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TEDx SHORTS: What science taught me about being a Muslim drag queen | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

queer

adj. strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way

synonym : strange, odd, unusual

(1) **queer** money, (2) **queer** fashion

The behavior of the clown at the party was quite **queer**.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym : group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

Newtonian

adj. relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation

synonym : classical, physics, mechanics

(1) **Newtonian** physics, (2) **Newtonian** mechanics

The motion of planets can be described using **Newtonian** mechanics.

ostensible

adj. appearing or seeming to be true, genuine, or plausible, but not necessarily so; outwardly appearing or declared

to be one thing while being something different or hidden

synonym : apparent, seeming, supposed

(1) **ostensible** reason, (2) **ostensible** explanation

The **ostensible** purpose of the meeting was to discuss budgeting, but the real topic was employee layoffs.

observable

adj. that can be noticed or seen

synonym : visible, perceptible, detectable

(1) **observable** change, (2) experimentally **observable**

Any theorem relies on both **observable** fact and assumption.

physicist

n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics

(1) talented **physicist**, (2) theoretical **physicist**

Einstein was an outstanding and famous **physicist** of the 20th century.

proton

n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms

(1) **proton** decay, (2) **proton** conductivity

The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and **protons**.

boson

n. a type of subatomic particle that follows Bose-Einstein statistics, which determine how identical particles with integer spins behave

synonym : photon, gluon, particle

(1) weak **boson**, (2) Higgs **boson**

The search for new **boson** particles is one of the most exciting areas of modern physics.

lepton

n. a subatomic particle that is one of the basic building blocks of matter, having little or no mass and carrying an electrical charge

synonym : subatomic particle, quark

(1) **lepton** particle, (2) charged **lepton**

The discovery of the muon **lepton** helped to confirm the existence of the weak nuclear force.

quark

n. a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

(1) **quark** physics, (2) the antiparticle of a **quark**

The Big Bang theory states that **quark-gluon** plasma filled the entire universe before matter as we know it was created.

defy

v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

synonym: challenge, resist, disobey

(1) **defy** gravity, (2) **defy** authority

She tried to **defy** her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.

slit

n. a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors

synonym: slash, incision, cut

(1) **slit** pocket, (2) **slit** the fabric

He made a small **slit** in the paper to fit it in the envelope.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

coexist

v. to live or exist together at the same time in the same place

synonym: cohabit, accompany, synchronize

(1) **coexist** with nature, (2) **coexist** with diversity

The different species can **coexist** in the same ecosystem by filling different niches and using different resources.

mischievous

adj. causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way

synonym: naughty, prankish, impish

(1) **mischievous** grin, (2) **mischievous** sense of humor

The **mischievous** child played pranks on his siblings all day long.

repel

v. to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat

synonym: turn away, fight off, force back

(1) **repel** bandits, (2) **repel** bad luck

This material can **repel** moisture swiftly.

fascist

adj. relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties

synonym: authoritarian, dictatorial, totalitarian

(1) **fascist** propaganda, (2) **fascist** policies

The regime was accused of being **fascist** for their oppressive tactics.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym: joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

envision

v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future

synonym : anticipate, foresee, picture

(1) **envision** the future, (2) **envision** the project's success

We cannot **envision** her as President.

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.

multiplicity

n. a large number or variety of something; the quality or state of being multiple or manifold

synonym : abundance, variety, diversity

(1) functional **multiplicity**, (2) **multiplicity** of languages

The **multiplicity** of colors in the sunset was truly breathtaking.

whirl

v. to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature

synonym : spin, rotate, swirl

(1) **whirl** in the washing machine, (2) **whirl** around the dance floor

The leaves began to **whirl** around in the windy weather.

dervish

n. a Muslim ascetic who belongs to a Sufi order, known for their ecstatic dancing and other forms of physical and spiritual discipline

synonym : Sufi dancer, mystic

(1) whirling **dervish**, (2) the Sufi **dervish**

The sound of the **dervish's** tambourine and flute filled the air with a haunting melody.

