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Bill Schutt: A brief history of cannibalism | TED Talk
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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

epilepsy

n. a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors

synonym: seizures, convulsions, fits

(1) **epilepsy** seizure, (2) **epilepsy** medication

The flashing lights at the concert triggered her **epilepsy** and caused a seizure.

hemorrhage

n. profuse bleeding, often caused by a ruptured vessel

synonym: heavy bleeding

(1) **hemorrhage** from a breast, (2) **hemorrhage** control

He had a severe brain **hemorrhage** that left him paralyzed.

bruising

n. discoloration of the skin caused by an injury or trauma to the underlying blood vessels; figuratively, the emotional or psychological damage caused by someone's actions or words; (adjective) of or relating to something that causes physical or emotional harm, damage, or injury

synonym: contusion, injury, wound

(1) severe **bruising**, (2) emotional **bruising**

The athlete's **bruising** injury prevented them from playing in the championship game.

ailment

n. a slight but often persistent illness

synonym: illness, disorder, infection

(1) heart **ailment**, (2) age-related **ailment**

He got timely treatment for his physical **ailment** of severe back pain.

salvage

n. the act of saving or rescuing something from potential loss or destruction; the property or items that are saved or rescued in this way; (verb) to save, recover, or rescue something from a dangerous, damaged, or deteriorating situation

synonym: rescue, recovery

(1) **salvage** operation, (2) **salvage** a sunken ship

The **salvage** yard was full of old cars waiting to be scrapped.

grind

v. to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

synonym: mill, crush, grate

(1) **grind** away at my work, (2) **grind** your teeth

She had to **grind** the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.

mummify

v. to embalm and preserve the body of a deceased person, especially in ancient Egypt

synonym: embalm, preserve, desiccate

(1) **mummify** a corpse, (2) **mummify** a body

The ancient Egyptians believed in **mummifying** their dead to preserve the body for the afterlife.

cannibal

n. a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice

synonym: man-eater, anthropophagite

(1) **cannibal** tribe, (2) habitual **cannibal**

The horror movie portrayed a group of **cannibals** who hunted humans in the woods.

ashore

adv. on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water
synonym : on the beach, on the shore

(1) bring **ashore**, (2) go **ashore** after sunset

The ship finally came **ashore** after a long voyage.

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.

enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

synonym : coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

plunder

v. to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

synonym : pillage, loot, despoil

(1) **plunder** the enemy's stronghold, (2) **plunder** his reputation

The pirates could **plunder** the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.

kidnapping

n. the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

synonym : abduction, snatch, kidnap

(1) **kidnapping** attempt, (2) mass **kidnapping**

She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated **kidnapping**.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym : settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation
European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

humanize

v. to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans

synonym: civilize, personalize

(1) **humanize** my pet, (2) **humanize** a room

The charity event aims to **humanize** the homeless rather than treat them as mere statistics.

cannibalism

n. the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species

synonym: anthropophagy, man-eating

(1) **cannibalism** practice, (2) incidence of **cannibalism**

The tribe's religious rituals involved **cannibalism** of their enemies.

recognizable

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

synonym: noticeable, perceptible, definite

(1) to a **recognizable** degree, (2) **recognizable** landmark

His car was easily **recognizable** in the parking lot.

famine

n. a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

synonym: hunger, starvation, drought

(1) **famine** relief, (2) coal **famine**

The severe **famine** caused by the drought has left many people without food.

siege

n. the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

synonym: blockade, encirclement, barricade

(1) hostage **siege**, (2) lay **siege** to his house

People began storing up food and supplies for the **siege**.

ill-fated

adj. having a tragic or disastrous destiny or outcome, often due to unfortunate circumstances

synonym : unfortunate, doomed, hapless

(1) **ill-fated** experiment, (2) **ill-fated** love

The **ill-fated** voyage of the Titanic is a tragic tale of human error and hubris.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym : famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death

If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym : curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

mummy

n. a body of a human or animal that has been preserved, typically by being embalmed and wrapped in linen or other material

synonym : corpse, remains

(1) **mummy** tomb, (2) ancient Egyptian **mummy**

The well-preserved **mummy** was discovered in an ancient tomb in the desert.

craze

n. an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad

synonym : mania, fad, agitation

(1) **craze** for speculation, (2) fitness **craze**

We experienced a **craze** for electric vehicles as interest in green tech grew.

opportunistic

adj. making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle

synonym: timeserving, conciliatory

(1) **opportunistic** fungus, (2) **opportunistic** behavior

Many of the party's members joined for simply **opportunistic** reasons.

distill

v. to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements

synonym: extract, condense, purify

(1) **distill** a liquid, (2) **distill** information

She decided to **distill** her thoughts into a more manageable list.

pulverize

v. to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly

synonym: crush, smash, demolish

(1) **pulverize** rocks, (2) **pulverize** competition

The demolition crew had to **pulverize** the old building to make room for the new one.

concoction

n. the mixture, often a complicated one; a preparation made by combining various ingredients

synonym: mixture, brew, composition

(1) **concoction** recipe, (2) coffee-milk **concoction**

The **concoction** of herbs and spices gave the soup a unique flavor.

filial

adj. relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent

synonym: offspring, familial

(1) **filial** respect, (2) **filial** generation

Filial piety is an important value in many Asian cultures, where respect for one's parents is paramount.

thigh

n. the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg

synonym : thigh-bone, femur, upper leg

(1) **thigh** muscle, (2) chicken **thigh**

The marathon runner felt a cramp in her **thigh** at the 20th mile.

rite

n. a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice

synonym : ceremony, ritual, practice

(1) perform the **rite**, (2) **rite** of passage into adulthood

The bishop performed the **rite** of consecration for the new church.

sanction

n. official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement

synonym : approve, authorize, endorse

(1) Imperial **sanction**, (2) popular **sanction**

The government imposed economic **sanctions** on the country.

guinea

n. a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic

synonym : coin, money, currency

(1) **guinea** coins, (2) **guinea** pig

The cost of the antique vase is three **guineas**.

kuru

n. a rare, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the brain and nervous system and is typically associated with cannibalistic practices in certain cultures

synonym : prion disease, laughing sickness, trembling ancestors

(1) **kuru** disease, (2) **kuru** research

The symptoms of **kuru** include tremors, loss of coordination,

and difficulty walking and speaking.

accuse

v. to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

synonym: charge, blame, criticize

(1) **accuse** his rudeness, (2) **accuse** each other

The witness **accused** the defendant of committing the robbery.

Session 2: Spelling

1. il_____ed experiment *adj.* having a tragic or disastrous destiny or outcome, often due to unfortunate circumstances
2. incidence of can_____sm *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
3. ru__r mill *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth
4. sa_____e operation *n.* the act of saving or rescuing something from potential loss or destruction; the property or items that are saved or rescued in this way; (verb) to save, recover, or rescue something from a dangerous, damaged, or deteriorating situation
5. bring as___e *adv.* on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water
6. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
7. hu_____ze a room *v.* to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans

ANSWERS: 1. ill-fated, 2. cannibalism, 3. rumor, 4. salvage, 5. ashore, 6. starve, 7. humanize

8. gu___a pig *n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic
9. ancient Egyptian mu__y *n.* a body of a human or animal that has been preserved, typically by being embalmed and wrapped in linen or other material
10. severe br_____ng *n.* discoloration of the skin caused by an injury or trauma to the underlying blood vessels; figuratively, the emotional or psychological damage caused by someone's actions or words; (adjective) of or relating to something that causes physical or emotional harm, damage, or injury
11. opp_____tic fungus *adj.* making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle
12. mu_____y a corpse *v.* to embalm and preserve the body of a deceased person, especially in ancient Egypt
13. en_____e poor peasants *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
14. k__u disease *n.* a rare, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the brain and nervous system and is typically associated with cannibalistic practices in certain cultures

ANSWERS: 8. guinea, 9. mummy, 10. bruising, 11. opportunistic, 12. mummify, 13. enslave, 14. kuru

23. ac___e his rudeness *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
24. di_____l information *v.* to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements
25. il_____ed love *adj.* having a tragic or disastrous destiny or outcome, often due to unfortunate circumstances
26. co_____ze planets *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
27. coffee-milk con_____on *n.* the mixture, often a complicated one; a preparation made by combining various ingredients
28. th__h muscle *n.* the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg
29. age-related ai_____t *n.* a slight but often persistent illness
30. pu_____ze competition *v.* to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly
31. go as___e after sunset *adv.* on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water
32. en_____e indigenous people *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
33. con_____on recipe *n.* the mixture, often a complicated one; a preparation made by combining various ingredients

