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Elizabeth Carlen and Joanna Moles: How pigeons took over the world | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

pigeon

n. a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food

(1) a racing **pigeon**, (2) **pigeon** on the roof

The **pigeon** perched on the windowsill, pecking at the bread crumbs left for it.

paddy

n. a flooded field where rice is grown, also known as a rice paddy; rice that is still in its husk, harvested from marshy fields called paddies, usually in Asia

synonym: rice field, wetland

(1) **paddy** farming, (2) **paddy** production

The sight of the **paddy** fields swaying in the wind was breathtaking.

falcon

n. a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight

synonym: hawk, eagle, kestrel

(1) **falcon** feathers, (2) peregrine **falcon**

The **falcon's** keen eyesight makes it an excellent hunter.

stormy

adj. marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation

synonym : tempestuous, turbulent, choppy

(1) **stormy** relationship, (2) **stormy** weather

The city council meeting was **stormy**, as people argued about a controversial new policy.

gallantry

n. courteous and valiant behavior, especially toward women; acts of chivalrous bravery, such as those performed in battle or defense of someone else

synonym : bravery, valor, chivalry

(1) act of **gallantry**, (2) show of **gallantry**

The young athlete showed remarkable **gallantry** in his first Olympic race.

captivity

n. the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from

synonym : confinement, detention, imprisonment

(1) escape from **captivity**, (2) animals in **captivity** in the zoo

Pandas rarely breed in **captivity**.

trait

n. a particular feature of your nature

synonym : attribute, feature, quality

(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**

Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym : intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**

When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

plumage

n. the feathers of a bird used as a collective term to describe the colors, patterns, and size of feathers on a particular bird species

synonym : feathers, plumules, plumes

(1) bright **plumage**, (2) iridescent **plumage**

The bird's colorful **plumage** caught the attention of many at the zoo.

chaotic

adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

synonym : disorderly, cluttered, topsy-turvy

(1) the **chaotic** economic situation, (2) **chaotic** theory

Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of **chaotic** reform.

accentuate

v. to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable

synonym : emphasize, highlight, stress

(1) **accentuate** features, (2) **accentuate** the positive

The dress's plunging neckline was designed to **accentuate** the model's curves.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym : mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

homemaking

n. the act or practice of managing a household and taking care of domestic duties such as cooking, cleaning, and organizing; the work or occupation of being a homemaker

synonym : housekeeping, domestic management

(1) traditional **homemaking** skills, (2) **homemaking** tools

Homemaking duties can include anything from cooking and cleaning to managing household finances.

ledge

n. a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface

synonym : shelf, edge, brink

(1) **ledge** overlooking the ocean, (2) wooden **ledge**

He stood on the narrow **ledge**, looking down at the busy street below.

overpass

n. a bridge or elevated roadway that passes over a road, railway, or other obstruction, typically designed to improve traffic flow by allowing vehicles to pass over or bypass an obstacle

synonym : bridge, flyover, viaduct

(1) **overpass** bridge, (2) steel **overpass**

The **overpass** over the busy highway made getting to the other side much easier without waiting in traffic.

fussy

adj. excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care

synonym : picky, finicky, particular

(1) **fussy** eater, (2) **fussy** cat

The baby's **fussy** behavior indicated that she was not feeling well.

generalist

adj. relating to or characterized by a broad range of knowledge, skills, or interests rather than specialized or deep expertise in a particular field or domain

synonym : multidisciplinary, versatile, all-round

(1) **generalist** knowledge, (2) legal **generalist**

The job required a **generalist** approach, which involved working on various tasks in different fields.

gorge

n. a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it

synonym : canyon, gully, ravine

(1) cast the **gorge**, (2) the **gorges** of the Yangtse River

We must pass through the narrow **gorge** with a stream running through it.

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.

rapt

adj. deeply engrossed or absorbed in something; completely attentive or absorbed

synonym: entranced, absorbed, spellbound

(1) **rapt** audience, (2) have a **rapt** expression

She was **rapt** in concentration as she listened to the lecture.

aptitude

n. a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work

synonym: ability, talent, skill

(1) **aptitude** test, (2) natural **aptitude**

Her **aptitude** for mathematics helped her excel in her engineering courses at college.

comp

v. short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment

synonym: waive, cover, provide

(1) **comp** their meal, (2) **comp** the employees with a bonus

The casino **comped** her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.

owl

n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

synonym: raptor, bird of prey, nocturnal bird

(1) a night **owl**, (2) an **owl** hooted

The snowy **owl** is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.

lookout

n. a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence

synonym : watchman, sentinel, guard

(1) **lookout** team, (2) on the **lookout** for danger

The **lookout** tower provided a clear view of the surrounding area.

cherish

v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

synonym : treasure, value, hold dear

(1) **cherish** a stuffed animal, (2) **cherish** relationships

She **cherished** the memories of her childhood.

