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Martina Flor: The secret language of letter design |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

chisel

n. a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior

synonym : gouge, bevel, plane

(1) sharpen **chisel**, (2) **chisel** some money

The archaeologist used a small **chisel** to excavate the ancient artifact.

monk

n. a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

synonym : friar, cleric, brother

(1) **monk** lifestyle, (2) cloistered **monk**

The ascetic **monk** spent his days in prayer and contemplation in the monastery.

hairstyle

n. the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head

synonym : hairdo, coiffure, haircut

(1) modern **hairstyle**, (2) bob **hairstyle**

My sister got a new **hairstyle** for her job interview.

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.

bakery

n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold

synonym: bakeshop, bakehouse

(1) run a **bakery**, (2) **bakery** industry

He worked at the **bakery** as a baker.

facade

n. the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant

synonym: front, camouflage, masquerade

(1) the outside **facade** of a castle, (2) **facade** of wealth

A gentle **facade** concealed his powerfulness.

uppercase

n. the capital form of a letter in a written or printed text; text or writing that is predominantly or exclusively in capital letters

synonym: capital, capital letter, majuscule

(1) **uppercase** letter, (2) change to **uppercase**

Please type your password in **uppercase** to log into your account.

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.

inexperienced

adj. lacking experience or knowledge in a particular field or situation; not accustomed to a specific kind of work or activity

synonym: novice, green, unseasoned

(1) **inexperienced** actor, (2) **inexperienced** employee

The young doctor was **inexperienced** in handling such a

complicated case.

firsthand

adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source

synonym: direct

(1) hear customer's voices **firsthand**, (2) conduct **firsthand** research

The manager tried to hear customers' voices **firsthand**.

enclose

v. to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include

synonym: surround, encase, contain

(1) **enclose** a check with a letter, (2) **enclose** area

The walls were **enclosed** to create a private outdoor space.

pastry

n. a baked food made of flour, fat, water, and sometimes eggs, sugar, and other ingredients, used as a base or casing for sweet or savory dishes

synonym: bakery, baked goods, sweet treats

(1) **pastry** chef, (2) fruit **pastry**

The chef's specialty is a savory **pastry** with spinach and feta cheese.

trespass

v. to enter someone's private property without permission or legal authority; to infringe upon or violate someone's rights, boundaries, or personal space

synonym: intrude, invade, encroach

(1) **trespass** against his rights, (2) **trespass** into the country's waters

The sign warns visitors not to **trespass** on private property.

lookout

n. a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence

synonym: watchman, sentinel, guard

(1) **lookout** team, (2) on the **lookout** for danger

The **lookout** tower provided a clear view of the surrounding

area.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

synonym: consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

loaf

n. a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle

synonym: bread, boule, brioche

(1) crusty **loaf**, (2) **loaf** around during the day

On my way home from work, I picked up a **loaf** of bread from the bakery.

craftsman

n. a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials

synonym: artisan, mechanic, workman

(1) **craftsman** skill, (2) a subtle **craftsman**

The adept **craftsman** carefully carved the wooden figurine with precision and skill.

knead

v. to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device

synonym: massage, rub, manipulate

(1) **knead** clay, (2) **knead** muscles

I need to **knead** the dough before I can bake the bread.

vouch

v. to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement

synonym: confirm, validate, attest

(1) **vouch** for the authenticity, (2) **vouch** for the accuracy of

the data

I can **vouch** for her honesty and integrity.

wonderland

n. a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

synonym : fantasyland, dreamland, fairyland

(1) magical **wonderland**, (2) Alice's **wonderland**

The colorful garden was a **wonderland** of various plants and flowers.

burrow

v. to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal

synonym : tunnel, dig, excavate

(1) **burrow** through the forest, (2) **burrow** into a mystery

You can't **burrow** through solid metal.

handwriting

n. the particular way in which a person writes, as distinct from printing or typing

synonym : script, penmanship, calligraphy

(1) **handwriting** identification, (2) **handwriting** sample

The **handwriting** on the note was barely legible.

gibberish

n. unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing

synonym : nonsense, babble, drivel

(1) **gibberish** language, (2) meaningless **gibberish**

He spoke in **gibberish**, and no one could understand what he was trying to say.