ANSWERS: 23. accuse, 24. distill, 25. ill-fated, 26. colonize, 27. concoction, 28. thigh, 29. ailment, 30. pulverize, 31. ashore, 32. enslave, 33. concoction

34. r__e of passage into adulthood *n.* a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice
35. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
36. sa_____e a sunken ship *n.* the act of saving or rescuing something from potential loss or destruction; the property or items that are saved or rescued in this way; (verb) to save, recover, or rescue something from a dangerous, damaged, or deteriorating situation
37. gr__d away at my work *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
38. gu___a coins *n.* a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic
39. pl_____r his reputation *v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property
40. ca_____al tribe *n.* a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice

ANSWERS: 34. rite, 35. starve, 36. salvage, 37. grind, 38. guinea, 39. plunder, 40. cannibal

41. hem_____ge control *n.* profuse bleeding, often caused by a ruptured vessel
42. co_____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
43. lay si__e to his house *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
44. kid_____ng attempt *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
45. ep_____sy medication *n.* a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors
46. cr__e for speculation *n.* an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad
47. mass kid_____ng *n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive
48. chicken th__h *n.* the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg
49. coal fa___e *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
50. hostage si__e *n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it
51. a false ru__r *n.* a piece of unverified information of uncertain origin that is spread by word of mouth

ANSWERS: 41. hemorrhage, 42. colonize, 43. siege, 44. kidnapping, 45. epilepsy, 46. craze, 47. kidnapping, 48. thigh, 49. famine, 50. siege, 51. rumor

52. Imperial sa____on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
53. perform the r__e *n.* a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice
54. opp_____tic behavior *adj.* making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle
55. popular sa____on *n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
56. ac___e each other *v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing
57. ep_____sy seizure *n.* a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors
58. k__u research *n.* a rare, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the brain and nervous system and is typically associated with cannibalistic practices in certain cultures

ANSWERS: 52. sanction, 53. rite, 54. opportunistic, 55. sanction, 56. accuse, 57. epilepsy, 58. kuru

59. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
60. fi___l generation *adj.* relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent
61. rec_____ble landmark *adj.* easy to become aware of or identify
62. fitness cr___e *n.* an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad
63. heart ai_____t *n.* a slight but often persistent illness
64. hem_____ge from a breast *n.* profuse bleeding, often caused by a ruptured vessel
65. fa___e relief *n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons
66. can_____sm practice *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
67. gr__d your teeth *v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time
68. pu_____ze rocks *v.* to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly
69. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 59. medicinal, 60. filial, 61. recognizable, 62. craze, 63. ailment, 64. hemorrhage, 65. famine, 66. cannibalism, 67. grind, 68. pulverize, 69. medicinal

70. to a rec_____ble degree

adj. easy to become aware of or identify

ANSWERS: 70. recognizable

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. People began storing up food and supplies for the _____.
 - n.* the surrounding of a place and isolating it by an army to defeat those defending it

2. The _____ yard was full of old cars waiting to be scrapped.
 - n.* the act of saving or rescuing something from potential loss or destruction; the property or items that are saved or rescued in this way; (verb) to save, recover, or rescue something from a dangerous, damaged, or deteriorating situation

3. She had to _____ the coffee beans before making a fresh cup.
 - v.* to reduce something to small particles or powder by crushing or rubbing it; to work hard over a long period of time

4. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.
 - v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

5. She decided to _____ her thoughts into a more manageable list.
 - v.* to purify or refine; to extract the essential elements

6. The athlete's _____ injury prevented them from playing in the championship game.
 - n.* discoloration of the skin caused by an injury or trauma to the underlying blood vessels; figuratively, the emotional or psychological damage caused by someone's actions or words; (adjective) of or relating to something that causes physical or emotional harm, damage, or injury

