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Jess Thom: How I turned my Tourette's tics into art | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

superhero

n. a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

(1) **superhero** movies, (2) **superhero** comics

Superman is a classic **superhero** known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.

neurological

adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

synonym: nervous, neural, brain-related

(1) fever with **neurological** signs, (2) **neurological** symptoms

The patient was diagnosed with a **neurological** disorder affecting their motor skills.

involuntary

adj. acting or done without or against one's will

synonym: coerced, forced, automatic

(1) **involuntary** manslaughter, (2) **involuntary** muscles

The drug's side effects can include **involuntary** loss of urine.

tic

n. a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism

synonym: twitch, spasm, jerk

(1) developmental **tic**, (2) facial **tic**

My nervous **tic** makes it hard for me to concentrate during important events.

hedgehog

n. a small, spiny mammal that rolls itself into a ball for protection when threatened; a person who is solitary, introverted, and lacks social skills, often displaying sharp or prickly behavior

synonym: porcupine, spine-fellow

(1) wild **hedgehog**, (2) **hedgehog** habitat

The **hedgehog's** spines provide an effective defense mechanism against predators.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym: in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over the schedule.

intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym: amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

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.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

coprolalia

n. involuntary or compulsive use of foul or obscene language, often associated with certain neurological disorders or psychiatric conditions, such as Tourette's syndrome

synonym : verbal tic, involuntary swearing

(1) **coprolalia** outbursts, (2) **coprolalia** tic

His **coprolalia** symptoms led to a few awkward situations during the meeting.

obscene

adj. offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex

synonym : improper, nasty, lewd

(1) **obscene** literature, (2) an **obscene** story

He made an **obscene** gesture.

pajama

n. a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging

synonym : nightgown, nightdress

(1) care **pajama**, (2) **pajama** pants

My little sister loves to have **pajama** parties with her friends on the weekends.

simplistic

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

synonym : basic, uncomplicated, elementary

(1) **simplistic** approach, (2) **simplistic** design

The politician's solution to the problem was too **simplistic** to solve the underlying issue.

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.

witty

adj. cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way

synonym: clever, humorous, satirical

(1) **witty** cartoon, (2) make **witty** remarks

The comedian's **witty** jokes had the audience in stitches.

phantasmagoria

n. a rapidly changing sequence or grouping of images, often surreal or fantastic in nature; an illusion or hallucination

synonym: illusion, dream, fantasy

(1) **phantasmagoria** of colors, (2) **phantasmagoria** of sounds

The Halloween party was a **phantasmagoria** of spooky decorations, costumes, and music.

mimicry

n. the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh

synonym: imitation, apery

(1) vocal **mimicry**, (2) floral **mimicry**

Some insects use **mimicry** to avoid detection by predators.

antic

adj. ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing

synonym: comical, whimsical, capricious

(1) **antic** disposition, (2) comedic **antic**

The children's **antics** made everyone laugh.

cofounder

n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business

(1) **cofounder** of the university, (2) late **cofounder**

He is the **cofounder** and chairman of this tech company.

wasteful

adj. characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense

synonym : uneconomical, extravagant, profligate

(1) **wasteful** practices, (2) **wasteful** habits

Buying new clothes every week is a **wasteful** use of money and resources.

recast

v. to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film

synonym : modify, remake, remodel

(1) **recast** the Republican party, (2) **recast** the story

He had to **recast** his image to convince the electorate in his home state.

springboard

n. a board or device used for jumping or diving into the water or for launching oneself into the air for gymnastics or other acrobatic movements

synonym : diving board, launching pad, jumping-off point

(1) **springboard** dive, (2) **springboard** launch

The project's success became a **springboard** for the team to pursue bigger and more ambitious goals.

outset

n. the beginning of something

synonym : beginning, start, initiation

(1) month's **outset**, (2) the **outset** of the crisis

At the **outset** of the project, we encountered several obstacles.

spontaneity

n. the quality or state of being spontaneous; the act of behaving or acting in an impulsive, uninhibited, or unplanned manner

synonym : impulsiveness, uninhibitedness, unpredictability

(1) the **spontaneity** of the moment, (2) act with **spontaneity**

His public speaking skills improved when he embraced **spontaneity** rather than sticking to a script.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

choreograph

v. to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music

(1) **choreograph** a stage performance, (2) exquisitely **choreographed**

He had **choreographed** the dance in this play himself.

