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Chen Qiufan: A sci-fi vision of life in 2041 | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/chen_qiufan_a_sci-fi_vision_of_life_in_2041

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

astonishing

adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe

synonym: surprising, shocking, astounding

(1) **astonishing** achievement, (2) make **astonishing** gains

The news of her sudden death was **astonishing** to everyone who knew her.

coronavirus

n. a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2

synonym: covid

(1) **coronavirus** antibody test kit, (2) **coronavirus** bankruptcy

Considering the situation of **coronavirus**, organized stopped this year's beer festival.

pandemic

n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area

synonym: outbreak

(1) flu **pandemic**, (2) global **pandemic**

They fear a **pandemic** of a new type of virus.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

immerse

v. to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

synonym: dip, inundate, submerge

(1) **immerse** the cloth in the dye, (2) completely **immerse** the ingredient

He **immersed** himself in his research.

quarantine

n. a state of isolation imposed on people or animals to prevent the spread of disease

synonym: isolation, confinement, restriction

(1) out of **quarantine**, (2) mandatory **quarantine**

Due to the outbreak, the government imposed a two-week **quarantine** for all travelers.

virulent

adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile

synonym: poisonous, venomous, toxic

(1) **virulent** disease, (2) **virulent** criticism

The **virulent** virus spread rapidly through the close-knit community.

housekeeping

n. the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks

synonym: cleaning, housework, tidying up

(1) **housekeeping** duties, (2) daily **housekeeping**

The hotel's **housekeeping** staff does a great job keeping the rooms clean and tidy.

cram

v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

synonym : stuff, pack, jam

(1) **cram** more circuits into chips, (2) **cram** five people into a car

She had to **cram** for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.

cautiously

adv. in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger

synonym : carefully, warily, prudently

(1) **cautiously** optimistic, (2) proceed **cautiously**

He **cautiously** approached the cliff's edge, aware of the dangers of falling.

passerby

n. a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way

synonym : spectator, onlooker

(1) curious **passerby**, (2) **passerby** in the street

The police officer questioned the **passerby** for any information they had about the suspect

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

synthesize

v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

synonym : incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information

The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

cybersecurity

n. the practice of protecting computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction

synonym : information security, cyber protection

(1) **cybersecurity** threat, (2) **cybersecurity** measures

As the use of technology continues to increase in everyday life, **cybersecurity** awareness and education become even more important

deepfake

n. a manipulated video or audio recording that uses advanced computer technology to create a realistic portrayal of a person saying or doing something they did not actually say or do, often used for deceptive or malicious purposes

synonym : AI-generated media, manipulated media

(1) **deepfake** technology, (2) **deepfake** video

The use of **deepfakes** in political campaigns is a growing concern.

rumor

n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

synonym : gossip, whisper, talk

(1) a false **rumor**, (2) **rumor** mill

There was a baseless **rumor** that the company was going bankrupt.

calibrate

v. to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance

synonym : adjust, fine-tune

(1) **calibrate** machinery, (2) **calibrate** measurements

It's important to **calibrate** the equipment regularly to ensure accurate results.

exacerbate

v. to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse

synonym: worsen, aggravate, escalate

(1) **exacerbate** the situation, (2) **exacerbate** symptoms

The heat wave **exacerbated** the drought conditions.

reborn

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

synonym: regenerated, revived, renewed

(1) **reborn** soul, (2) **reborn** identity

After recovering from her illness, she felt like a **reborn** person with a new perspective on life.

immortal

adj. having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance

synonym: eternal, everlasting, undying

(1) **immortal** soul, (2) **immortal** love

Legends often describe mythical creatures as **immortal** beings.

animate

v. to make something full of interest and energy

synonym: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

dystopia

n. an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place

synonym: anti-utopia

(1) a crumbling **dystopia**, (2) the escape from **dystopia**

The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into **dystopias**.

bleak

adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope

synonym: miserable, pathetic, dim

(1) prospects were **bleak**, (2) **bleak** future

The political landscape looks **bleak** without a change of administration.

augment

v. to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it

synonym: boost, increase, expand

(1) **augment** the reality, (2) **augment** immunity

Economic factors and monetary policy **augmented** inflation.

futurist

n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

synonym: foreseer, prophet, fortune-teller

(1) **futurist** architecture, (2) **futurist** ideas

The radical **futurist** predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.