delimit

v. to establish or define the limits, boundaries, or extent of something; to mark or set specific boundaries or parameters

synonym : bound, restrict, define

(1) **delimit** parameters, (2) **delimit** the scope

We need to **delimit** the boundaries of our project to ensure

we stay within budget and time constraints.

recreate

v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

synonym: renovate, vivify, revive

(1) **recreate** a single country, (2) **recreate** the feeling of the 1920s

She **recreated** the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.

peep

v. to take a quick and often furtive or cautious look at something; to emit a small sound or noise, typically a high-pitched chirp or squeak; (noun) a small, high-pitched sound

synonym: glance, peek, spy

(1) make a **peep**, (2) **peep** into the room

I could only **peep** through the keyhole to see what was happening in the room.

typography

n. the art or process of printing with type; the design, layout, and arrangement of printed material, including text and images

synonym: printing, typesetting, font design

(1) **typography** skills, (2) **typography** layout

I love the bold **typography** used in this book's chapter heading.

animate

v. to make something full of interest and energy

synonym: invigorate, energize, enliven

(1) **animate** the body, (2) **animate** his soul

The positive attitude of the supervisor **animated** the discussion.

flowery

adj. ornate, excessively decorative or embellished, having an overabundance of decorative features or unnecessary details; characterized by the excessive use of highly descriptive or poetic language

synonym : florid, ornate, elaborate

(1) **flowery** language, (2) **flowery** print

The garden was filled with **flowery** scents and colorful blooms.

grandiose

adj. impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way

synonym : elaborate, impressive, grandiloquent

(1) **grandiose** project, (2) make a **grandiose** claim

The **grandiose** mansion was a testament to the family's wealth and status.

poetic

adj. of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

synonym : literary, verse-like, rhythmic

(1) **poetic** genius, (2) **poetic** justice

The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a **poetic** scene from a movie.

explode

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

synonym : detonate, blast, rupture

(1) **explode** in anger, (2) **explode** in popularity

The old building **exploded** in a fiery inferno.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym : drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

Session 2: Spelling

1. hear customer's voices fi_____nd
adv. from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
2. ine_____ced employee
adj. lacking experience or knowledge in a particular field or situation; not accustomed to a specific kind of work or activity
3. magical won_____nd
n. a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
4. han_____ng sample
n. the particular way in which a person writes, as distinct from printing or typing
5. ex_____e in anger
v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
6. re_____te a single country
v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
7. the outside fa___e of a castle
n. the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
8. sharpen ch___l
n. a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior

ANSWERS: 1. firsthand, 2. inexperienced, 3. wonderland, 4. handwriting, 5. explode, 6. recreate, 7. facade, 8. chisel

9. l__f around during the day *n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
10. fruit pa___y *n.* a baked food made of flour, fat, water, and sometimes eggs, sugar, and other ingredients, used as a base or casing for sweet or savory dishes
11. vo__h for the accuracy of the data *v.* to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement
12. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
13. gi_____sh language *n.* unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing
14. m__k lifestyle *n.* a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
15. cloistered m__k *n.* a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
16. de_____te a chapter to the subject *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
17. han_____ng identification *n.* the particular way in which a person writes, as distinct from printing or typing

ANSWERS: 9. loaf, 10. pastry, 11. vouch, 12. opportune, 13. gibberish, 14. monk, 15. monk, 16. dedicate, 17. handwriting

18. ex____e in popularity *v.* to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open
19. ch___l some money *n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
20. lo_____t team *n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence
21. typ_____hy layout *n.* the art or process of printing with type; the design, layout, and arrangement of printed material, including text and images
22. ba___y industry *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
23. make a p__p *v.* to take a quick and often furtive or cautious look at something; to emit a small sound or noise, typically a high-pitched chirp or squeak; (noun) a small, high-pitched sound
24. bu___w into a mystery *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
25. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
26. pr___l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

ANSWERS: 18. explode, 19. chisel, 20. lookout, 21. typography, 22. bakery, 23. peep, 24. burrow, 25. opportune, 26. propel

