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Lynne Elvins: The myths of gay adoption | TED Talk
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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

congratulation

n. the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another

synonym: praise, compliment, felicitation

(1) **congratulation** on a promotion, (2) a matter for **congratulation**

The **congratulations** from her friends and family were overwhelming after she won the championship.

uphold

v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

synonym: defend, maintain, sustain

(1) **uphold** the law, (2) **uphold** tradition

The judge may **uphold** the decision of the lower court.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym: misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

disapprove

v. to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone

synonym: object, reject, condemn

(1) **disapprove** of the government, (2) publicly **disapprove**
I **disapprove** of my friend's decision to drop out of school and pursue a career in music instead.

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.

heterosexual

adj. attracted to individuals of the opposite sex

synonym: straight, conventional

(1) **heterosexual** relationship, (2) **heterosexual** marriage
He identified as **heterosexual** and had never considered being with someone of the same gender.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

apprehensive

adj. anxious, worried, or uneasy about something that may happen in the future; having concerns or doubts about something

synonym: anxious, uneasy, nervous

(1) **apprehensive** of danger, (2) **apprehensive** mood

She was **apprehensive** about speaking in front of a large crowd.

orphan

n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them

synonym: waif, stray, fatherless child

(1) **orphan** care, (2) asylum for **orphan** children

The little girl was a war **orphan** and lived in a group home.

waltz

n. a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure

synonym : ballroom dance, tango, foxtrot

(1) **waltz** music, (2) elegant **waltz**

The dancers practiced the steps of the **waltz** meticulously to perfect their performance.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym : compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

puncture

n. a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object

synonym : piercing, prick, hole

(1) bicycle **puncture**, (2) needle **puncture**

The tire had a **puncture** and needed to be replaced.

tinker

v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way

synonym : fiddle, play, fix

(1) **tinker** with the bill, (2) **tinker** with the settings

He spent the afternoon **tinkering** with his car engine.

quad

n. (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes

synonym : quadrangle, square, block

(1) **quad** room, (2) **quad** biking

We met at the campus **quad** to study for our upcoming exams.

parascending

n. a recreational activity in which a person is towed behind a boat, car, or other vehicles while attached to a

parachute, usually to glide or soar through the air
synonym : parasailing, parakiting, kiteboarding

(1) **parascending** adventure, (2) **parascending** lesson
The beach resort is known for its top-notch **parascending** facilities, attracting adventure enthusiasts worldwide.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym : presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

shave

v. to remove body hair with a razor; to cut the price of something

synonym : trim, cut down, prune

(1) **shave** my head, (2) **shave** cheese
That supermarket tried to **shave** certain costs by saving electricity.

batter

v. to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

synonym : beat, pound, strike

(1) **batter** the eggs, (2) the **batter's** box
He got so angry that he **battered** the door down.

throwback

n. a person or thing that is reminiscent of a past era or an earlier time; a retro or nostalgic item or concept

synonym : relic, reversion, remainder

(1) **throwback** memories, (2) musical **throwback**
The **throwback** jerseys the team wore were a big hit with the fans.

meld

v. to combine or blend, especially in a way that produces a harmonious or unified whole; to merge or fuse

synonym :

blend, merge, combine

(1) **meld** business and pleasure, (2) **meld** physics with life science

The chef **melded** the flavors of the spice blend to create the perfect marinade.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project
He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

nag

v. to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse

synonym: hassle, bother, badger

(1) **nag** about the minor thing, (2) **nag** political leaders
She couldn't stop **nagging** her husband to take out the trash.

brilliantly

adv. in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively

synonym: brightly, radiantly, excellently

(1) **brilliantly** executed, (2) **brilliantly** lit

He played the piano **brilliantly** at the concert.

annoy

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
synonym: aggravate, irritate, unsettle

(1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else

Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. musical th_____ck | <i>n.</i> a person or thing that is reminiscent of a past era or an earlier time; a retro or nostalgic item or concept |
| 2. n_g about the minor thing | <i>v.</i> to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse |
| 3. or___n care | <i>n.</i> a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them |
| 4. an__y everyone else | <i>v.</i> to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly |
| 5. ex___e rebellion | <i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager |
| 6. an__y at the time | <i>v.</i> to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly |
| 7. mis_____and entirely about her | <i>v.</i> to interpret or understand something in the wrong way |
| 8. par_____ing lesson | <i>n.</i> a recreational activity in which a person is towed behind a boat, car, or other vehicles while attached to a parachute, usually to glide or soar through the air |
| 9. em_____y for patients | <i>n.</i> the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation |
| 10. ti___r with the settings | <i>v.</i> to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way |

ANSWERS: 1. throwback, 2. nag, 3. orphan, 4. annoy, 5. excite, 6. annoy, 7. misunderstand, 8. parascending, 9. empathy, 10. tinker

11. bri_____ly executed *adv.* in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively
12. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
13. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
14. con_____ion on a promotion *n.* the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
15. mi__c numerous instruments *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
16. sh__e my head *v.* to remove body hair with a razor; to cut the price of something
17. th_____ck memories *n.* a person or thing that is reminiscent of a past era or an earlier time; a retro or nostalgic item or concept
18. needle pu_____re *n.* a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object
19. n_g political leaders *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
20. the ba___r's box *v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting

ANSWERS: 11. brilliantly, 12. excite, 13. pretension, 14. congratulation, 15. mimic, 16. shave, 17. throwback, 18. puncture, 19. nag, 20. batter

21. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
22. publicly dis_____ve *v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
23. q__d room *n.* (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes
24. het_____ual marriage *adj.* attracted to individuals of the opposite sex
25. m__d physics with life science *v.* to combine or blend, especially in a way that produces a harmonious or unified whole; to merge or fuse
26. up____d the law *v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
27. asylum for or____n children *n.* a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
28. m__d business and pleasure *v.* to combine or blend, especially in a way that produces a harmonious or unified whole; to merge or fuse
29. wa__z music *n.* a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure

ANSWERS: 21. pretension, 22. disapprove, 23. quad, 24. heterosexual, 25. meld, 26. uphold, 27. orphan, 28. meld, 29. waltz

30. a matter for con_____ion *n.* the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
31. mi__c a human voice *v.* to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
32. q__d biking *n.* (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes
33. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
34. app_____ive of danger *adj.* anxious, worried, or uneasy about something that may happen in the future; having concerns or doubts about something
35. app_____ive mood *adj.* anxious, worried, or uneasy about something that may happen in the future; having concerns or doubts about something
36. ti___r with the bill *v.* to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
37. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
38. het_____ual relationship *adj.* attracted to individuals of the opposite sex

ANSWERS: 30. congratulation, 31. mimic, 32. quad, 33. misunderstand, 34. apprehensive, 35. apprehensive, 36. tinker, 37. empathy, 38. heterosexual

39. bri_____ly lit *adv.* in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively
40. par_____ing adventure *n.* a recreational activity in which a person is towed behind a boat, car, or other vehicles while attached to a parachute, usually to glide or soar through the air
41. ba___r the eggs *v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
42. elegant wa__z *n.* a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure
43. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
44. sh__e cheese *v.* to remove body hair with a razor; to cut the price of something
45. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
46. bicycle pu_____re *n.* a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object
47. dis_____ve of the government *v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
48. up___d tradition *v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

ANSWERS: 39. brilliantly, 40. parascending, 41. batter, 42. waltz, 43. embarrass, 44. shave, 45. embarrass, 46. puncture, 47. disapprove, 48. uphold

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

2. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.
n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

3. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

4. The tire had a _____ and needed to be replaced.
n. a small hole or wound made by piercing, such as with a needle, nail, or pointed object

5. The judge may _____ the decision of the lower court.
v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

6. 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

7. The dancers practiced the steps of the _____ meticulously to perfect their performance.
n. a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure

ANSWERS: 1. excited, 2. pretensions, 3. misunderstand, 4. puncture, 5. uphold, 6. mimic, 7. waltz

8. The _____ from her friends and family were overwhelming after she won the championship.
- n.* the act of expressing that someone has an occasion for celebration or the expression of pleasure at the success or good fortune of another
9. I _____ of my friend's decision to drop out of school and pursue a career in music instead.
- v.* to have or express an unfavorable opinion or judgment about something or someone
10. The _____ jerseys the team wore were a big hit with the fans.
- n.* a person or thing that is reminiscent of a past era or an earlier time; a retro or nostalgic item or concept
11. He got so angry that he _____ the door down.
- v.* to hit something or someone repeatedly with much force; (noun, baseball) a ballplayer who is batting
12. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
13. He identified as _____ and had never considered being with someone of the same gender.
- adj.* attracted to individuals of the opposite sex
14. She couldn't stop _____ her husband to take out the trash.
- v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
15. He played the piano _____ at the concert.
- adv.* in an intelligent, graceful, or skillful manner; very brightly or effectively

ANSWERS: 8. congratulations, 9. disapprove, 10. throwback, 11. battered, 12. embarrass, 13. heterosexual, 14. nagging, 15. brilliantly

16. The chef _____ the flavors of the spice blend to create the perfect marinade.
v. to combine or blend, especially in a way that produces a harmonious or unified whole; to merge or fuse
17. The little girl was a war _____ and lived in a group home.
n. a child whose parents are dead or have abandoned them
18. He spent the afternoon _____ with his car engine.
v. to make repairs, adjustments, or improvements to something, especially in an experimental or makeshift way
19. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.
v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
20. That supermarket tried to _____ certain costs by saving electricity.
v. to remove body hair with a razor; to cut the price of something
21. The beach resort is known for its top-notch _____ facilities, attracting adventure enthusiasts worldwide.
n. a recreational activity in which a person is towed behind a boat, car, or other vehicles while attached to a parachute, usually to glide or soar through the air
22. She was _____ about speaking in front of a large crowd.
adj. anxious, worried, or uneasy about something that may happen in the future; having concerns or doubts about something
23. We met at the campus _____ to study for our upcoming exams.
n. (short for quadrangle) a square or rectangular open area or courtyard, often surrounded by buildings or used for recreational or social purposes

ANSWERS: 16. melded, 17. orphan, 18. tinkering, 19. annoy, 20. shave, 21. parasailing, 22. apprehensive, 23. quad

24. _____ is also necessary to understand history.

- n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

ANSWERS: 24. Empathy