storytelling

n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories

synonym: narrating, relating, recounting

(1) **storytelling** performance, (2) courtroom **storytelling**

She was skilled in **storytelling** techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.

nuance

n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.

synonym: shading, refinement, subtlety

(1) rich in **nuance**, (2) subtle cultural **nuance**

The painter has tried to express every **nuance** of the woman's expression in his work.

portray

v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work

synonym: depict, describe, illustrate

(1) **portray** feelings in words, (2) accurately **portray** the condition

We often **portray** political problems as religious issues.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym: assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

disparate

adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

synonym: different, distinct, separate

(1) **disparate** impact, (2) physically **disparate** location

The organization worked to bring together **disparate** groups in the community.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym: diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ind_____us student
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
2. vi_____nt criticism
adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
3. im_____al soul
adj. having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance
4. exa_____te symptoms
v. to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
5. physically di_____te location
adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
6. bl__k future
adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
7. ind_____us worker
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
8. an_____e his soul
v. to make something full of interest and energy
9. fu_____st architecture
n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
10. po__t the premise
v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

ANSWERS: 1. industrious, 2. virulent, 3. immortal, 4. exacerbate, 5. disparate, 6. bleak, 7. industrious, 8. animate, 9. futurist, 10. posit

11. pa____by in the street *n.* a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way
12. out of qua_____ne *n.* a state of isolation imposed on people or animals to prevent the spread of disease
13. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
14. prospects were bl__k *adj.* unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
15. flu pa____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
16. fu____st ideas *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
17. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
18. subtle cultural nu____e *n.* a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.
19. cyb_____ity measures *n.* the practice of protecting computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction
20. di_____te impact *adj.* very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way

ANSWERS: 11. passerby, 12. quarantine, 13. grandparent, 14. bleak, 15. pandemic, 16. futurist, 17. rumor, 18. nuance, 19. cybersecurity, 20. disparate

21. re___n soul *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
22. re___n identity *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
23. exa_____te the situation *v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
24. ast_____ng achievement *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
25. a crumbling dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
26. make ast_____ng gains *adj.* surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
27. im_____al love *adj.* having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance
28. an_____e the body *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
29. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
30. syn_____ze information *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
31. cor_____us antibody test kit *n.* a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2

ANSWERS: 21. reborn, 22. reborn, 23. exacerbate, 24. astonishing, 25. dystopia, 26. astonishing, 27. immortal, 28. animate, 29. app, 30. synthesize, 31. coronavirus

32. completely im_____e the ingredient *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
33. au_____t the reality *v.* to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it
34. proceed cau_____ly *adv.* in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger
35. global pa_____ic *n.* an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
36. cyb_____ity threat *n.* the practice of protecting computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction
37. the escape from dy_____ia *n.* an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
38. cau_____ly optimistic *adv.* in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger
39. courtroom sto_____ing *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
40. po__t the existence of life after death *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
41. rich in nu___e *n.* a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.

ANSWERS: 32. immerse, 33. augment, 34. cautiously, 35. pandemic, 36. cybersecurity, 37. dystopia, 38. cautiously, 39. storytelling, 40. posit, 41. nuance

42. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
43. ru__r mill *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
44. mandatory qua_____ne *n.* a state of isolation imposed on people or animals to prevent the spread of disease
45. accurately po_____y the condition *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
46. hou_____ing duties *n.* the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks
47. person of gra_____nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
48. ca_____te measurements *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance
49. ca_____te machinery *v.* to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance

ANSWERS: 42. app, 43. rumor, 44. quarantine, 45. portray, 46. housekeeping, 47. grandparent, 48. calibrate, 49. calibrate

50. vi_____nt disease *adj.* extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
51. daily hou_____ing *n.* the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks
52. de_____ke video *n.* a manipulated video or audio recording that uses advanced computer technology to create a realistic portrayal of a person saying or doing something they did not actually say or do, often used for deceptive or malicious purposes
53. au_____t immunity *v.* to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it
54. sto_____ing performance *n.* the act or art of narrating or writing stories
55. curious pa_____by *n.* a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way
56. syn_____ze molecules *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
57. im_____e the cloth in the dye *v.* to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered

ANSWERS: 50. virulent, 51. housekeeping, 52. deepfake, 53. augment, 54. storytelling, 55. passerby, 56. synthesize, 57. immerse

