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Joshua Chu-Tan: The science of preserving sight |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym: crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Aging **creeps** up slowly with time.

conjure

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

synonym: summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

macula

n. a small, oval-shaped area near the center of the retina of the eye, responsible for providing high-resolution vision

synonym: center of the retina, spot, eyespot

(1) **macula** lutea, (2) damage to the **macula**

There are several treatment options available for patients with **macula-related** disorders.

degenerate

v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition

synonym: deteriorate, decline, decay

(1) **degenerate** into a disagreement, (2) **degenerate** into recession

The once-thriving city has **degenerated** into a crime-ridden slum.

microRNA

n. a type of small non-coding RNA (= a type of nucleic acid that is essential for the transfer of genetic information from DNA to proteins) molecule that plays a crucial role in regulating gene expression and protein synthesis

synonym: RNA molecule, non-coding RNA

(1) **microRNA** expression, (2) dysregulated **microRNA**

Researchers are studying the role of **microRNAs** in regulating gene expression and potential medical applications.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym: sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

retina

n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball

(1) **retinal** cells, (2) **retina** scanner

Damage to the **retina** may play a role in the development of glaucoma.

multilayer

n. something that consists of multiple layers or levels

synonym: lamination, layering, strata

(1) **multilayer** alloy, (2) **multilayer** film

A cake with a **multilayer** filling is a delicious treat.

photoreceptor

n. a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are

responsible for different aspects of vision

synonym: rod, cone, light-sensitive cell

(1) **photoreceptor** cells, (2) damaged **photoreceptor**

Cone **photoreceptors** are responsible for color vision.

fovea

n. a small, central area of the retina of the eye that has the highest concentration of photoreceptor cells and is responsible for seeing fine detail and color

synonym: centralis, macula, pit

(1) **fovea** superior, (2) **fovea** centralis

Some disorders, such as macular degeneration, can affect the function of the **fovea**.

mediate

v. to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict

synonym: arbitrate, reconcile, intervene

(1) **mediate** allergic reaction, (2) **mediate** a negotiation

The teacher had to **mediate** a disagreement between two students over a stolen pencil.

lesion

n. a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease

synonym: injury, wound, damage

(1) muscle **lesion**, (2) brain **lesion**

The doctor examined the **lesion** on the patient's skin to determine if it was cancerous.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

oxidant

n. a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress

(1) **oxidant** stress, (2) natural **oxidant**

Breathing in large amounts of **oxidants**, like ozone, can harm the respiratory system.

mosquito

n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

synonym: insect, bug, flea

(1) **mosquito** bite, (2) **mosquito** repellent

A stagnant water area are breeding ground for **mosquitos**.

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.

scoff

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

synonym: mock, gibe, jeer

(1) **scoff** at a rumor, (2) **scoff** at the idea

We tend to **scoff** at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

dogma

n. a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted

synonym: doctrine, tenet, creed

(1) religious **dogma**, (2) the secret **dogma**

All members strictly followed the **dogma** of the organization.

flatpack

n. a type of furniture or product that is shipped and sold in a flat, disassembled form, typically consisting of a series of panels, pieces, and fasteners that can be assembled and arranged according to instructions

synonym: knockdown furniture, ready-to-assemble furniture

(1) **flatpack** furniture, (2) **flatpack** dining set

I assembled my new dresser from a **flatpack** kit I bought online.

wardrobe

n. a collection or set of clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose; a piece of furniture designed for storing clothes or personal belongings

synonym: clothing, attire, closet

(1) walk-in **wardrobe**, (2) minimalist **wardrobe**

Her **wardrobe** selection included several pieces from high-end designer brands.

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.

doe

n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

synonym: rabbit, bunny, hare

(1) **doe** rabbit, (2) buck and **doe**

Hunters use a whistle that makes the **doe** sound to lure stags.

recap

v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.

synonym: outline, summarize, abstract

(1) **recap** key points, (2) **recap** briefly

Let me quickly **recap** these results.

inflame

v. to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people

synonym: agitate, arouse, enrage

(1) **inflame** skin, (2) **inflame** his passion

Her eyes **inflamed** with crying.

overwhelm

v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody

synonym: conquer, crush, dominate

(1) he was **overwhelmed** with gratitude, (2) **overwhelm** opponents by numbers

Too much variety may **overwhelm** and confuse viewers.

interconnect

v. to connect similar things

synonym: interlink, connect, annex

(1) directly **interconnect** with those systems, (2) human activities **interconnect** with the environment

Our system can now **interconnect** with other databases.