27. a subtle cr_____an *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials
28. pa___y chef *n.* a baked food made of flour, fat, water, and sometimes eggs, sugar, and other ingredients, used as a base or casing for sweet or savory dishes
29. crusty l__f *n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
30. conduct fi_____nd research *adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
31. bob ha_____le *n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
32. kn__d muscles *v.* to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device
33. po___c genius *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
34. de_____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
35. tr_____ss against his rights *v.* to enter someone's private property without permission or legal authority; to infringe upon or violate someone's rights, boundaries, or personal space

ANSWERS: 27. craftsman, 28. pastry, 29. loaf, 30. firsthand, 31. hairstyle, 32. knead, 33. poetic, 34. dedicate, 35. trespass

36. p__p into the room *v.* to take a quick and often furtive or cautious look at something; to emit a small sound or noise, typically a high-pitched chirp or squeak; (noun) a small, high-pitched sound
37. on the lo_____t for danger *n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence
38. change to up_____se *n.* the capital form of a letter in a written or printed text; text or writing that is predominantly or exclusively in capital letters
39. fl_____y language *adj.* ornate, excessively decorative or embellished, having an overabundance of decorative features or unnecessary details; characterized by the excessive use of highly descriptive or poetic language
40. Alice's won_____nd *n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
41. en_____e area *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
42. su_____ro comics *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public

ANSWERS: 36. peep, 37. lookout, 38. uppercase, 39. flowery, 40. wonderland, 41. enclose, 42. superhero

43. po___c justice *adj.* of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way
44. su_____ro movies *n.* a fictional hero who possesses extraordinary powers and abilities and is dedicated to protecting the public
45. meaningless gi_____sh *n.* unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing
46. de_____t parameters *v.* to establish or define the limits, boundaries, or extent of something; to mark or set specific boundaries or parameters
47. run a ba___y *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
48. make a gr_____se claim *adj.* impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
49. de_____t the scope *v.* to establish or define the limits, boundaries, or extent of something; to mark or set specific boundaries or parameters
50. modern ha_____le *n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
51. bu___w through the forest *v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
52. an_____e his soul *v.* to make something full of interest and energy

ANSWERS: 43. poetic, 44. superhero, 45. gibberish, 46. delimit, 47. bakery, 48. grandiose, 49. delimit, 50. hairstyle, 51. burrow, 52. animate

53. typ_____hy skills *n.* the art or process of printing with type; the design, layout, and arrangement of printed material, including text and images
54. pr___l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
55. en_____e a check with a letter *v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
56. an_____e the body *v.* to make something full of interest and energy
57. tr_____ss into the country's waters *v.* to enter someone's private property without permission or legal authority; to infringe upon or violate someone's rights, boundaries, or personal space
58. fl_____y print *adj.* ornate, excessively decorative or embellished, having an overabundance of decorative features or unnecessary details; characterized by the excessive use of highly descriptive or poetic language
59. ine_____ced actor *adj.* lacking experience or knowledge in a particular field or situation; not accustomed to a specific kind of work or activity
60. vo__h for the authenticity *v.* to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement

ANSWERS: 53. typography, 54. propel, 55. enclose, 56. animate, 57. trespass, 58. flowery, 59. inexperienced, 60. vouch

61. cr_____an skill *n.* a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials
62. up_____se letter *n.* the capital form of a letter in a written or printed text; text or writing that is predominantly or exclusively in capital letters
63. fa___e of wealth *n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
64. gr_____se project *adj.* impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
65. re_____te the feeling of the 1920s *v.* to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again
66. kn__d clay *v.* to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device

ANSWERS: 61. craftsman, 62. uppercase, 63. facade, 64. grandiose, 65. recreate, 66. knead

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The adept _____ carefully carved the wooden figurine with precision and skill.
n. a skilled worker who creates handmade objects, especially one who works with wood, metal, or other materials
2. The garden was filled with _____ scents and colorful blooms.
adj. ornate, excessively decorative or embellished, having an overabundance of decorative features or unnecessary details; characterized by the excessive use of highly descriptive or poetic language
3. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
4. The _____ mansion was a testament to the family's wealth and status.
adj. impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner, especially in an exaggerated or pompous way
5. We need to _____ the boundaries of our project to ensure we stay within budget and time constraints.
v. to establish or define the limits, boundaries, or extent of something; to mark or set specific boundaries or parameters
6. The ascetic _____ spent his days in prayer and contemplation in the monastery.
n. a member of a religious community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
7. I love the bold _____ used in this book's chapter heading.
n. the art or process of printing with type; the design, layout, and arrangement of printed material, including text and images