58. c__m five people into a car *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
59. cor_____us bankruptcy *n.* a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2
60. po_____y feelings in words *v.* to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
61. de_____ke technology *n.* a manipulated video or audio recording that uses advanced computer technology to create a realistic portrayal of a person saying or doing something they did not actually say or do, often used for deceptive or malicious purposes
62. c__m more circuits into chips *v.* to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space

ANSWERS: 58. cram, 59. coronavirus, 60. portray, 61. deepfake, 62. cram

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He _____ approached the cliff's edge, aware of the dangers of falling.
adv. in a careful and controlled way, especially to avoid problems or danger
2. Due to the outbreak, the government imposed a two-week _____ for all travelers.
n. a state of isolation imposed on people or animals to prevent the spread of disease
3. The news of her sudden death was _____ to everyone who knew her.
adj. surprising or shocking; difficult to believe
4. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
5. The use of _____ in political campaigns is a growing concern.
n. a manipulated video or audio recording that uses advanced computer technology to create a realistic portrayal of a person saying or doing something they did not actually say or do, often used for deceptive or malicious purposes
6. The hotel's _____ staff does a great job keeping the rooms clean and tidy.
n. the management and upkeep of a household, hotel, or other living or working space, including cleaning, maintenance, organization, and other related tasks
7. It's important to _____ the equipment regularly to ensure accurate results.
v. to measure or adjust something, typically a machine or device, to ensure accurate functioning or to match a standard or desired level of performance

ANSWERS: 1. cautiously, 2. quarantine, 3. astonishing, 4. app's, 5. deepfakes, 6. housekeeping, 7. calibrate

8. The political landscape looks _____ without a change of administration.
adj. unlikely to be favorable; unpleasantly cold and damp; offering little or no hope
9. After recovering from her illness, she felt like a _____ person with a new perspective on life.
adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
10. The loss of industry turned working-class neighborhoods into _____.
n. an imaginary place where everything is extremely bad because of deprivation or oppression or terror, or a work of fiction describing those place
11. The organization worked to bring together _____ groups in the community.
adj. very different or distinct from something else and is not connected or comparable in any way
12. There was a baseless _____ that the company was going bankrupt.
n. a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
13. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
n. a parent of one's father or mother
14. He _____ himself in his research.
v. to become fully involved in a particular activity; to dip or submerge in a liquid, especially so that they or it are entirely covered
15. The police officer questioned the _____ for any information they had about the suspect
n. a person who is walking by or happens to be in the vicinity of a particular place or event, often without necessarily being involved in it in any way

ANSWERS: 8. bleak, 9. reborn, 10. dystopias, 11. disparate, 12. rumor, 13. grandparents, 14. immersed, 15. passerby

16. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.
- v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
17. They fear a _____ of a new type of virus.
- n. an outbreak of a disease that affects many people over a very wide area
18. She had to _____ for the final exam and stayed up all night studying.
- v. to force or try to fit a large amount of information into a short time, especially in preparation for an examination; to force or try to fit a large amount of something into a small space
19. The spider can _____ multiple different silk proteins.
- v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
20. She was skilled in _____ techniques, such as using different voices for other characters.
- n. the act or art of narrating or writing stories
21. We often _____ political problems as religious issues.
- v. to depict or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work
22. The positive attitude of the supervisor _____ the discussion.
- v. to make something full of interest and energy
23. The radical _____ predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.
- n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

ANSWERS: 16. posit, 17. pandemic, 18. cram, 19. synthesize, 20. storytelling, 21. portray, 22. animated, 23. futurist

24. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
25. The painter has tried to express every _____ of the woman's expression in his work.
n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.
26. Economic factors and monetary policy _____ inflation.
v. to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it
27. Considering the situation of _____ organized stopped this year's beer festival.
n. a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans and animals, which name comes from the crown-like spikes on the surface of the virus, which can be seen under a microscope, and COVID-19 is caused by a specific type of coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2
28. The _____ virus spread rapidly through the close-knit community.
adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
29. The heat wave _____ the drought conditions.
v. to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
30. Legends often describe mythical creatures as _____ beings.
adj. having eternal or never-ending life; living forever; incapable of dying; having enduring fame or lasting significance

ANSWERS: 24. industrious, 25. nuance, 26. augmented, 27. coronavirus, 28. virulent, 29. exacerbated, 30. immortal

31. As the use of technology continues to increase in everyday life, _____ awareness and education become even more important
- n.* the practice of protecting computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction

ANSWERS: 31. cybersecurity