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Giorgia Lupi: How we can find ourselves in data |
TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

obsessive

adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors

synonym: compulsive, fixated, besetting

(1) **obsessive-compulsive** disorder, (2) **obsessive** thoughts

Her **obsessive** behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym: imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

placeholder

n. a temporary or substitute element or object used to mark a position, space, or value, typically to be replaced or filled in with the correct or finalized content at a later time; a temporary member of a team or a temporary solution

synonym: temporary, substitute, fill-in

(1) data **placeholder**, (2) **placeholder** image

The **placeholders** in the presentation allowed for easy customization of the information.

distort

v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear

synonym: fudge, deform, contort

(1) **distort** the facts, (2) **distort** the economy

Economists contend that taxes **distort** consumer behavior in general.

skew

v. to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.

synonym: slant, tilt, distort

(1) **skew** the message, (2) **skew** social values

The results of the poll are **skewed** because it only surveyed a small group of people.

pundit

n. an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

synonym: expert, commentator, punditry

(1) conservative **pundit**, (2) sports **pundit**

The political **pundit** provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.

obsession

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

synonym: compulsion, fixation, enthusiasm

(1) **obsession** with character, (2) national **obsession**

Gambling became an **obsession** for him, and he eventually lost everything.

astronaut

n. a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere

synonym: spaceman, cosmonaut

(1) **astronaut** mission, (2) **astronaut** in training

The shuttle **astronaut** trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

teeny

adj. extremely small; tiny

synonym : tiny, mini, minuscule

(1) **teeny** bit, (2) so **teeny** tiny

The ring was so **teeny** that it almost looked like a toy.

uncountable

adj. describing nouns or concepts that cannot be counted or quantified as discrete units or objects, such as feelings, time, or information, often characterized by their abstract or intangible nature, and which are not used with "a" or "an" and cannot be made plural

synonym : infinite, innumerable, unquantifiable

(1) **uncountable** set, (2) **uncountable** words

Some abstract concepts, like love and beauty, are considered **uncountable** nouns.

reconnect

v. to connect again after a break or interruption

synonym : reopen, rejoin, link up

(1) **reconnect** a telephone, (2) **reconnect** with family

After a long period of estrangement, they **reconnected** with each other.

mundane

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

synonym : ordinary, everyday, prosaic

(1) **mundane** affairs, (2) **mundane** objects

After returning from the war, he had a pretty **mundane** life.

impersonal

adj. lacking personal warmth or feeling; not influenced by personal feelings or individual characteristics; relating to an object or concept rather than a specific person

synonym : detached, unemotional

(1) **impersonal** communication, (2) **impersonal** treatment

The high-rise office building had an **impersonal** atmosphere, making it feel corporate and uninviting.

anecdotal

adj. based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence

synonym : hearsay, informal, unreliable

(1) **anecdotal** evidence, (2) **anecdotal** example

My friend shared an **anecdotal** story about her experience in customer service.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

nuance

n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.

synonym : shading, refinement, subtlety

(1) rich in **nuance**, (2) subtle cultural **nuance**

The painter has tried to express every **nuance** of the woman's expression in his work.

compulsive

adj. relating to or involving an irresistible urge to do something repeatedly or excessively, often in a way that is harmful or detrimental to one's well-being or relationships

synonym : compelling, obsessive, uncontrollable

(1) **compulsive** gambling, (2) **compulsive** behavior

He had a **compulsive** need to check the stove was turned off every time he left the house.

waitress

n. a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe

synonym : server, attendant, waitperson

(1) **waitress** at a restaurant, (2) tip the **waitress**
The friendly **waitress** brought the food to the table and asked if they needed anything else.

nuanced

adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.

synonym: fine, subtle, slight

(1) **nuanced** view, (2) the common but **nuanced** opinion
The sommelier can distinguish **nuanced** variance in the flavor of the wine.

intricate

adj. having many different parts and small details that all work together

synonym: complicated, convoluted, complex

(1) **intricate** details, (2) **intricate** lacework
The politician managed to deal with that **intricate** issue.

obsess

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

synonym: torment, beset, engross

(1) **obsess** over her weight, (2) he is **obsessed** with the fear
He's utterly **obsessed** with his promotion.

pretension

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

synonym: presumption, pretense, affectation

(1) **pretension** to authority, (2) baseless **pretension**
His **pretensions** of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