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.

lifespan

n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

synonym: duration, lifetime, continuance

(1) **lifespan** extension, (2) **lifespan** retrieval curve

Generally speaking, men have a shorter **lifespan** than women.

longevity

n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

synonym: seniority, endurance

(1) **longevity** crisis, (2) **longevity** genes

He is proud of the **longevity** of the business.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. li____an retrieval curve | <i>n.</i> the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists |
| 2. hulking di____ur | <i>n.</i> a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin |
| 3. re__p key points | <i>v.</i> to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc. |
| 4. fo__a superior | <i>n.</i> a small, central area of the retina of the eye that has the highest concentration of photoreceptor cells and is responsible for seeing fine detail and color |
| 5. r__m the countryside | <i>v.</i> to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander |
| 6. co____e a vision | <i>v.</i> to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination |
| 7. human activities int_____ect with the environment | <i>v.</i> to connect similar things |
| 8. damage to the ma____a | <i>n.</i> a small, oval-shaped area near the center of the retina of the eye, responsible for providing high-resolution vision |
| 9. he was ov_____lmed with gratitude | <i>v.</i> to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody |
| 10. the secret do__a | <i>n.</i> a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted |

ANSWERS: 1. lifespan, 2. dinosaur, 3. recap, 4. fovea, 5. roam, 6. conjure, 7. interconnect, 8. macula, 9. overwhelm, 10. dogma

11. directly int_____ect with those systems *v.* to connect similar things
12. religious do__a *n.* a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
13. ov_____lm opponents by numbers *v.* to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
14. cr__p along the leaf *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
15. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
16. ox_____t stress *n.* a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress
17. mi_____NA expression *n.* a type of small non-coding RNA (= a type of nucleic acid that is essential for the transfer of genetic information from DNA to proteins) molecule that plays a crucial role in regulating gene expression and protein synthesis
18. r__m freely *v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
19. mo_____to bite *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria

ANSWERS: 11. interconnect, 12. dogma, 13. overwhelm, 14. creep, 15. ironic, 16. oxidant, 17. microRNA, 18. roam, 19. mosquito

20. re___al cells *n.* the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
21. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
22. sc__f at a rumor *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
23. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
24. mul____er alloy *n.* something that consists of multiple layers or levels
25. fl____ck furniture *n.* a type of furniture or product that is shipped and sold in a flat, disassembled form, typically consisting of a series of panels, pieces, and fasteners that can be assembled and arranged according to instructions
26. me____e a negotiation *v.* to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict
27. mo____to repellent *n.* a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
28. co____e evil spirits away *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
29. mul____er film *n.* something that consists of multiple layers or levels
30. lo____ty genes *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

ANSWERS: 20. retina, 21. creditor, 22. scoff, 23. creep, 24. multilayer, 25. flatpack, 26. mediate, 27. mosquito, 28. conjure, 29. multilayer, 30. longevity

31. damaged pho_____tor *n.* a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision
32. an ir___c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
33. lo_____ty crisis *n.* the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service
34. li_____an extension *n.* the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists
35. buck and d_e *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
36. ma___a lutea *n.* a small, oval-shaped area near the center of the retina of the eye, responsible for providing high-resolution vision
37. minimalist wa_____be *n.* a collection or set of clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose; a piece of furniture designed for storing clothes or personal belongings
38. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
39. deg_____te into a disagreement *v.* (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition

ANSWERS: 31. photoreceptor, 32. ironic, 33. longevity, 34. lifespan, 35. doe, 36. macula, 37. wardrobe, 38. creditor, 39. degenerate

40. me_____e allergic reaction *v.* to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict
41. dysregulated mi_____NA *n.* a type of small non-coding RNA (= a type of nucleic acid that is essential for the transfer of genetic information from DNA to proteins) molecule that plays a crucial role in regulating gene expression and protein synthesis
42. di_____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
43. fl_____ck dining set *n.* a type of furniture or product that is shipped and sold in a flat, disassembled form, typically consisting of a series of panels, pieces, and fasteners that can be assembled and arranged according to instructions
44. fo__a centralis *n.* a small, central area of the retina of the eye that has the highest concentration of photoreceptor cells and is responsible for seeing fine detail and color
45. natural ox_____t *n.* a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress
46. ch_____h relationships *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

ANSWERS: 40. mediate, 41. microRNA, 42. dinosaur, 43. flatpack, 44. fovea, 45. oxidant, 46. cherish

