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Cathy O'Neil: The era of blind faith in big data must end | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**
I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

curate

n. a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions;
(verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation
synonym: minister, caretaker, (verb) arrange
(1) perpetual **curate**, (2) **curate** an art website
The art museum has hired a **curate** to select and display pieces from its collection.

ram

v. to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
synonym: crash, collide, slam
(1) **ram** the door open, (2) **ram** into the ice
The car **rammed** into the wall, causing significant damage.

intimidate

v. to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do

synonym : frighten, threaten, terrify

(1) **intimidate** an opponent, (2) effectively **intimidate** a thief

The boss tried to **intimidate** his subordinate with threats.

wreak

v. to cause or bring about something, often as a result of harmful or destructive actions or events

synonym : cause, inflict, bring about

(1) **wreak** a lot of changes, (2) **wreak** further damage

The virus has **wreaked** havoc on the healthcare system, overwhelming hospitals and causing shortages of supplies.

havoc

n. widespread destruction or devastation, often caused by natural disasters, war, or other violent events

synonym : destruction, devastation, ruin

(1) cause **havoc**, (2) play **havoc** in the mind

The storm wreaked **havoc** on the town, causing widespread damage and power outages.

oust

v. to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition

synonym : expel, depose, drive out

(1) **oust** the chairman, (2) **oust** him from his post

Higher capacity storage media have **ousted** floppy disks.

machine-learning

n. the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data

(1) **machine-learning** method, (2) **machine-learning** processor

Many software engineers are developing applications to build **machine-learning** algorithms more quickly.

blithe

adj. lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry

synonym : carefree, lighthearted, joyous

(1) **blithe** manner, (2) **blithe** disregard

She had a **blithe** attitude toward her responsibilities, which caused her to miss important deadlines.

quo

n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

synonym: status, condition, state

(1) status **quo** politician, (2) **quo** warranto

The company has been successful in maintaining the status **quo**.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

bigotry

n. intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself

synonym: intolerance, prejudice, bias

(1) ethnic **bigotry**, (2) self-righteous **bigotry**

Bigotry and discrimination have no place in our society.

segregate

v. to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic

synonym: isolate, separate, divide

(1) **segregate** by race, (2) **segregate** boys and girls

The school board decided to **segregate** students by the ability to meet their needs better.

brag

v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

synonym: boast, swagger, vaunt

(1) **brag** to each other, (2) **brag** about my knowledge

Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from **bragging** about his success.

drastic

adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact

synonym : extreme, fierce, radical

(1) **drastic** measures, (2) make **drastic** revision

The global community is undergoing **drastic** changes at present.

segregation

n. the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation

synonym : isolation, separation, discrimination

(1) racial **segregation**, (2) **segregation** of power

Segregation based on race or ethnicity is illegal and unjust.

hotspot

n. a place or area, typically a location or region, that is known for having an unusually high number of a particular phenomenon, such as disease, activity, or popularity

synonym : epicenter, cluster, outbreak

(1) covid-19 **hotspot**, (2) geographic **hotspot**

The airport is a **hotspot** for tourists and travelers from around the world.

recidivism

n. the act of repeating or relapsing into criminal or unwanted behavior or patterns, often after a while away from such actions

synonym : relapse, reoffense

(1) **recidivism** rate, (2) juvenile **recidivism**

The government's efforts to reduce **recidivism** among former prisoners have been largely unsuccessful.

meritocratic

adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements

synonym : merit-based, fair, unbiased

(1) **meritocratic** society, (2) **meritocratic** evaluation

The company prides itself on being **meritocratic** in its hiring

and promotion practices.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

wield

v. to possess and exercise power, authority, etc

synonym: exert, manage, handle

(1) **wield** her authority, (2) **wield** a bad influence

They **wielded** enormous power and influence.

inscrutable

adj. difficult to understand or interpret; mysterious or enigmatic; not easily read or deciphered

synonym: mysterious, enigmatic, impenetrable

(1) **inscrutable** expression, (2) **inscrutable** smile

The mystery surrounding the lost city's **inscrutable** ruins has intrigued archaeologists for decades.

