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Alex Rosenthal: The Gauntlet | Think Like A Coder,
Ep 8 | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

ethic

n. a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems

synonym : moral code, code of conduct, principles

(1) moral **ethic**, (2) professional **ethic**

Having a strong work **ethic** is important for success in any field.

artifact

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

synonym : antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**

The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

canyon

n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river

synonym : gorge, valley, ravine

(1) twisty **canyon** road, (2) **canyon** of skyscrapers

The Grand **Canyon** has an awe-inspiring sight.

savior

n. a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet

born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth

synonym : hero, rescuer, redeemer

(1) political **savior**, (2) pray to the **savior**

The guru of that religion thought of himself as a **savior**.

gauntlet

n. a type of protective glove covering the wrist and part of the arm, often made of leather or metal; a challenge or trial that must be endured or overcome, often a difficult or dangerous one

synonym : challenge, provocation, obstacle

(1) accept the **gauntlet**, (2) throw down the **gauntlet**

He ran the **gauntlet** of critics' reviews after the release of his latest movie.

luminous

adj. emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment

synonym : radiant, glowing, brilliant

(1) **luminous** glow, (2) **luminous** stars

The room was filled with **luminous** decorations that shone in the dark.

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.

arsenal

n. a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor

synonym : storage, stockpile, armory

(1) **arsenal** of knowledge, (2) political **arsenal**

The police found a hidden **arsenal** of weapons in the suspect's house.

recursion

n. the process of repeating or looping through a set of instructions or functions within another function, often used in programming and computer science

synonym : iteration, looping, repetition

(1) **recursion** depth, (2) **recursion** limit

The team encountered an infinite **recursion** error in their code, causing the program to crash.

frown

v. to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration

synonym : scowl, glare, disapprove

(1) people with **frown** faces, (2) a worried **frown**

Thinking always made him **frown**.

tread

v. to step or walk on something

synonym : step, walk, pace

(1) **tread** water, (2) **tread** a similar path

He **treads** carefully on the slippery ice.

conundrum

n. a confusing and difficult problem or question

synonym : puzzle, riddle, enigma

(1) **conundrum** of choice, (2) pose a **conundrum**

The group faced a **conundrum** when they couldn't decide whether to go hiking or to the beach.

sprawl

v. to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out

synonym : drape, spread out

(1) **sprawl** out luxuriously on the sofa, (2) **sprawl** for acres

The lush vegetation **sprawls** across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.

maze

n. a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through

synonym : labyrinth, puzzle, network

(1) puzzle **maze**, (2) labyrinth **maze**

We got lost in the **maze** of streets while exploring the city.

twig

n. a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

synonym : branchlet, sprig, osier

(1) **twig** branch, (2) **twig** basket

The bird perched on a **twig** and sang a beautiful melody.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

disguise

v. to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others

synonym : mask, misinterpret, cloak

(1) **disguise** my feelings, (2) **disguise** his voice

Later it turned out that the politician **disguised** the fact from the public.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

crackle

v. to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity

synonym : sizzle, hiss, snap

(1) **crackle** on the gravel road, (2) the **crackle** of the

thunder

The firewood **crackled** and popped into the fireplace, sending sparks up the chimney.

squadron

n. a military unit consisting of a headquarters and several units or subunits, typically composed of two or more flights of aircraft

synonym: flight, air wing, air group

(1) **squadron** leader, (2) bomber **squadron**

The combined **squadron** was responsible for protecting the airspace of the country.

Session 2: Spelling

1. labyrinth m__e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
2. 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
3. sq_____on leader *n.* a military unit consisting of a headquarters and several units or subunits, typically composed of two or more flights of aircraft
4. di_____se his voice *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
5. ca_____n of skyscrapers *n.* a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
6. sp_____l out luxuriously on the sofa *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
7. Peruvian ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
8. bomber sq_____on *n.* a military unit consisting of a headquarters and several units or subunits, typically composed of two or more flights of aircraft
9. re_____on limit *n.* the process of repeating or looping through a set of instructions or functions within another function, often used in programming and computer science

ANSWERS: 1. maze, 2. sect, 3. squadron, 4. disguise, 5. canyon, 6. sprawl, 7. artifact, 8. squadron, 9. recursion

10. t__g branch *n.* a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual
11. di_____se my feelings *v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
12. lu_____us glow *adj.* emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment
13. throw down the ga_____et *n.* a type of protective glove covering the wrist and part of the arm, often made of leather or metal; a challenge or trial that must be endured or overcome, often a difficult or dangerous one
14. professional et__c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
15. tr__d water *v.* to step or walk on something
16. twisty ca____n road *n.* a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
17. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
18. re_____on depth *n.* the process of repeating or looping through a set of instructions or functions within another function, often used in programming and computer science
19. t__g basket *n.* a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