ANSWERS: 1. craftsman, 2. flowery, 3. opportune, 4. grandiose, 5. delimit, 6. monk, 7. typography

8. The _____ tower provided a clear view of the surrounding area.
- n.* a person or group of people who are responsible for watching for danger or other potential threats and warning others of their presence
9. The manager tried to hear customers' voices _____.
- adv.* from the source; directly; (adjective) received directly from a source
10. You can't _____ through solid metal.
- v.* to excavate a hole or make a tunnel in the ground by digging, typically for use as a dwelling of an animal
11. The walls were _____ to create a private outdoor space.
- v.* to surround, as with a fence, wall, or barrier; to put within boundaries; to include
12. On my way home from work, I picked up a _____ of bread from the bakery.
- n.* a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced for serving; (verb) to be lazy or idle
13. He _____ his life to helping others.
- v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
14. The positive attitude of the supervisor _____ the discussion.
- v.* to make something full of interest and energy
15. I need to _____ the dough before I can bake the bread.
- v.* to work or press into a flexible mixture, especially bread dough, with the hands, fingers, or a device

ANSWERS: 8. lookout, 9. firsthand, 10. burrow, 11. enclosed, 12. loaf, 13. dedicated, 14. animated, 15. knead

16. The sunset was so beautiful it looked like a _____ scene from a movie.

adj. of or relating to poetry (= a piece of writing that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas); using language in an imaginative and expressive way

17. The old building _____ in a fiery inferno.

v. to burst or break open violently and noisily; to cause something to burst or break open

18. Please type your password in _____ to log into your account.

n. the capital form of a letter in a written or printed text; text or writing that is predominantly or exclusively in capital letters

19. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

20. The sign warns visitors not to _____ on private property.

v. to enter someone's private property without permission or legal authority; to infringe upon or violate someone's rights, boundaries, or personal space

21. The _____ on the note was barely legible.

n. the particular way in which a person writes, as distinct from printing or typing

22. He worked at the _____ as a baker.

n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold

23. A gentle _____ concealed his powerfulness.

n. the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant

ANSWERS: 16. poetic, 17. exploded, 18. uppercase, 19. propel, 20. trespass, 21. handwriting, 22. bakery, 23. facade

24. He spoke in _____ and no one could understand what he was trying to say.
- n.* unintelligible or nonsensical language or speech; meaningless or difficult to comprehend talk or writing
25. The chef's specialty is a savory _____ with spinach and feta cheese.
- n.* a baked food made of flour, fat, water, and sometimes eggs, sugar, and other ingredients, used as a base or casing for sweet or savory dishes
26. The colorful garden was a _____ of various plants and flowers.
- n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
27. The archaeologist used a small _____ to excavate the ancient artifact.
- n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
28. The young doctor was _____ in handling such a complicated case.
- adj.* lacking experience or knowledge in a particular field or situation; not accustomed to a specific kind of work or activity
29. My sister got a new _____ for her job interview.
- n.* the way in which a person's hair is cut, styled, or arranged on their head
30. I can _____ for her honesty and integrity.
- v.* to assert or guarantee the truth or accuracy of something; to provide a personal recommendation or endorsement
31. I could only _____ through the keyhole to see what was happening in the room.
- v.* to take a quick and often furtive or cautious look at something; to emit a small sound or noise, typically a high-pitched chirp or squeak; (noun) a small, high-pitched sound

ANSWERS: 24. gibberish, 25. pastry, 26. wonderland, 27. chisel, 28. inexperienced, 29. hairstyle, 30. vouch, 31. peep

32. 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

33. She _____ the atmosphere of the pre-war age with her stage setting.

v. to make something that existed previously happen or appear to exist again

ANSWERS: 32. superhero, 33. recreated