bigot

n. a person who is intolerant of others who hold different opinions, beliefs, or values, especially someone who displays stubborn and unreasonable prejudice against particular groups of people

synonym: sectarian, dogmatizer, intolerant

(1) **bigot** mentality, (2) religious **bigot**

His refusal to listen to other people's opinions made him a close-minded **bigot**.

sociologist

n. a person who studies the institutions and development of human society

(1) religious **sociologist**, (2) French **sociologist**

Sociologist studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.

disappoint

v. to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad

synonym: sadden, dismay, frustrate

(1) **disappoint** the audience, (2) don't **disappoint** me

She worked very hard not to **disappoint** her boss's expectations.

inject

v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)

synonym: shoot, infiltrate, insinuate

(1) **inject** under the skin, (2) **inject** a personal opinion into a debate

Let's try to **inject** a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.

unscathed

adj. not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation

synonym: unhurt, intact, unharmed

(1) **unscathed** survivor, (2) come away **unscathed**

Thankfully, the driver emerged from the accident **unscathed**.

interrogate

v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner

synonym: question, examine, probe

(1) **interrogate** an enemy soldier, (2) **interrogated** by police

The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately **interrogate** the witness.

audition

n. a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position

synonym: tryout, test

(1) music **audition**, (2) dance **audition**

I have an **audition** for a role in a play tomorrow.

distracted

adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried

synonym : preoccupied, inattentive, absent-minded

(1) get **distracted** by an urgent matter, (2) **distracted** by a conversation

I was so **distracted** by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.

engender

v. to make a feeling or situation exist; to cause or give rise to

synonym : beget, spawn, generate

(1) **engender** a crisis, (2) **engender** the trust

The discussion about war helps **engender** a sense of shared humanity.

arbiter

n. a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision

synonym : judge, referee, mediator

(1) professional **arbiter**, (2) cultural **arbiter**

The **arbiter** of the dispute will be an impartial judge.

overlord

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

synonym : master, tyrant, autocrat

(1) evil **overlord**, (2) colonial **overlord**

In the feudal system, the **overlord** owned most of the wealth.

Session 2: Spelling

1. cultural ar_____r
n. a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
2. se_____te by race
v. to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic
3. cu___e an art website
n. a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions; (verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation
4. mac_____ing method
n. the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data
5. come away un_____ed
adj. not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation
6. ins_____le expression
adj. difficult to understand or interpret; mysterious or enigmatic; not easily read or deciphered
7. bl___e disregard
adj. lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry

ANSWERS: 1. arbiter, 2. segregate, 3. curate, 4. machine-learning, 5. unscathed, 6. inscrutable, 7. blithe

8. make dr____c revision *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
9. dr____c measures *adj.* radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
10. get dis____ed by an urgent matter *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
11. effectively int____te a thief *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
12. play ha__c in the mind *n.* widespread destruction or devastation, often caused by natural disasters, war, or other violent events
13. in__t under the skin *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
14. wr__k a lot of changes *v.* to cause or bring about something, often as a result of harmful or destructive actions or events
15. in__t a personal opinion into a debate *v.* to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
16. o__t the chairman *v.* to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition
17. evil ov____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

ANSWERS: 8. drastic, 9. drastic, 10. distracted, 11. intimidate, 12. havoc, 13. inject, 14. wreak, 15. inject, 16. oust, 17. overlord

18. religious soc_____st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
19. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
20. se_____te boys and girls *v.* to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic
21. bi__t mentality *n.* a person who is intolerant of others who hold different opinions, beliefs, or values, especially someone who displays stubborn and unreasonable prejudice against particular groups of people
22. wr__k further damage *v.* to cause or bring about something, often as a result of harmful or destructive actions or events
23. dance au_____on *n.* a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position
24. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
25. r_m into the ice *v.* to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
26. wi__d a bad influence *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
27. bl___e manner *adj.* lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry

ANSWERS: 18. sociologist, 19. embarrass, 20. segregate, 21. bigot, 22. wreak, 23. audition, 24. institutionalize, 25. ram, 26. wield, 27. blithe