acidic

adj. having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal

synonym : sour, tart, acrid

(1) **acidic** solution, (2) **acidic** taste

The soil in this region is too **acidic** for most crops to grow well.

excrement

n. the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract

synonym : waste, feces, dung

(1) animal **excrement**, (2) human **excrement**

As a dog owner, cleaning up your pet's **excrement** is responsible.

fungus

n. a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym : mold, mildew, yeast

(1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

inhale

v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
synonym: breathe in, take in, draw in

(1) **inhale** the smoke, (2) **inhale** the aroma
He **inhaled** deeply, trying to calm down.

swirl

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern
synonym: spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust
The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

Session 2: Spelling

1. peregrine fa___n
n. a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight
2. natural ap____de
n. a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work
3. ch____c theory
adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
4. an o_l hooted
n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call
5. the go__es of the Yangtse River
n. a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
6. pi___n on the roof
n. a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food
7. in____ct for self-preservation
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
8. have a r__t expression
adj. deeply engrossed or absorbed in something; completely attentive or absorbed

ANSWERS: 1. falcon, 2. aptitude, 3. chaotic, 4. owl, 5. gorge, 6. pigeon, 7. instinct, 8. rapt

9. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
10. iridescent pl_____e *n.* the feathers of a bird used as a collective term to describe the colors, patterns, and size of feathers on a particular bird species
11. fu__y eater *adj.* excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care
12. human ex_____nt *n.* the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract
13. fu__y cat *adj.* excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care
14. legal gen_____st *adj.* relating to or characterized by a broad range of knowledge, skills, or interests rather than specialized or deep expertise in a particular field or domain
15. st___y weather *adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
16. gen_____st knowledge *adj.* relating to or characterized by a broad range of knowledge, skills, or interests rather than specialized or deep expertise in a particular field or domain

ANSWERS: 9. trait, 10. plumage, 11. fussy, 12. excrement, 13. fussy, 14. generalist, 15. stormy, 16. generalist

17. sw__l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
18. a racing pi___n *n.* a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food
19. wooden le__e *n.* a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface
20. fu___s infection *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
21. pa__y production *n.* a flooded field where rice is grown, also known as a rice paddy; rice that is still in its husk, harvested from marshy fields called paddies, usually in Asia
22. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
23. cast the go__e *n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
24. steel ov_____ss *n.* a bridge or elevated roadway that passes over a road, railway, or other obstruction, typically designed to improve traffic flow by allowing vehicles to pass over or bypass an obstacle
25. show of ga_____ry *n.* courteous and valiant behavior, especially toward women; acts of chivalrous bravery, such as those performed in battle or defense of someone else

ANSWERS: 17. swirl, 18. pigeon, 19. ledge, 20. fungus, 21. paddy, 22. predator, 23. gorge, 24. overpass, 25. gallantry

26. ac___c solution *adj.* having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal
27. bright pl_____e *n.* the feathers of a bird used as a collective term to describe the colors, patterns, and size of feathers on a particular bird species
28. the ch_____c economic situation *adj.* without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
29. animal ex_____nt *n.* the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract
30. aggressive in_____ct *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
31. c__p their meal *v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
32. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
33. symbiotic fu___s *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
34. acc_____te features *v.* to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable

ANSWERS: 26. acidic, 27. plumage, 28. chaotic, 29. excrement, 30. instinct, 31. comp, 32. mimic, 33. fungus, 34. accentuate

35. escape from ca_____ty *n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
36. ch_____h a stuffed animal *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
37. st____y relationship *adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
38. r__t audience *adj.* deeply engrossed or absorbed in something; completely attentive or absorbed
39. act of ga_____ry *n.* courteous and valiant behavior, especially toward women; acts of chivalrous bravery, such as those performed in battle or defense of someone else
40. c__p the employees with a bonus *v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
41. ap_____de test *n.* a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work
42. ov_____ss bridge *n.* a bridge or elevated roadway that passes over a road, railway, or other obstruction, typically designed to improve traffic flow by allowing vehicles to pass over or bypass an obstacle
43. a night o_l *n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

ANSWERS: 35. captivity, 36. cherish, 37. stormy, 38. rapt, 39. gallantry, 40. comp, 41. aptitude, 42. overpass, 43. owl

44. apex pr____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
45. sw__l up dirt and dust *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
46. lo____t team *n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence
47. in___e the smoke *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
48. ch____h relationships *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something
49. pa__y farming *n.* a flooded field where rice is grown, also known as a rice paddy; rice that is still in its husk, harvested from marshy fields called paddies, usually in Asia
50. acc_____te the positive *v.* to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable
51. hom_____ng tools *n.* the act or practice of managing a household and taking care of domestic duties such as cooking, cleaning, and organizing; the work or occupation of being a homemaker
52. animals in ca_____ty in the zoo *n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
53. traditional hom_____ng skills *n.* the act or practice of managing a household and taking care of domestic duties such as cooking, cleaning, and organizing; the work or occupation of being a homemaker

