, 5. hind, 6. solitary, 7. numb

8. dr\_\_e flight *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
9. exh\_\_\_\_\_on of energy *n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
10. h\_\_d paw *adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal
11. emotional exh\_\_\_\_\_on *n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
12. an\_\_\_\_\_y fillets *n.* a small saltwater fish with a strong flavor, often used in cooking and as a pizza topping
13. v\_\_r toward danger *v.* to change direction suddenly or sharply; to turn or swerve from one course or direction to another
14. a so\_\_\_\_\_ry traveler *adj.* existing, living, or doing without others
15. the speaker's dr\_\_e *n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
16. locust sw\_\_m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
17. con\_\_\_\_\_te in a mosque *v.* to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area
18. victim of cat\_\_\_\_\_hic injuries *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction

ANSWERS: 8. drone, 9. exhaustion, 10. hind, 11. exhaustion, 12. anchovy, 13. veer, 14. solitary, 15. drone, 16. swarm, 17. congregate, 18. catastrophic

19. sexual pr\_\_\_\_ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
20. co\_\_\_\_e the scope of use *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something
21. cro\_\_\_\_\_ing in climate policy *n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
22. hu\_\_\_\_g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
23. have a s\_\_w of ideas *v.* to turn or slip abruptly and sharply; (past for of) slay; (noun) a large number or amount or extent
24. hu\_\_\_\_g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
25. s\_\_n a person *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
26. pasta with an\_\_\_\_y *n.* a small saltwater fish with a strong flavor, often used in cooking and as a pizza topping
27. nation of ind\_\_\_\_\_ism *n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
28. con\_\_\_\_\_te at the park *v.* to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area
29. cat\_\_\_\_\_hic climate change *adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
30. apex pr\_\_\_\_or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

ANSWERS: 19. predator, 20. confine, 21. crowdsourcing, 22. humming, 23. slew, 24. humming, 25. shun, 26. anchovy, 27. individualism, 28. congregate, 29. catastrophic, 30. predator



31. co\_\_\_\_e in midair *v.* to hit something violently when moving
32. v\_\_r to the left *v.* to change direction suddenly or sharply; to turn or swerve from one course or direction to another
33. s\_\_n office politics *v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something
34. co\_\_\_\_e head-on *v.* to hit something violently when moving
35. 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
36. rampant ind\_\_\_\_\_ism *n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
37. s\_\_w around suddenly *v.* to turn or slip abruptly and sharply; (past for of) slay; (noun) a large number or amount or extent
38. ph\_\_\_\_\_ne trail *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
39. n\_\_b with cold *adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
40. co\_\_\_\_e themselves solely *v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something

ANSWERS: 31. collide, 32. veer, 33. shun, 34. collide, 35. swarm, 36. individualism, 37. slew, 38. pheromone, 39. numb, 40. confine

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The native South American animals were in danger because of the \_\_\_\_\_ arrival.  
*n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
2. The extinction rate of aquatic animals was \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* extremely harmful; causing physical or financial destruction
3. An ethic of \_\_\_\_\_ encourages people to make choices based on their values and beliefs rather than the values and beliefs of the group or society.  
*n.* the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant
4. My left arm became \_\_\_\_\_.  
*adj.* unable to feel physical sensation and movement; not showing human feeling or sensitivity
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.  
*adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
6. The interests of the two countries \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to hit something violently when moving
7. The long work hours were taking a toll on her mental \_\_\_\_\_.  
*n.* the state of being extremely tired and lacking energy or strength
8. The car \_\_\_\_\_ off the road and crashed into a tree.  
*v.* to change direction suddenly or sharply; to turn or swerve from one course or direction to another

ANSWERS: 1. predator's, 2. catastrophic, 3. individualism, 4. numb, 5. humming, 6. collide, 7. exhaustion, 8. veered

9. He \_\_\_\_\_ many Trojan warriors in this war.
- v.* to turn or slip abruptly and sharply; (past for of) slay; (noun) a large number or amount or extent
10. The protesters plan to \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the city hall to raise awareness for their cause.
- v.* to come together or gather in a group or assembly; to collect or accumulate in a particular place or area
11. The company used this \_\_\_\_\_ platform to gather ideas for its next product.
- n.* the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the internet
12. He heard a \_\_\_\_\_ of sirens roar from the neighboring town.
- n.* a low continuous humming noise; someone who takes more time than necessary; a pilot-less aerial vehicle that is operated by remote control
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ infestation destroyed the crops, causing widespread famine.
- n.* a type of grasshopper that can travel in large swarms and cause extensive damage to crops; can also refer to various other insects such as cicadas or katydids
14. 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
15. I don't particularly enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ on my pizza.
- n.* a small saltwater fish with a strong flavor, often used in cooking and as a pizza topping

ANSWERS: 9. slew, 10. congregate, 11. crowdsourcing, 12. drone, 13. locust, 14. swarm, 15. anchovy

16. He \_\_\_\_\_ going to the party and decided to stay home instead.

*v.* to avoid deliberately or keep away from someone or something

17. The farmer noticed a \_\_\_\_\_ leg injury on one of his cows and called the vet for help.

*adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal

18. The perfume industry often uses synthetic \_\_\_\_\_ to enhance their products' appeal.

*n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

19. He never uttered a \_\_\_\_\_ word.

*adj.* existing, living, or doing without others

20. The animal was \_\_\_\_\_ in a small cage.

*v.* to restrict the movement of someone or something

ANSWERS: 16. shunned, 17. hind, 18. pheromones, 19. solitary, 20. confined