Renaissance

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

synonym: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

infallible

adj. incapable of making mistakes or being wrong; never failing; always accurate

synonym: certain, flawless, faultless

(1) **infallible** leadership, (2) **infallible** plan

The CEO's business strategy was built on **infallible** market analysis and forecast.

mislead

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

synonym: misinform, delude, belie

(1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy

Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

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.

imperfectly

adv. in a faulty or incomplete way

synonym: amiss, insufficiently, clumsily

(1) **imperfectly** developed, (2) **imperfectly** known disease

He created an **imperfectly** shaped torso.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ob_____ve thoughts
adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
2. national ob_____on
n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
3. ob_____ve-compulsive disorder
adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
4. subtle cultural nu___e
n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.
5. human in_____ct
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
6. nu_____d view
adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
7. com_____ve behavior
adj. relating to or involving an irresistible urge to do something repeatedly or excessively, often in a way that is harmful or detrimental to one's well-being or relationships
8. rich in nu___e
n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.

ANSWERS: 1. obsessive, 2. obsession, 3. obsessive, 4. nuance, 5. intellect, 6. nuanced, 7. compulsive, 8. nuance

9. unc_____le words *adj.* describing nouns or concepts that cannot be counted or quantified as discrete units or objects, such as feelings, time, or information, often characterized by their abstract or intangible nature, and which are not used with "a" or "an" and cannot be made plural
10. s__w the message *v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
11. imp_____ly known disease *adv.* in a faulty or incomplete way
12. re_____ct a telephone *v.* to connect again after a break or interruption
13. inf_____le leadership *adj.* incapable of making mistakes or being wrong; never failing; always accurate
14. imp_____ly developed *adv.* in a faulty or incomplete way
15. s__w social values *v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
16. vi_____ze data *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
17. as_____ut mission *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
18. com_____ve gambling *adj.* relating to or involving an irresistible urge to do something repeatedly or excessively, often in a way that is harmful or detrimental to one's well-being or relationships

ANSWERS: 9. uncountable, 10. skew, 11. imperfectly, 12. reconnect, 13. infallible, 14. imperfectly, 15. skew, 16. visualize, 17. astronaut, 18. compulsive

19. unc_____le set *adj.* describing nouns or concepts that cannot be counted or quantified as discrete units or objects, such as feelings, time, or information, often characterized by their abstract or intangible nature, and which are not used with "a" or "an" and cannot be made plural
20. an_____al evidence *adj.* based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence
21. so te__y tiny *adj.* extremely small; tiny
22. the common but nu_____d opinion *adj.* characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
23. artistic ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
24. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
25. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
26. mi_____d the enemy *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true

ANSWERS: 19. uncountable, 20. anecdotal, 21. teeny, 22. nuanced, 23. Renaissance, 24. rev, 25. intellect, 26. mislead

27. mu_____e objects *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
28. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
29. di_____t the economy *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
30. imp_____al treatment *adj.* lacking personal warmth or feeling; not influenced by personal feelings or individual characteristics; relating to an object or concept rather than a specific person
31. pre_____on to authority *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
32. mi_____d him into trusting her *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
33. industrial ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
34. pla_____er image *n.* a temporary or substitute element or object used to mark a position, space, or value, typically to be replaced or filled in with the correct or finalized content at a later time; a temporary member of a team or a temporary solution
35. an_____al example *adj.* based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence

ANSWERS: 27. mundane, 28. empathy, 29. distort, 30. impersonal, 31. pretension, 32. mislead, 33. Renaissance, 34. placeholder, 35. anecdotal

36. ob___s over her weight *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
37. data pla_____er *n.* a temporary or substitute element or object used to mark a position, space, or value, typically to be replaced or filled in with the correct or finalized content at a later time; a temporary member of a team or a temporary solution
38. ob_____on with character *n.* the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person
39. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
40. di_____t the facts *v.* to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
41. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
42. in_____te details *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
43. as_____ut in training *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
44. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
45. te__y bit *adj.* extremely small; tiny

ANSWERS: 36. obsess, 37. placeholder, 38. obsession, 39. rev, 40. distort, 41. empathy, 42. intricate, 43. astronaut, 44. visualize, 45. teeny

46. conservative pu___t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue
47. re_____ct with family *v.* to connect again after a break or interruption
48. baseless pre_____on *n.* the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition
49. imp_____al communication *adj.* lacking personal warmth or feeling; not influenced by personal feelings or individual characteristics; relating to an object or concept rather than a specific person
50. mu_____e affairs *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
51. wa_____ss at a restaurant *n.* a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
52. he is ob___sed with the fear *v.* to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else
53. in_____te lacework *adj.* having many different parts and small details that all work together
54. tip the wa_____ss *n.* a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe
55. sports pu___t *n.* an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