ANSWERS: 44. predator, 45. swirl, 46. lookout, 47. inhale, 48. cherish, 49. paddy, 50. accentuate, 51. homemaking, 52. captivity, 53. homemaking

54. le__e overlooking the ocean *n.* a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface
55. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
56. chemical tr__t *n.* a particular feature of your nature
57. fa___n feathers *n.* a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight
58. ac___c taste *adj.* having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal
59. on the lo_____t for danger *n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence
60. in___e the aroma *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

ANSWERS: 54. ledge, 55. mimic, 56. trait, 57. falcon, 58. acidic, 59. lookout, 60. inhale

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He _____ deeply, trying to calm down.
v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
2. He stood on the narrow _____ looking down at the busy street below.
n. a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface
3. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
4. The soil in this region is too _____ for most crops to grow well.
adj. having a pH lower than 7; having characteristics of an acid, such as tasting sour or corroding metal
5. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
6. _____ duties can include anything from cooking and cleaning to managing household finances.
n. the act or practice of managing a household and taking care of domestic duties such as cooking, cleaning, and organizing; the work or occupation of being a homemaker
7. The baby's _____ behavior indicated that she was not feeling well.
adj. excessively concerned with minor details and trivialities; easily irritated or bothered by small annoyances; requiring or showing excessive attention or care

ANSWERS: 1. inhaled, 2. ledge, 3. mimic, 4. acidic, 5. instinct, 6. Homemaking, 7. fussy

8. The sight of the _____ fields swaying in the wind was breathtaking.
- n.* a flooded field where rice is grown, also known as a rice paddy; rice that is still in its husk, harvested from marshy fields called paddies, usually in Asia
9. The city council meeting was _____ as people argued about a controversial new policy.
- adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
10. Her _____ for mathematics helped her excel in her engineering courses at college.
- n.* a natural ability or talent for something; suitability or fitness for a particular task or kind of work
11. We must pass through the narrow _____ with a stream running through it.
- n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
12. The _____ perched on the windowsill, pecking at the bread crumbs left for it.
- n.* a stout-bodied bird with a small head, short legs, and a short, cooing call, typically found in cities and domesticated for food
13. Pandas rarely breed in _____.
- n.* the situation in which a person or animal is kept in prison or a space that they cannot escape from
14. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
- n.* a particular feature of your nature
15. Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of _____ reform.
- adj.* without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing

ANSWERS: 8. paddy, 9. stormy, 10. aptitude, 11. gorge, 12. pigeon, 13. captivity, 14. traits, 15. chaotic

16. The young athlete showed remarkable _____ in his first Olympic race.
n. courteous and valiant behavior, especially toward women; acts of chivalrous bravery, such as those performed in battle or defense of someone else
17. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
18. As a dog owner, cleaning up your pet's _____ is responsible.
n. the waste matter discharged from the body, particularly that which is evacuated through the bowels or urinary tract
19. The _____ keen eyesight makes it an excellent hunter.
n. a bird of prey characterized by its sharp talons and hooked beak; typically having a long tail and wingspan and known for its swift and agile flight
20. The job required a _____ approach, which involved working on various tasks in different fields.
adj. relating to or characterized by a broad range of knowledge, skills, or interests rather than specialized or deep expertise in a particular field or domain
21. The _____ over the busy highway made getting to the other side much easier without waiting in traffic.
n. a bridge or elevated roadway that passes over a road, railway, or other obstruction, typically designed to improve traffic flow by allowing vehicles to pass over or bypass an obstacle
22. She _____ the memories of her childhood.
v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

ANSWERS: 16. gallantry, 17. predator's, 18. excrement, 19. falcon's, 20. generalist, 21. overpass, 22. cherished

23. The casino _____ her room and meals for being a high-rolling gambler.
- v.* short for "compensate," meaning to give goods or services to someone without asking for payment
24. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.
- n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
25. She was _____ in concentration as she listened to the lecture.
- adj.* deeply engrossed or absorbed in something; completely attentive or absorbed
26. The chef expertly _____ the sauce onto the plate.
- v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
27. The dress's plunging neckline was designed to _____ the model's curves.
- v.* to emphasize or highlight something, often by making it more prominent or noticeable
28. The bird's colorful _____ caught the attention of many at the zoo.
- n.* the feathers of a bird used as a collective term to describe the colors, patterns, and size of feathers on a particular bird species
29. The _____ tower provided a clear view of the surrounding area.
- n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence
30. The snowy _____ is a large, white bird often seen in the Arctic.
- n.* a nocturnal bird of prey with large eyes, a facial disc, and typically a loud hooting call

ANSWERS: 23. comped, 24. fungus, 25. rapt, 26. swirled, 27. accentuate, 28. plumage, 29. lookout, 30. owl

ANSWERS: