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Anthony Veneziale: "Stumbling towards intimacy": An improvised TED Talk | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/anthony_veneziale_stumbling_towards_intimacy_an_improvised_ted_talk

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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**.

linguist

n. a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics

synonym: grammarist, philologue, polyglot

(1) foreign **linguist**, (2) cognitive **linguist**

Though I love literature, I'm a bad **linguist**.

stumble

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

synonym: bumble, struggle, misstep

(1) **stumble** financially, (2) **stumble** through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

intimacy

n. close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person

synonym: closeness, familiarity, nearness

(1) on terms of **intimacy**, (2) build **intimacy**

They were looking for **intimacy** in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.

scraping

n. the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

synonym : abrading, scratching, rubbing

(1) **scraping** tools, (2) metal **scraping**

The **scraping** sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.

auditory

adj. of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

synonym : hearing, audible, aural

(1) a good **auditory** memory, (2) **auditory** system

The **auditory** nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

floodgate

n. a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion

synonym : dam, barrier, gate

(1) closing of the **floodgate**, (2) loose **floodgates** of grief

The company's innovative product release opened the **floodgates** for competitors to follow suit.

dike

n. a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion

synonym : levee, embankment, dam

(1) water **dike**, (2) coastal **dike**

The town council plans to repair the damaged **dike** along the riverbank.

genotype

n. the genetic constitution of an individual organism; the inherited collection of genes that determine an organism's traits and characteristics

synonym : genetic constitution

(1) **genotype** frequency, (2) heterozygous **genotype**

The baby's **genotype** is determined by the combination of genes inherited from its parents.

categorize

v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.

synonym : classify, pigeonhole, sort

(1) **categorize** the image, (2) **categorize** the cause of failure

The biologist **categorized** the viruses into four groups.

normative

adj. setting, constituting, or relating to a standard or norm; prescribing or advocating a standard of correctness or right behavior

synonym : standard, conventional, usual

(1) **normative** behavior, (2) **normative** standards

The **normative** approach to morality focuses on what is considered socially acceptable behavior.

neurodiversity

n. the concept that neurological differences, such as autism or ADHD, are a natural and valuable part of human diversity rather than a disorder or deficiency to be fixed

synonym : neurodivergence, cognitive diversity

(1) **neurodiversity** conference, (2) **neurodiversity** spectrum

The concept of **neurodiversity** celebrates the different ways that people's brains work.

attune

v. to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment

synonym : align, harmonize, acclimate

(1) **attune** to nature, (2) **attune** myself to the rhythm

It is important to **attune** yourself to your customers' needs to provide the best service possible.

percentile

n. a measure of position in a frequency distribution expressed as a percentage of the total

synonym: centile, proportion

(1) **percentile** rank, (2) **percentile** distribution

The student scored in the 90th **percentile** on the exam, which means they scored higher than 90% of the other students.

discrepancy

n. a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

synonym: inconsistency, difference, disparity

(1) significant **discrepancy**, (2) a **discrepancy** in the report

There is a **discrepancy** between the study's findings and the collected data.

amygdala

n. one of two parts of the almond-shaped neural structure that are linked to emotions, especially fear and pleasure, memory, and the sense of smell

(1) the decline in **amygdala** activity, (2) **amygdala** damage

The **amygdala** has been associated with memories of past emotional events.

aback

adv. to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something

synonym: surprised, astounded, shocked

(1) flat **aback**, (2) **aback** shock

The sudden news of the merger took me **aback**.

underpin

v. to support or strengthen the foundations of something

synonym: support, foundation, base

(1) **underpin** a structure, (2) **underpin** democratization

The research findings **underpin** the theory that human

activities cause global warming.

reptilian

adj. resembling or characteristic of reptiles, a diverse group of cold-blooded animals that are characterized by their scaly skin, internal fertilization, and typically laying eggs on land; cold-blooded; crafty or treacherous

synonym: serpentine, reptile-like, lizard-like

(1) **reptilian** behavior, (2) **reptilian** brain

The ancient Egyptians revered several **reptilian** deities, including the serpent goddess Wadjet.

disengage

v. to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship

synonym: withdraw, separate, detach

(1) **disengage** the clutch, (2) **disengage** socially

He **disengaged** from the conversation and walked away.

outweigh

v. to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something

synonym: dominate, outrank, overpower

(1) **outweigh** the benefit, (2) **outweigh** our wishes

The advantages would undoubtedly **outweigh** the disadvantages.

circumvent

v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle

synonym: evade, bypass, outsmart

(1) **circumvent** rules, (2) **circumvent** authority

I took a back road to work on time to **circumvent** the traffic jam.

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.

embark

v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

synonym : enter, undertake, commence

(1) **embark** on a trip, (2) **embark** on a foolish adventure

We **embarked** on a new project.

ledge

n. a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface

synonym : shelf, edge, brink

(1) **ledge** overlooking the ocean, (2) wooden **ledge**

He stood on the narrow **ledge**, looking down at the busy street below.

precipice

n. a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face

synonym : cliff, drop, brink

(1) leap off a **precipice**, (2) mural **precipice**

The hiker stood at the edge of the **precipice**, taking in the breathtaking view.

ripen

v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe

synonym : mature, grow, age

(1) **ripen** the fruit, (2) **ripen** naturally

His tireless efforts **ripen** into success.

tactile

adj. relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch

synonym : touchable, tangible, palpable

(1) **tactile** stimulation, (2) **tactile** feedback

The **tactile** sensation of the fabric was soft and smooth to the touch.

mushy

adj. soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet

synonym : sappy, sentimental

(1) **mushy** romance, (2) **mushy** peas

The cake was **mushy** because I accidentally added too much milk to the batter.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. ou____gh our wishes | <i>v.</i> to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something |
| 2. at___e to nature | <i>v.</i> to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment |
| 3. no_____ve behavior | <i>adj.</i> setting, constituting, or relating to a standard or norm; prescribing or advocating a standard of correctness or right behavior |
| 4. cognitive li____st | <i>n.</i> a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics |
| 5. foreign li____st | <i>n.</i> a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics |
| 6. st____e financially | <i>v.</i> to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily |
| 7. heterozygous ge____pe | <i>n.</i> the genetic constitution of an individual organism; the inherited collection of genes that determine an organism's traits and characteristics |
| 8. ge____pe frequency | <i>n.</i> the genetic constitution of an individual organism; the inherited collection of genes that determine an organism's traits and characteristics |
| 9. ab__k shock | <i>adv.</i> to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something |

ANSWERS: 1. outweigh, 2. attune, 3. normative, 4. linguist, 5. linguist, 6. stumble, 7. genotype, 8. genotype, 9. aback

10. em___k on a foolish adventure *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
11. un_____in democratization *v.* to support or strengthen the foundations of something
12. ta_____e feedback *adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch
13. no_____ve standards *adj.* setting, constituting, or relating to a standard or norm; prescribing or advocating a standard of correctness or right behavior
14. mu__y romance *adj.* soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet
15. at___e myself to the rhythm *v.* to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment
16. flat ab__k *adv.* to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something
17. am_____la damage *n.* one of two parts of the almond-shaped neural structure that are linked to emotions, especially fear and pleasure, memory, and the sense of smell
18. neu_____ity spectrum *n.* the concept that neurological differences, such as autism or ADHD, are a natural and valuable part of human diversity rather than a disorder or deficiency to be fixed

ANSWERS: 10. embark, 11. underpin, 12. tactile, 13. normative, 14. mushy, 15. attune, 16. aback, 17. amygdala, 18. neurodiversity

29. closing of the fl_____te
- n.* a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion
30. au_____ry system
- adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
31. a good au_____ry memory
- adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
32. sc_____ng tools
- n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
33. cir_____nt rules
- v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
34. metal sc_____ng
- n.* the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites
35. significant dis_____cy
- n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

ANSWERS: 29. floodgate, 30. auditory, 31. auditory, 32. scraping, 33. circumvent, 34. scraping, 35. discrepancy

36. ta____e stimulation *adj.* relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch
37. ou____gh the benefit *v.* to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something
38. per____le rank *n.* a measure of position in a frequency distribution expressed as a percentage of the total
39. di____ge socially *v.* to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship
40. full of em____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
41. ri__n naturally *v.* to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe
42. a dis____cy in the report *n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence
43. st____e through life *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
44. em____k on a trip *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
45. neu____ity conference *n.* the concept that neurological differences, such as autism or ADHD, are a natural and valuable part of human diversity rather than a disorder or deficiency to be fixed

ANSWERS: 36. tactile, 37. outweigh, 38. percentile, 39. disengage, 40. empathy, 41. ripen, 42. discrepancy, 43. stumble, 44. embark, 45. neurodiversity

46. cat_____ze the cause of failure *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
47. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
48. mu__y peas *adj.* soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet
49. re_____an brain *adj.* resembling or characteristic of reptiles, a diverse group of cold-blooded animals that are characterized by their scaly skin, internal fertilization, and typically laying eggs on land; cold-blooded; crafty or treacherous
50. loose fl_____tes of grief *n.* a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion
51. cir_____nt authority *v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
52. re_____an behavior *adj.* resembling or characteristic of reptiles, a diverse group of cold-blooded animals that are characterized by their scaly skin, internal fertilization, and typically laying eggs on land; cold-blooded; crafty or treacherous

ANSWERS: 46. categorize, 47. empathy, 48. mushy, 49. reptilian, 50. floodgate, 51. circumvent, 52. reptilian

53. cat_____ze the image *v.* to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.
54. wooden le__e *n.* a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface
55. water d__e *n.* a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion
56. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
57. on terms of in_____cy *n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
58. per_____le distribution *n.* a measure of position in a frequency distribution expressed as a percentage of the total

ANSWERS: 53. categorize, 54. ledge, 55. dike, 56. improvisation, 57. intimacy, 58. percentile

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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

2. The town council plans to repair the damaged _____ along the riverbank.
n. a wall or embankment built to hold back water and prevent flooding; a barrier made of earth, stone, or concrete; a narrow channel cut into rock or soil by erosion

3. The _____ sensation of the fabric was soft and smooth to the touch.
adj. relating to the sense of touch; tangible or perceptible through the sense of touch

4. The cake was _____ because I accidentally added too much milk to the batter.
adj. soft and pulpy in texture or consistency, often describing food; emotionally sentimental or overly romantic in a way that can be seen as insincere or sickly sweet

5. The sudden news of the merger took me _____.
adv. to be very surprised or shocked by somebody or something

6. He _____ from the conversation and walked away.
v. to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship

7. The _____ sound coming from the engine made us worry about the car's condition.
n. the act of removing a thin layer of material from a surface, often to clean or smooth it; a sound or sensation that is produced by something being removed or rubbed against another surface; (of computer technology) the automated extraction or collection of data from websites

ANSWERS: 1. improvisation, 2. dike, 3. tactile, 4. mushy, 5. aback, 6. disengaged, 7. scraping

8. We _____ on a new project.
- v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
9. I took a back road to work on time to _____ the traffic jam.
- v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
10. They were looking for _____ in their relationship and wanted to be close to each other.
- n.* close familiarity or friendship; a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person
11. The _____ approach to morality focuses on what is considered socially acceptable behavior.
- adj.* setting, constituting, or relating to a standard or norm; prescribing or advocating a standard of correctness or right behavior
12. The ancient Egyptians revered several _____ deities, including the serpent goddess Wadjet.
- adj.* resembling or characteristic of reptiles, a diverse group of cold-blooded animals that are characterized by their scaly skin, internal fertilization, and typically laying eggs on land; cold-blooded; crafty or treacherous
13. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
- n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
14. There is a _____ between the study's findings and the collected data.
- n.* a lack of consistency or agreement between two or more facts, figures, or sets of information; a disagreement, inconsistency, or divergence

ANSWERS: 8. embarked, 9. circumvent, 10. intimacy, 11. normative, 12. reptilian, 13. Empathy, 14. discrepancy

15. The biologist _____ the viruses into four groups.

v. to put people or things into groups according to their features, types, etc.

16. The baby's _____ is determined by the combination of genes inherited from its parents.

n. the genetic constitution of an individual organism; the inherited collection of genes that determine an organism's traits and characteristics

17. His tireless efforts _____ into success.

v. to cause something to be fully developed; to become ripe

18. The _____ nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

adj. of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

19. The concept of _____ celebrates the different ways that people's brains work.

n. the concept that neurological differences, such as autism or ADHD, are a natural and valuable part of human diversity rather than a disorder or deficiency to be fixed

20. She _____ over the tree root.

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

21. The company's innovative product release opened the _____ for competitors to follow suit.

n. a gate used to control the flow of water in a dam or waterway; a situation or event that allows a sudden and large release of something, such as information or emotion

22. The hiker stood at the edge of the _____ taking in the breathtaking view.

n. a steep cliff, especially one that is high and has a vertical or nearly vertical face

ANSWERS: 15. categorized, 16. genotype, 17. ripen, 18. auditory, 19. neurodiversity, 20. stumbled, 21. floodgates, 22. precipice,

23. The _____ has been associated with memories of past emotional events.
- n.* one of two parts of the almond-shaped neural structure that are linked to emotions, especially fear and pleasure, memory, and the sense of smell
24. The research findings _____ the theory that human activities cause global warming.
- v.* to support or strengthen the foundations of something
25. He stood on the narrow _____ looking down at the busy street below.
- n.* a narrow, flat surface or shelf that juts out from a wall or cliff; a projecting rib or molding along the edge of a surface
26. The advantages would undoubtedly _____ the disadvantages.
- v.* to be heavier, more significant, or more critical than something
27. Though I love literature, I'm a bad _____.
- n.* a person who speaks several foreign languages; a person who studies or teaches languages or linguistics
28. It is important to _____ yourself to your customers' needs to provide the best service possible.
- v.* to make receptive or aware; to bring into harmony or alignment
29. The student scored in the 90th _____ on the exam, which means they scored higher than 90% of the other students.
- n.* a measure of position in a frequency distribution expressed as a percentage of the total

ANSWERS: 23. amygdala, 24. underpin, 25. ledge, 26. outweigh, 27. linguist, 28. attune, 29. percentile