ANSWERS: 1. siege, 2. salvage, 3. grind, 4. starve, 5. distill, 6. bruising

7. The bishop performed the _____ of consecration for the new church.
n. a formal or ceremonial act or set of acts performed in a traditional or prescribed way; a religious or spiritual ceremony or practice
8. The flashing lights at the concert triggered her _____ and caused a seizure.
n. a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions, which can manifest in a variety of ways and be caused by various factors
9. The ancient Egyptians believed in _____ their dead to preserve the body for the afterlife.
v. to embalm and preserve the body of a deceased person, especially in ancient Egypt
10. The charity event aims to _____ the homeless rather than treat them as mere statistics.
v. to make something or someone more humane or compassionate; to make something more relatable or understandable to humans
11. The demolition crew had to _____ the old building to make room for the new one.
v. to break into fine particles or dust; to crush, pound, or grind into a powder or a paste; to destroy completely or utterly
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. His car was easily _____ in the parking lot.
adj. easy to become aware of or identify

ANSWERS: 7. rite, 8. epilepsy, 9. mummifying, 10. humanize, 11. pulverize, 12. rumor, 13. recognizable

14. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

15. The marathon runner felt a cramp in her _____ at the 20th mile.

n. the part of the human leg between the hip and the knee; in animals, the corresponding upper part of the hind leg

16. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

17. The cost of the antique vase is three _____.

n. a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings or a unit of currency used in some West African countries; (Guinea) a republic in western Africa on the Atlantic

18. He had a severe brain _____ that left him paralyzed.

n. profuse bleeding, often caused by a ruptured vessel

19. The _____ of herbs and spices gave the soup a unique flavor.

n. the mixture, often a complicated one; a preparation made by combining various ingredients

20. The _____ voyage of the Titanic is a tragic tale of human error and hubris.

adj. having a tragic or disastrous destiny or outcome, often due to unfortunate circumstances

21. He got timely treatment for his physical _____ of severe back pain.

n. a slight but often persistent illness

ANSWERS: 14. colonized, 15. thigh, 16. medicinal, 17. guineas, 18. hemorrhage, 19. concoction, 20. ill-fated, 21. ailment

22. We experienced a _____ for electric vehicles as interest in green tech grew.
- n.* an enthusiasm for a particular activity, object, or idea that appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity; a fad
23. Many of the party's members joined for simply _____ reasons.
- adj.* making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle
24. The government imposed economic _____ on the country.
- n.* official permission or approval for an action, especially an economic or political action by a government or international organization; a penalty or punishment imposed for breaking the law, rule, or agreement; (verb) to impose a penalty or punishment for breaking the law, rule, or agreement
25. _____ piety is an important value in many Asian cultures, where respect for one's parents is paramount.
- adj.* relating to or befitting a son or daughter; having the characteristics or feelings of a child towards their parent
26. The well-preserved _____ was discovered in an ancient tomb in the desert.
- n.* a body of a human or animal that has been preserved, typically by being embalmed and wrapped in linen or other material
27. The tribe's religious rituals involved _____ of their enemies.
- n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
28. The pirates could _____ the ship and steal all of the valuable cargo.
- v.* to rob or steal, especially by force or in times of war or chaos; to pillage or loot a place or property

ANSWERS: 22. craze, 23. opportunistic, 24. sanctions, 25. Filial, 26. mummy, 27. cannibalism, 28. plunder

29. Her beauty _____ me completely.

- v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

30. The horror movie portrayed a group of _____ who hunted humans in the woods.

- n.* a person who eats the flesh or internal organs of other human beings, especially as a cultural or ritual practice

31. The symptoms of _____ include tremors, loss of coordination, and difficulty walking and speaking.

- n.* a rare, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the brain and nervous system and is typically associated with cannibalistic practices in certain cultures

32. The severe _____ caused by the drought has left many people without food.

- n.* a severe shortage of food, often caused by drought, war, or economic reasons

33. The witness _____ the defendant of committing the robbery.

- v.* to charge or criticize someone with a crime or wrongdoing

34. The ship finally came _____ after a long voyage.

- adv.* on or towards the land, as opposed to the sea or water

35. She received a year's imprisonment for aggravated _____.

- n.* the act of taking somebody away illegally and holding them captive

ANSWERS: 29. enslaved, 30. cannibals, 31. kuru, 32. famine, 33. accused, 34. ashore, 35. kidnapping