debilitating

adj. weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success

synonym: weakening, exhausting

(1) **debilitating** virus, (2) **debilitating** effect

His **debilitating** illness made it difficult for him to leave the house.

choke

v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something

synonym: strangle, suffocate, clog

(1) **choke** with anger, (2) **choke** off the blood supply

The baby started to **choke** on a piece of apple.

gape

n. an act of opening the mouth wide, often as a sign of surprise, wonder, or boredom; a wide opening or gap in something, especially in a physical object or landscape;
(verb) to open one's mouth wide, often as a result of surprise, shock, or amazement

synonym: gaze, opening, mouth

(1) **gape** in amazement, (2) bird's **gape**

The **gape** of the Grand Canyon is an awe-inspiring sight.

- bop**
- v. to move or dance in a lively, rhythmic way, especially to jazz or pop music; to hit or strike someone or something quickly and lightly; (noun) a type of music, especially jazz or swing, characterized by a lively, upbeat rhythm
- synonym*: jig, hop, bounce
- (1) hard **bop**, (2) **bop** to the beat
- The jazz band began to **bop** and swing during their performance, causing the crowd to dance along.
- clink**
- v. to make a sharp, ringing sound by striking one hard object against another; to make a sound like metal hitting glass
- synonym*: clatter, clang, rattle
- (1) **clink** ice cubes, (2) **clink** their medals together in celebration
- The bartender used a spoon to **clink** against the glass to signal that it was the last call.
- misconception**
- n. a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
- synonym*: fallacy, incomprehension, misunderstanding
- (1) dispel the **misconception**, (2) commonly held **misconception**
- There are numerous **misconceptions** about food and health.
- unravel**
- v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
- synonym*: separate, unknot, ravel
- (1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot
- Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.
- alchemy**
- n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
- synonym*: sorcery, magic, transmutation

(1) **alchemy** experiment, (2) **alchemy** of emotions

Today, the study of **alchemy** remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy

Session 2: Spelling

1. ob____e literature *adj.* offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex
2. al____y of emotions *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
3. hard b_p *v.* to move or dance in a lively, rhythmic way, especially to jazz or pop music; to hit or strike someone or something quickly and lightly; (noun) a type of music, especially jazz or swing, characterized by a lively, upbeat rhythm
4. al____y experiment *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
5. mis_____and entirely about her *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
6. an ob____e story *adj.* offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex
7. in_____fy a good relationship *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

ANSWERS: 1. obscene, 2. alchemy, 3. bop, 4. alchemy, 5. misunderstand, 6. obscene, 7. intensify

8. g__e in amazement *n.* an act of opening the mouth wide, often as a sign of surprise, wonder, or boredom; a wide opening or gap in something, especially in a physical object or landscape; (verb) to open one's mouth wide, often as a result of surprise, shock, or amazement
9. cop_____ia tic *n.* involuntary or compulsive use of foul or obscene language, often associated with certain neurological disorders or psychiatric conditions, such as Tourette's syndrome
10. the ou___t of the crisis *n.* the beginning of something
11. act with spo_____ty *n.* the quality or state of being spontaneous; the act of behaving or acting in an impulsive, uninhibited, or unplanned manner
12. care pa___a *n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
13. se_____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
14. an__c disposition *adj.* ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing
15. b_p to the beat *v.* to move or dance in a lively, rhythmic way, especially to jazz or pop music; to hit or strike someone or something quickly and lightly; (noun) a type of music, especially jazz or swing, characterized by a lively, upbeat rhythm

ANSWERS: 8. gape, 9. coprolalia, 10. outset, 11. spontaneity, 12. pajama, 13. secondly, 14. antic, 15. bop

16. su_____ro movies *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
17. un_____l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
18. inv_____ry manslaughter *adj.* acting or done without or against one's will
19. he_____og habitat *n.* a small, spiny mammal that rolls itself into a ball for protection when threatened; a person who is solitary, introverted, and lacks social skills, often displaying sharp or prickly behavior
20. ch__e off the blood supply *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
21. facial t_c *n.* a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism
22. sim_____ic approach *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms
23. exquisitely cho_____phed *v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
24. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
25. pha_____ria of colors *n.* a rapidly changing sequence or grouping of images, often surreal or fantastic in nature; an illusion or hallucination