28. b__g about my knowledge *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
29. the cr____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
30. colonial ov____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
31. int____te an opponent *v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
32. juvenile rec____sm *n.* the act of repeating or relapsing into criminal or unwanted behavior or patterns, often after a while away from such actions
33. en____er a crisis *v.* to make a feeling or situation exist; to cause or give rise to
34. covid-19 ho____t *n.* a place or area, typically a location or region, that is known for having an unusually high number of a particular phenomenon, such as disease, activity, or popularity
35. em____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
36. don't dis____nt me *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
37. rec____sm rate *n.* the act of repeating or relapsing into criminal or unwanted behavior or patterns, often after a while away from such actions

ANSWERS: 28. brag, 29. creditor, 30. overlord, 31. intimidate, 32. recidivism, 33. engender, 34. hotspot, 35. embarrass, 36. disappoint, 37. recidivism

38. mer_____tic evaluation *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
39. ins_____le smile *adj.* difficult to understand or interpret; mysterious or enigmatic; not easily read or deciphered
40. dis_____nt the audience *v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
41. en_____er the trust *v.* to make a feeling or situation exist; to cause or give rise to
42. dis_____ed by a conversation *adj.* having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
43. mac_____ing processor *n.* the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data
44. o__t him from his post *v.* to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition
45. bankrupt cr_____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
46. professional ar_____r *n.* a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision

ANSWERS: 38. meritocratic, 39. inscrutable, 40. disappoint, 41. engender, 42. distracted, 43. machine-learning, 44. oust, 45. creditor, 46. arbiter

47. int_____te an enemy soldier *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
48. wi__d her authority *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
49. ethnic bi_____y *n.* intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself
50. mer_____tic society *adj.* based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
51. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
52. un_____ed survivor *adj.* not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation
53. geographic ho_____t *n.* a place or area, typically a location or region, that is known for having an unusually high number of a particular phenomenon, such as disease, activity, or popularity
54. r_m the door open *v.* to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
55. music au_____on *n.* a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position
56. religious bi__t *n.* a person who is intolerant of others who hold different opinions, beliefs, or values, especially someone who displays stubborn and unreasonable prejudice against particular groups of people

ANSWERS: 47. interrogate, 48. wield, 49. bigotry, 50. meritocratic, 51. institutionalize, 52. unscathed, 53. hotspot, 54. ram, 55. audition, 56. bigot

57. cause ha__c *n.* widespread destruction or devastation, often caused by natural disasters, war, or other violent events
58. status q_o politician *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
59. int_____ted by police *v.* to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
60. French soc_____st *n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
61. seg_____on of power *n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation
62. perpetual cu___e *n.* a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions; (verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation
63. b__g to each other *v.* to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior
64. q_o warranto *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

ANSWERS: 57. havoc, 58. quo, 59. interrogate, 60. sociologist, 61. segregation, 62. curate, 63. brag, 64. quo

65. racial seg_____on

n. the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation

66. self-righteous bi_____y

n. intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself

ANSWERS: 65. segregation, 66. bigotry

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The mystery surrounding the lost city's _____ ruins has intrigued archaeologists for decades.
adj. difficult to understand or interpret; mysterious or enigmatic; not easily read or deciphered
2. The government's efforts to reduce _____ among former prisoners have been largely unsuccessful.
n. the act of repeating or relapsing into criminal or unwanted behavior or patterns, often after a while away from such actions
3. In the feudal system, the _____ owned most of the wealth.
n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
4. Let's try to _____ a bit of enthusiasm into your performance.
v. to put a liquid such as a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a needle and syringe (= small tube)
5. The global community is undergoing _____ changes at present.
adj. radical and extreme; likely to have a significant or far-reaching impact
6. She had a _____ attitude toward her responsibilities, which caused her to miss important deadlines.
adj. lighthearted, carefree, and unconcerned; showing a casual or cheerful indifference to things that may cause concern or worry
7. They _____ enormous power and influence.
v. to possess and exercise power, authority, etc

ANSWERS: 1. inscrutable, 2. recidivism, 3. overlord, 4. inject, 5. drastic, 6. blithe, 7. wielded