outdo

v. to do better than someone; to surpass

synonym: excel, surpass, outshine

(1) **outdo** him in trickery, (2) **outdo** the competition

He tried to **outdo** his rival by breaking the world record.

twirl

v. to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion

synonym: spin, swirl, rotate

(1) **twirl** a ribbon, (2) **twirl** a hula hoop

She **twirled** her hair absentmindedly as she listened to the conversation.

imam

n. a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community

synonym: leader, cleric, spiritual guide

(1) **imam** of mosque, (2) spiritual **imam**

In some Muslim countries, the **imam's** position is appointed by the government.

transcendentalism

n. a philosophical and literary movement of the mid-19th century that emphasized the spiritual and intuitive over the empirical and rational; valued individualism, nonconformity, and a connection with nature; prominent figures included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau

synonym: mysticism, spirituality

(1) modern **transcendentalism**, (2) **transcendentalism** movement

The belief in individualism was a cornerstone of **transcendentalism** philosophy.

matriarchy

n. a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting

synonym: matriarchate, matrifocal, matricentric

(1) **matriarchy** society, (2) **matriarchy** system

According to some cultural historians, ancient Egypt was a **matriarchy** for a brief period of time.

pronoun

n. a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"

(1) **pronoun** usage, (2) possessive **pronoun**

In English, personal **pronouns** such as "he," "she," and "they" can replace a person's name to avoid repetition.

embody

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

synonym: represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity

The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

contradict

v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

synonym: conflict, oppose, belie

(1) **contradict** each other, (2) **contradict** the principle

The book contains numerous statements that **contradict** previous reports.

bask

v. to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment

synonym: sunbathe, lounge, relax

(1) **bask** in the sun, (2) **bask** in the attention

The lizard **basked** on the warm rock for hours.

Session 2: Spelling

1. Higgs bo__n
n. a type of subatomic particle that follows Bose-Einstein statistics, which determine how identical particles with integer spins behave
2. re__l bad luck
v. to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
3. tw__l a hula hoop
v. to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
4. con_____ct the principle
v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
5. qu__r money
adj. strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way
6. whirling de_____h
n. a Muslim ascetic who belongs to a Sufi order, known for their ecstatic dancing and other forms of physical and spiritual discipline
7. r_v up the crowd
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
8. mat_____hy system
n. a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting
9. qu__k physics
n. a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

ANSWERS: 1. boson, 2. repel, 3. twirl, 4. contradict, 5. queer, 6. dervish, 7. rev, 8.

matriarchy, 9. quark

10. experimentally obs_____le *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
11. theoretical ph_____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
12. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
13. Ne_____an physics *adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
14. b__k in the sun *v.* to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment
15. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
16. mis_____us grin *adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
17. em___y my goal *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
18. silly p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
19. mat_____hy society *n.* a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting

ANSWERS: 10. observable, 11. physicist, 12. sect, 13. Newtonian, 14. bask, 15. sect, 16. mischievous, 17. embody, 18. pun, 19. matriarchy

20. ch____c theory *adj.* without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
21. tw__l a ribbon *v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
22. qu__r fashion *adj.* strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way
23. fa____t propaganda *adj.* relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties
24. mul____ity of languages *n.* a large number or variety of something; the quality or state of being multiple or manifold
25. pr____n usage *n.* a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"
26. talented ph____st *n.* a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
27. ost____le explanation *adj.* appearing or seeming to be true, genuine, or plausible, but not necessarily so; outwardly appearing or declared to be one thing while being something different or hidden
28. re__l bandits *v.* to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
29. b__k in the attention *v.* to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment

ANSWERS: 20. chaotic, 21. twirl, 22. queer, 23. fascist, 24. multiplicity, 25. pronoun, 26. physicist, 27. ostensible, 28. repel, 29. bask