ANSWERS: 16. superhero, 17. unravel, 18. involuntary, 19. hedgehog, 20. choke, 21. tic, 22. simplistic, 23. choreograph, 24. misunderstand, 25. phantasmagoria

26. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
27. cop_____ia outbursts *n.* involuntary or compulsive use of foul or obscene language, often associated with certain neurological disorders or psychiatric conditions, such as Tourette's syndrome
28. comedic an__c *adj.* ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing
29. inv_____ry muscles *adj.* acting or done without or against one's will
30. cho_____ph a stage performance *v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
31. co_____er of the university *n.* one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
32. negative ste_____pes *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
33. avoid ste_____pe *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
34. un_____l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
35. sim_____ic design *adj.* oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

ANSWERS: 26. opportune, 27. coprolalia, 28. antic, 29. involuntary, 30. choreograph, 31. cofounder, 32. stereotype, 33. stereotype, 34. unravel, 35. simplistic

36. spr_____rd launch *n.* a board or device used for jumping or diving into the water or for launching oneself into the air for gymnastics or other acrobatic movements
37. developmental t_c *n.* a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism
38. late co_____er *n.* one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
39. wa_____ul practices *adj.* characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense
40. vocal mi_____y *n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh
41. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
42. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
43. spr_____rd dive *n.* a board or device used for jumping or diving into the water or for launching oneself into the air for gymnastics or other acrobatic movements
44. wa_____ul habits *adj.* characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense

ANSWERS: 36. springboard, 37. tic, 38. cofounder, 39. wasteful, 40. mimicry, 41. opportune, 42. medicinal, 43. springboard, 44. wasteful

45. pa___a pants *n.* a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
46. month's ou___t *n.* the beginning of something
47. commonly held mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
48. re___t the story *v.* to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film
49. the spo_____ty of the moment *n.* the quality or state of being spontaneous; the act of behaving or acting in an impulsive, uninhibited, or unplanned manner
50. dispel the mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
51. bird's g__e *n.* an act of opening the mouth wide, often as a sign of surprise, wonder, or boredom; a wide opening or gap in something, especially in a physical object or landscape; (verb) to open one's mouth wide, often as a result of surprise, shock, or amazement
52. pha_____ria of sounds *n.* a rapidly changing sequence or grouping of images, often surreal or fantastic in nature; an illusion or hallucination

ANSWERS: 45. pajama, 46. outset, 47. misconception, 48. recast, 49. spontaneity, 50. misconception, 51. gape, 52. phantasmagoria

53. su_____ro comics *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
54. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
55. wi__y cartoon *adj.* cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
56. wild he_____og *n.* a small, spiny mammal that rolls itself into a ball for protection when threatened; a person who is solitary, introverted, and lacks social skills, often displaying sharp or prickly behavior
57. cl__k their medals together in celebration *v.* to make a sharp, ringing sound by striking one hard object against another; to make a sound like metal hitting glass
58. make wi__y remarks *adj.* cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
59. deb_____ing virus *adj.* weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success
60. in_____fy diplomatic efforts *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
61. fever with neu_____cal signs *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
62. deb_____ing effect *adj.* weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success
63. floral mi_____y *n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh

ANSWERS: 53. superhero, 54. medicinal, 55. witty, 56. hedgehog, 57. clink, 58. witty, 59. debilitating, 60. intensify, 61. neurological, 62. debilitating, 63. mimicry

64. se____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
65. ch__e with anger *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
66. re___t the Republican party *v.* to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film
67. neu_____cal symptoms *adj.* of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system
68. cl__k ice cubes *v.* to make a sharp, ringing sound by striking one hard object against another; to make a sound like metal hitting glass

ANSWERS: 64. secondly, 65. choke, 66. recast, 67. neurological, 68. clink

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.
 - n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

2. He had to _____ his image to convince the electorate in his home state.
 - v.* to change the form of something, such as a metal object, by melting it down and reshaping it; to change the actors or the role of a particular actor in a play or film

3. The _____ spines provide an effective defense mechanism against predators.
 - n.* a small, spiny mammal that rolls itself into a ball for protection when threatened; a person who is solitary, introverted, and lacks social skills, often displaying sharp or prickly behavior