8. I was so _____ by my phone that I nearly walked into a lamppost.
adj. having one's attention diverted or divided; being unable to concentrate because of being preoccupied or worried
9. The company prides itself on being _____ in its hiring and promotion practices.
adj. based on the principle that the talented should be chosen and moved ahead based on their achievements
10. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
11. _____ and discrimination have no place in our society.
n. intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself
12. The discussion about war helps _____ a sense of shared humanity.
v. to make a feeling or situation exist; to cause or give rise to
13. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
14. The company has been successful in maintaining the status _____.
n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
15. The airport is a _____ for tourists and travelers from around the world.
n. a place or area, typically a location or region, that is known for having an unusually high number of a particular phenomenon, such as disease, activity, or popularity

ANSWERS: 8. distracted, 9. meritocratic, 10. creditor, 11. Bigotry, 12. engender, 13. embarrass, 14. quo, 15. hotspot

16. The virus has _____ havoc on the healthcare system, overwhelming hospitals and causing shortages of supplies.
- v. to cause or bring about something, often as a result of harmful or destructive actions or events
17. The car _____ into the wall, causing significant damage.
- v. to strike or push forcefully, often to cause damage; to batter or break open a door or barrier using brute force
18. The school board decided to _____ students by the ability to meet their needs better.
- v. to separate or set apart from others, often based on race, gender, or some other characteristic
19. The lawyer spent considerable time to adequately _____ the witness.
- v. to examine someone with questions over a lengthy period, especially in an aggressive manner
20. I have an _____ for a role in a play tomorrow.
- n. a performance or test given by an actor, musician, or other performers to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for a particular role or position
21. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.
- v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
22. Despite his impressive achievements, he refrained from _____ about his success.
- v. to say something in a boastful manner, to impress others, or make oneself feel superior

ANSWERS: 16. wreaked, 17. rammed, 18. segregate, 19. interrogate, 20. audition, 21. institutionalize, 22. bragging

23. The _____ of the dispute will be an impartial judge.
- n.* a person with authority to settle or judge a dispute or disagreement; an impartial third party who makes a judgment or decision
24. His refusal to listen to other people's opinions made him a close-minded _____.
- n.* a person who is intolerant of others who hold different opinions, beliefs, or values, especially someone who displays stubborn and unreasonable prejudice against particular groups of people
25. _____ studies the changes in family structure due to modernization.
- n.* a person who studies the institutions and development of human society
26. _____ based on race or ethnicity is illegal and unjust.
- n.* the act or process of separating or isolating people, things, or groups based on race, gender, religion, social class, or other characteristics; a political or social system that enforces such separation or isolation
27. The boss tried to _____ his subordinate with threats.
- v.* to make someone fearful or uneasy so that they will do something that you want them to do
28. Thankfully, the driver emerged from the accident _____.
- adj.* not harmed or injured; untouched or unharmed by a negative or dangerous situation
29. She worked very hard not to _____ her boss's expectations.
- v.* to fail to meet someone or their hopes or expectations; to make someone feel sad
30. Many software engineers are developing applications to build _____ algorithms more quickly.
- n.* the process through which computers change the way they perform jobs without following explicit instructions by using algorithms and statistical models to analyze and draw inferences from patterns in data

ANSWERS: 23. arbiter, 24. bigot, 25. Sociologist, 26. Segregation, 27. intimidate, 28.

unscathed, 29. disappoint, 30. machine-learning

31. Higher capacity storage media have _____ floppy disks.
- v.* to force someone out of a position of power, job, place, or competition
32. The storm wreaked _____ on the town, causing widespread damage and power outages.
- n.* widespread destruction or devastation, often caused by natural disasters, war, or other violent events
33. The art museum has hired a _____ to select and display pieces from its collection.
- n.* a clergyman who is in charge of a parish; a person in charge of a museum, gallery, or church, responsible for the care and display of its collections and exhibitions; (verb) to carefully select, organize, and maintain items in a collection, exhibition, or presentation

ANSWERS: 31. ousted, 32. havoc, 33. curate