ANSWERS: 10. twig, 11. disguise, 12. luminous, 13. gauntlet, 14. ethic, 15. tread, 16. canyon, 17. confuse, 18. recursion, 19. twig

20. a worried fr__n *v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration
21. pose a co_____um *n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question
22. lu_____us stars *adj.* emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment
23. paleolithic ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
24. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
25. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
26. political sa____r *n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
27. sp____l for acres *v.* to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
28. moral et__c *n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
29. co_____um of choice *n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question

ANSWERS: 20. frown, 21. conundrum, 22. luminous, 23. artifact, 24. confuse, 25. improvisation, 26. savior, 27. sprawl, 28. ethic, 29. conundrum

30. political ar____l *n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor
31. the cr____e of the thunder *v.* to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity
32. 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
33. cr____e on the gravel road *v.* to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity
34. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

ANSWERS: 30. arsenal, 31. crackle, 32. sect, 33. crackle, 34. improvisation

35. puzzle m__e *n.* a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
36. ar____l of knowledge *n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor
37. people with fr__n faces *v.* to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration
38. pray to the sa____r *n.* a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
39. accept the ga____et *n.* a type of protective glove covering the wrist and part of the arm, often made of leather or metal; a challenge or trial that must be endured or overcome, often a difficult or dangerous one
40. tr__d a similar path *v.* to step or walk on something

ANSWERS: 35. maze, 36. arsenal, 37. frown, 38. savior, 39. gauntlet, 40. tread

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The lush vegetation _____ across the wonderfully landscaped gardens.
v. to sit, lie, or fall with one's arms and legs spread out
2. The firewood _____ and popped into the fireplace, sending sparks up the chimney.
v. to make a succession of slight popping sounds, often due to the heating or drying of some materials, such as firewood, paper, plastic, or food; to snap, crack, or crunch; (noun) a series of sharp, popping sounds that are caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of a material, such as wood or paper, due to changes in temperature or humidity
3. Thinking always made him _____.
v. to make an angry or severe expression by bringing your eyebrows together to indicate disapproval, displeasure, or concentration
4. We got lost in the _____ of streets while exploring the city.
n. a complex network of winding passages or pathways designed as a puzzle or challenge for people to navigate through
5. The team encountered an infinite _____ error in their code, causing the program to crash.
n. the process of repeating or looping through a set of instructions or functions within another function, often used in programming and computer science
6. The room was filled with _____ decorations that shone in the dark.
adj. emitting or reflecting light, especially in the dark; shining or glowing brightly; full of light or enlightenment

ANSWERS: 1. sprawls, 2. crackled, 3. frown, 4. maze, 5. recursion, 6. luminous

7. 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
8. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.
n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
9. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
10. The Grand _____ has an awe-inspiring sight.
n. a large deep valley with very steep sides of rock and usually formed by a river
11. The guru of that religion thought of himself as a _____.
n. a person who rescues a people from harm or danger; (in Christianity) Jesus Christ who is a teacher and prophet born in Bethlehem and active in Nazareth
12. He _____ carefully on the slippery ice.
v. to step or walk on something
13. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
14. The combined _____ was responsible for protecting the airspace of the country.
n. a military unit consisting of a headquarters and several units or subunits, typically composed of two or more flights of aircraft

ANSWERS: 7. sect, 8. artifacts, 9. confused, 10. Canyon, 11. savior, 12. treads, 13. improvisation, 14. squadron

15. He ran the _____ of critics' reviews after the release of his latest movie.
- n.* a type of protective glove covering the wrist and part of the arm, often made of leather or metal; a challenge or trial that must be endured or overcome, often a difficult or dangerous one
16. The group faced a _____ when they couldn't decide whether to go hiking or to the beach.
- n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question
17. The bird perched on a _____ and sang a beautiful melody.
- n.* a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual
18. Later it turned out that the politician _____ the fact from the public.
- v.* to hide or alter someone's appearance to deceive or mislead others
19. Having a strong work _____ is important for success in any field.
- n.* a set of moral or philosophical principles or values that guide the behavior or actions of an individual, group, or society; the study or inquiry into the nature of morality and moral systems
20. The police found a hidden _____ of weapons in the suspect's house.
- n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor

ANSWERS: 15. gauntlet, 16. conundrum, 17. twig, 18. disguised, 19. ethic, 20. arsenal