ANSWERS: 46. pundit, 47. reconnect, 48. pretension, 49. impersonal, 50. mundane, 51. waitress, 52. obsess, 53. intricate, 54. waitress, 55. pundit

56. inf_____le plan

adj. incapable of making mistakes or being wrong; never failing; always accurate

ANSWERS: 56. infallible

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Her _____ behavior towards perfectionism often led to burnout.
adj. relating to or characterized by an obsession or excessive interest in a particular thing or activity; tending to dwell on or repeat certain thoughts or behaviors
2. The ring was so _____ that it almost looked like a toy.
adj. extremely small; tiny
3. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
4. The painter has tried to express every _____ of the woman's expression in his work.
n. a subtle or slight degree of difference in appearance, meaning, sound, someone's feeling, etc.
5. My friend shared an _____ story about her experience in customer service.
adj. based on personal accounts or stories that may not be verifiable or representative of a larger population; characterized by anecdotes or casual observations rather than scientific data or empirical evidence
6. The _____ in the presentation allowed for easy customization of the information.
n. a temporary or substitute element or object used to mark a position, space, or value, typically to be replaced or filled in with the correct or finalized content at a later time; a temporary member of a team or a temporary solution

ANSWERS: 1. obsessive, 2. teeny, 3. rev, 4. nuance, 5. anecdotal, 6. placeholders

7. The sommelier can distinguish _____ variance in the flavor of the wine.
adj. characterized by subtle differences in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.
8. Economists contend that taxes _____ consumer behavior in general.
v. to change something's shape, appearance, or sound so that it appears weird or unclear
9. He had a _____ need to check the stove was turned off every time he left the house.
adj. relating to or involving an irresistible urge to do something repeatedly or excessively, often in a way that is harmful or detrimental to one's well-being or relationships
10. The high-rise office building had an _____ atmosphere, making it feel corporate and uninviting.
adj. lacking personal warmth or feeling; not influenced by personal feelings or individual characteristics; relating to an object or concept rather than a specific person
11. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.
v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true
12. After a long period of estrangement, they _____ with each other.
v. to connect again after a break or interruption
13. The shuttle _____ trained for months before embarking on the space mission.
n. a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
14. Some abstract concepts, like love and beauty, are considered _____ nouns.
adj. describing nouns or concepts that cannot be counted or quantified as discrete units or objects, such as feelings, time, or information, often characterized by their abstract or intangible nature, and which are not used with "a" or "an" and cannot be made plural

ANSWERS: 7. nuanced, 8. distort, 9. compulsive, 10. impersonal, 11. mislead, 12. reconnected, 13. astronaut, 14. uncountable

15. The CEO's business strategy was built on _____ market analysis and forecast.

adj. incapable of making mistakes or being wrong; never failing; always accurate

16. The political _____ provided analysis and commentary on the latest election results.

n. an expert, authority, or knowledgeable commentator who frequently expresses opinions or gives analysis on a particular subject or issue

17. The results of the poll are _____ because it only surveyed a small group of people.

v. to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.

18. After returning from the war, he had a pretty _____ life.

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

19. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

20. The friendly _____ brought the food to the table and asked if they needed anything else.

n. a woman who serves food and drinks in a restaurant or cafe

21. Gambling became an _____ for him, and he eventually lost everything.

n. the state in which a person's mind is filled with thoughts of one single object or particular person

22. Folk music is now experiencing a _____.

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

ANSWERS: 15. infallible, 16. pundit, 17. skewed, 18. mundane, 19. visualize, 20. waitress, 21. obsession, 22. renaissance

23. His _____ of being a gourmet were quickly exposed when he could not identify basic herbs and spices.

n. the act of claiming or asserting something, especially without good reason or without evidence; an unfounded or excessive claim or ambition

24. He created an _____ shaped torso.

adv. in a faulty or incomplete way

25. He's utterly _____ with his promotion.

v. to fill the mind of someone continually so that one can't think of anything else

26. The politician managed to deal with that _____ issue.

adj. having many different parts and small details that all work together

27. _____ is also necessary to understand history.

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

28. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

ANSWERS: 23. pretensions, 24. imperfectly, 25. obsessed, 26. intricate, 27. Empathy, 28. intellect