4. The bartender used a spoon to _____ against the glass to signal that it was the last call.
 - v.* to make a sharp, ringing sound by striking one hard object against another; to make a sound like metal hitting glass

5. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
 - v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

6. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
 - v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

7. His public speaking skills improved when he embraced _____ rather than sticking to a script.
 - n.* the quality or state of being spontaneous; the act of behaving or acting in an impulsive, uninhibited, or unplanned manner

ANSWERS: 1. stereotypes, 2. recast, 3. hedgehog's, 4. clink, 5. intensify, 6. unravel, 7. spontaneity

8. Superman is a classic _____ known for his superhuman strength and flying ability.
- n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
9. There are numerous _____ about food and health.
- n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
10. The children's _____ made everyone laugh.
- adj.* ludicrously strange and unusual; playful or amusing
11. At the _____ of the project, we encountered several obstacles.
- n.* the beginning of something
12. My nervous _____ makes it hard for me to concentrate during important events.
- n.* a sudden, involuntary muscular contraction or movement, often repetitive in nature; a habitual and often unconscious behavior or mannerism
13. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.
- adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
14. The project's success became a _____ for the team to pursue bigger and more ambitious goals.
- n.* a board or device used for jumping or diving into the water or for launching oneself into the air for gymnastics or other acrobatic movements
15. Buying new clothes every week is a _____ use of money and resources.
- adj.* characterized by excessive or unnecessary use or consumption; using resources or materials inefficiently or inappropriately, resulting in unnecessary waste or expense

ANSWERS: 8. superhero, 9. misconceptions, 10. antics, 11. outset, 12. tic, 13. secondly, 14. springboard, 15. wasteful

16. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

17. The _____ of the Grand Canyon is an awe-inspiring sight.

n. an act of opening the mouth wide, often as a sign of surprise, wonder, or boredom; a wide opening or gap in something, especially in a physical object or landscape; (verb) to open one's mouth wide, often as a result of surprise, shock, or amazement

18. His _____ illness made it difficult for him to leave the house.

adj. weakening or damaging; causing a loss of strength, energy, or success

19. The politician's solution to the problem was too _____ to solve the underlying issue.

adj. oversimplified or lacking in complexity or depth; characterized by an attempt to explain something complex or multifaceted with overly vague or simple terms

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

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

21. The patient was diagnosed with a _____ disorder affecting their motor skills.

adj. of or relating to the science of neurology or the nervous system

22. He made an _____ gesture.

adj. offensive, rude, or disgusting, usually because of being related to sex

23. He had _____ the dance in this play himself.

v. to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music

ANSWERS: 16. misunderstand, 17. gape, 18. debilitating, 19. simplistic, 20. medicinal, 21. neurological, 22. obscene, 23. choreographed

24. My little sister loves to have _____ parties with her friends on the weekends.
n. a pair of loose pants with a matching top, worn for sleeping or lounging
25. He is the _____ and chairman of this tech company.
n. one of several people who establishes an organization or starts a business
26. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
27. The comedian's _____ jokes had the audience in stitches.
adj. cleverly amusing or entertaining, especially in a spontaneous or impromptu way
28. The Halloween party was a _____ of spooky decorations, costumes, and music.
n. a rapidly changing sequence or grouping of images, often surreal or fantastic in nature; an illusion or hallucination
29. The baby started to _____ on a piece of apple.
v. to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
30. Today, the study of _____ remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy
n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
31. The drug's side effects can include _____ loss of urine.
adj. acting or done without or against one's will

ANSWERS: 24. pajama, 25. cofounder, 26. opportune, 27. witty, 28. phantasmagoria, 29. choke, 30. alchemy, 31. involuntary

32. The jazz band began to ____ and swing during their performance, causing the crowd to dance along.
- v.* to move or dance in a lively, rhythmic way, especially to jazz or pop music; to hit or strike someone or something quickly and lightly; (noun) a type of music, especially jazz or swing, characterized by a lively, upbeat rhythm
33. Some insects use _____ to avoid detection by predators.
- n.* the act or skill of copying the sounds or behavior of a particular person or animal, often to make people laugh
34. His _____ symptoms led to a few awkward situations during the meeting.
- n.* involuntary or compulsive use of foul or obscene language, often associated with certain neurological disorders or psychiatric conditions, such as Tourette's syndrome

ANSWERS: 32. bop, 33. mimicry, 34. coprolalia