47. brain le___n *n.* a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease
48. re__p briefly *v.* to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.
49. in_____e his passion *v.* to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people
50. walk-in wa_____be *n.* a collection or set of clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose; a piece of furniture designed for storing clothes or personal belongings
51. deg_____te into recession *v.* (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition
52. d_e rabbit *n.* a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit
53. muscle le___n *n.* a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease
54. pho_____tor cells *n.* a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision
55. ch_____h a stuffed animal *v.* to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

ANSWERS: 47. lesion, 48. recap, 49. inflame, 50. wardrobe, 51. degenerate, 52. doe, 53. lesion, 54. photoreceptor, 55. cherish

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Generally speaking, men have a shorter _____ than women.
n. the length of time for which a person, animal lives, or thing exists

2. She _____ the memories of her childhood.
v. to hold someone or something dear; to feel or show affection for someone or something

3. Hunters use a whistle that makes the ____ sound to lure stags.
n. a mature female of mammals of which the male is called a buck, such as a deer or a rabbit

4. 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

5. Her eyes _____ with crying.
v. to cause very strong feelings such as anger or excitement in a person or a group of people

6. Some disorders, such as macular degeneration, can affect the function of the _____.
n. a small, central area of the retina of the eye that has the highest concentration of photoreceptor cells and is responsible for seeing fine detail and color

7. He is proud of the _____ of the business.
n. the property of being long-lived; significant duration of service

ANSWERS: 1. lifespan, 2. cherished, 3. doe, 4. dinosaur, 5. inflamed, 6. fovea, 7. longevity

8. Aging _____ up slowly with time.
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
9. Damage to the _____ may play a role in the development of glaucoma.
n. the innermost light-sensitive membrane covering the back wall of the eyeball
10. The once-thriving city has _____ into a crime-ridden slum.
v. (of a person, animal, or plant) to become worse in health or physical condition
11. The magician _____ up a rabbit out of thin air.
v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
12. Let me quickly _____ these results.
v. to repeat or summarize what has been said, decided, etc.
13. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.
adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
14. Our system can now _____ with other databases.
v. to connect similar things
15. We tend to _____ at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.
v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
16. Breathing in large amounts of _____ like ozone, can harm the respiratory system.
n. a substance that causes oxidation, or the loss of electrons, in another substance; a reactive molecule or compound that can damage cells and tissues by causing oxidative stress

ANSWERS: 8. creeps, 9. retina, 10. degenerated, 11. conjured, 12. recap, 13. ironic, 14. interconnect, 15. scoff, 16. oxidants,

17. The teacher had to _____ a disagreement between two students over a stolen pencil.
- v.* to try to bring about an agreement or understanding between people who are in conflict
18. I love to _____ around the city and discover new neighborhoods.
- v.* to move about or travel aimlessly or without a fixed destination; to wander
19. Her _____ selection included several pieces from high-end designer brands.
- n.* a collection or set of clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose; a piece of furniture designed for storing clothes or personal belongings
20. All members strictly followed the _____ of the organization.
- n.* a belief or set of beliefs that the members of a group accept without being questioned or doubted
21. Researchers are studying the role of _____ in regulating gene expression and potential medical applications.
- n.* a type of small non-coding RNA (= a type of nucleic acid that is essential for the transfer of genetic information from DNA to proteins) molecule that plays a crucial role in regulating gene expression and protein synthesis
22. A cake with a _____ filling is a delicious treat.
- n.* something that consists of multiple layers or levels
23. Cone _____ are responsible for color vision.
- n.* a specialized cell in the retina of the eye that responds to light and enables vision; there are two types of photoreceptor cells - rods and cones - that are responsible for different aspects of vision

ANSWERS: 17. mediate, 18. roam, 19. wardrobe, 20. dogma, 21. microRNAs, 22. multilayer, 23. photoreceptors

24. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
25. Too much variety may _____ and confuse viewers.
v. to defeat someone or something by using a great deal of force; to have a strong emotional effect on somebody
26. I assembled my new dresser from a _____ kit I bought online.
n. a type of furniture or product that is shipped and sold in a flat, disassembled form, typically consisting of a series of panels, pieces, and fasteners that can be assembled and arranged according to instructions
27. A stagnant water area are breeding ground for _____.
n. a small flying insect whose female bites people and animals and sucks their blood, and sometimes transmits serious diseases such as malaria
28. There are several treatment options available for patients with _____ disorders.
n. a small, oval-shaped area near the center of the retina of the eye, responsible for providing high-resolution vision
29. The doctor examined the _____ on the patient's skin to determine if it was cancerous.
n. a damaged or abnormal area of tissue in the body, usually caused by injury or disease

ANSWERS: 24. creditor, 25. overwhelm, 26. flatpack, 27. mosquitos, 28. macula-related, 29. lesion