30. functional mul_____ity *n.* a large number or variety of something; the quality or state of being multiple or manifold
31. ou__o him in trickery *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
32. mis_____us sense of humor *adj.* causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
33. pr___n decay *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
34. obs_____le change *adj.* that can be noticed or seen
35. ost_____le reason *adj.* appearing or seeming to be true, genuine, or plausible, but not necessarily so; outwardly appearing or declared to be one thing while being something different or hidden
36. charged le___n *n.* a subatomic particle that is one of the basic building blocks of matter, having little or no mass and carrying an electrical charge
37. the Sufi de_____h *n.* a Muslim ascetic who belongs to a Sufi order, known for their ecstatic dancing and other forms of physical and spiritual discipline
38. wh__l around the dance floor *v.* to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature

ANSWERS: 30. multiplicity, 31. outdo, 32. mischievous, 33. proton, 34. observable, 35. ostensible, 36. lepton, 37. dervish, 38. whirl

39. pr___n conductivity *n.* a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
40. en_____on the project's success *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
41. wh__l in the washing machine *v.* to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature
42. co_____t with diversity *v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
43. em___y a spirit of charity *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
44. d__y gravity *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
45. ou__o the competition *v.* to do better than someone; to surpass
46. weak bo__n *n.* a type of subatomic particle that follows Bose-Einstein statistics, which determine how identical particles with integer spins behave
47. the antiparticle of a qu__k *n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet

ANSWERS: 39. proton, 40. envision, 41. whirl, 42. coexist, 43. embody, 44. defy, 45. outdo, 46. boson, 47. quark

48. s__t the fabric *n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
49. d__y authority *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
50. modern tra_____ism *n.* a philosophical and literary movement of the mid-19th century that emphasized the spiritual and intuitive over the empirical and rational; valued individualism, nonconformity, and a connection with nature; prominent figures included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau
51. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
52. le___n particle *n.* a subatomic particle that is one of the basic building blocks of matter, having little or no mass and carrying an electrical charge
53. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

ANSWERS: 48. slit, 49. defy, 50. transcendentalism, 51. rev, 52. lepton, 53. pun

54. con_____ct each other *v.* to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
55. tra_____ism movement *n.* a philosophical and literary movement of the mid-19th century that emphasized the spiritual and intuitive over the empirical and rational; valued individualism, nonconformity, and a connection with nature; prominent figures included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau
56. i__m of mosque *n.* a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community
57. spiritual i__m *n.* a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community
58. s__t pocket *n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
59. fa_____t policies *adj.* relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties
60. co_____t with nature *v.* to live or exist together at the same time in the same place

ANSWERS: 54. contradict, 55. transcendentalism, 56. imam, 57. imam, 58. slit, 59. fascist, 60. coexist

61. en_____on the future *v.* to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
62. the ch_____c economic situation *adj.* without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
63. Ne_____an mechanics *adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
64. possessive pr_____n *n.* a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"

ANSWERS: 61. envision, 62. chaotic, 63. Newtonian, 64. pronoun

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The behavior of the clown at the party was quite _____.
adj. strange or odd, typically in an interesting or attractive way
2. Change is also occurring in Turkey as a result of _____ reform.
adj. without any order or organization; extremely disorganized, unpredictable, and confusing
3. He tried to _____ his rival by breaking the world record.
v. to do better than someone; to surpass
4. She tried to _____ her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.
v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
5. In English, personal _____ such as "he," "she," and "they" can replace a person's name to avoid repetition.
n. a word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence, such as "he," "she," "they," or "it"
6. The _____ child played pranks on his siblings all day long.
adj. causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble; harmful or troublesome, especially in a playful or amusing way
7. In some Muslim countries, the _____ position is appointed by the government.
n. a religious leader of the Muslim community, especially the leader of a mosque and a community

ANSWERS: 1. queer, 2. chaotic, 3. outdo, 4. defy, 5. pronouns, 6. mischievous, 7. imam's

8. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
9. The solar wind is composed almost entirely of electrons and _____.
n. a very small particle with a positive charge equal to the negative charge of an electron that forms part of the nucleus of all atoms
10. The different species can _____ in the same ecosystem by filling different niches and using different resources.
v. to live or exist together at the same time in the same place
11. The regime was accused of being _____ for their oppressive tactics.
adj. relating to or supporting fascism, which is a political ideology that emphasizes authoritarian government, nationalism, and suppression of political opposition and individual liberties
12. According to some cultural historians, ancient Egypt was a _____ for a brief period of time.
n. a social system in which women hold the primary power and authority, typically in a family or clan setting
13. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
14. The discovery of the muon _____ helped to confirm the existence of the weak nuclear force.
n. a subatomic particle that is one of the basic building blocks of matter, having little or no mass and carrying an electrical charge

ANSWERS: 8. sect, 9. protons, 10. coexist, 11. fascist, 12. matriarchy, 13. rev, 14. lepton

15. The Big Bang theory states that _____ plasma filled the entire universe before matter as we know it was created.
- n.* a type of elementary particle and a fundamental constituent of matter that make up the heavier elementary particles, such as protons, neutrons, etc.; fresh unripened cheese of a smooth texture made from pasteurized milk, a starter, and rennet
16. Any theorem relies on both _____ fact and assumption.
- adj.* that can be noticed or seen
17. The lizard _____ on the warm rock for hours.
- v.* to expose oneself to warmth, sunlight, or enjoyment with a pleasant feeling of relaxation and contentment
18. He made a small _____ in the paper to fit it in the envelope.
- n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
19. She _____ her hair absentmindedly as she listened to the conversation.
- v.* to rotate rapidly around a central point; to spin or whirl around in a circular or spiral motion
20. The leaves began to _____ around in the windy weather.
- v.* to spin or turn rapidly; to move or be moved quickly in a circular manner; (noun) a spinning or rotating movement, often rapid or chaotic in nature
21. The sound of the _____ tambourine and flute filled the air with a haunting melody.
- n.* a Muslim ascetic who belongs to a Sufi order, known for their ecstatic dancing and other forms of physical and spiritual discipline

ANSWERS: 15. quark-gluon, 16. observable, 17. basked, 18. slit, 19. twirled, 20. whirl, 21. dervish's

22. Einstein was an outstanding and famous _____ of the 20th century.
n. a scientist who specializes in the field of physics
23. The _____ of colors in the sunset was truly breathtaking.
n. a large number or variety of something; the quality or state of being multiple or manifold
24. The company's new products _____ the values of innovation and sustainability.
v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
25. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
26. The _____ purpose of the meeting was to discuss budgeting, but the real topic was employee layoffs.
adj. appearing or seeming to be true, genuine, or plausible, but not necessarily so; outwardly appearing or declared to be one thing while being something different or hidden
27. This material can _____ moisture swiftly.
v. to force an attack or attacker to withdraw or retreat
28. We cannot _____ her as President.
v. to imagine or expect what a situation will be like in the future
29. The book contains numerous statements that _____ previous reports.
v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

ANSWERS: 22. physicist, 23. multiplicity, 24. embody, 25. pun, 26. ostensible, 27. repel, 28. envision, 29. contradict

30. The belief in individualism was a cornerstone of _____ philosophy.
- n.* a philosophical and literary movement of the mid-19th century that emphasized the spiritual and intuitive over the empirical and rational; valued individualism, nonconformity, and a connection with nature; prominent figures included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau
31. The motion of planets can be described using _____ mechanics.
- adj.* relating to Sir Isaac Newton or his laws of motion and universal gravitation
32. The search for new _____ particles is one of the most exciting areas of modern physics.
- n.* a type of subatomic particle that follows Bose-Einstein statistics, which determine how identical particles with integer spins behave

ANSWERS: 30. transcendentalism, 31. Newtonian, 32. boson