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Nick Bostrom: What happens when our computers get smarter than we are? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

anomaly

n. something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand

synonym: abnormality, irregularity, deviation

(1) **anomaly** detection, (2) global temperature **anomaly**

The sudden drop in the stock market was an **anomaly** that puzzled many investors.

proximate

adj. very near or close, either in space or time; immediately preceding or following something

synonym: immediate, closest, nearest

(1) **proximate** region, (2) **proximate** location

The **proximate** cause of the accident was the driver texting on their phone.

lexicon

n. all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical

synonym: glossary, dictionary, vocabulary

(1) Greek-English **lexicon**, (2) **lexicon** of business phrases

This bilingual **lexicon** was essential for his language improvement.

unleash

v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled

synonym: discharge, free, release

(1) **unleash** a hound, (2) **unleash** her anger

The general was still reluctant to **unleash** his troops in pursuit of an enemy.

superstring

n. a hypothetical one-dimensional string-like fundamental particle or entity posited by certain theoretical models in physics, such as string theory, theorized to be the building blocks of the universe at the smallest scales

(1) **superstring** cosmology, (2) quantum **superstring**

Scientists are studying the intricate properties of **superstring** theory in theoretical physics.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

intercontinental

adj. relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport

synonym: transoceanic, transcontinental, global

(1) **intercontinental** phone call, (2) **intercontinental** ballistic missile

The airline offers **intercontinental** flights to destinations around the world.

ballistic

adj. relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control

synonym: furious, explosive, enraged

(1) **ballistic** missile, (2) **ballistic** vest

The boss went **ballistic** when he found out we missed the deadline.

corollary

n. (in mathematics) a theorem of less importance which can be readily deduced from the proof of another notable proposition; a practical consequence that follows naturally

synonym: conclusion, deduction, analogy

(1) a **corollary** from the first theory, (2) **corollary** relief
Newton derived the momentum conservation law as a **corollary** of his second and third laws.

verge

n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

synonym: brink, edge, margin

(1) **verge** of bankruptcy, (2) on the **verge** of tears
He stood on the **verge** of a major discovery.

superintelligence

n. a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind

(1) digital **superintelligence**, (2) artificial **superintelligence**
He is looking for evidence of the existence of **superintelligence** from cosmic signals.

painstaking

adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

synonym: detailed, meticulous, conscientious

(1) **painstaking** research, (2) a **painstaking** student
The training of a hawk was a **painstaking** process.

handicraft

n. a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving

synonym: craft, handmade, artisanry

(1) **handicraft** workshop, (2) traditional **handicrafts**
She spent her free time making **handicrafts** like pottery and crocheting to sell at the local market.

brittle

adj. easily broken, cracked, or shattered when subjected to pressure or stress; lacking flexibility or resilience; fragile

synonym : fragile, breakable, delicate

(1) **brittle** bones, (2) **brittle** material

The old books in the library were so **brittle** that they crumbled upon touch.

probabilistic

adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

synonym : probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

hertz

n. the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals

synonym : frequency, cycles per second

(1) audio **hertz**, (2) tera- **hertz** radiation

The human ear can detect sounds with frequencies ranging from 20 to 20,000 **hertz**.

transistor

n. a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics

synonym : semiconductor, microchip, circuit

(1) **transistor** radio, (2) **transistor** circuit

The invention of the **transistor** revolutionized the field of electronics.

propagate

v. to spread or promote something widely, particularly beliefs, ideas, or plants and animals through reproduction

synonym : propagate, multiply, reproduce

(1) **propagate** a rumor, (2) **propagate** plants

The company is working hard to **propagate** their brand message to as many people as possible

axon

n. a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell

(1) an **axon** of a nerve cell, (2) the **axon** terminals

We are developing a technology to promote the elongation and regeneration of sensory nerve **axons**.

dormant

adj. in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

synonym : inactive, sleeping, quiescent

(1) **dormant** volcano, (2) **dormant** account

The disease can remain **dormant** for years before it presents any symptoms.

awaken

v. to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping

synonym : rouse, arouse, revive

(1) **awaken** at daybreak, (2) **awaken** a child

The friend's death **awakens** them.

chimpanzee

n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

synonym : ape, chimp, pan troglodytes

(1) **chimpanzee** behavior, (2) **chimpanzee** society

Many zoos have **chimpanzee** exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

swoosh

v. to move through the air with a rushing or hissing sound; to make such a sound; (noun) a sound that something makes when it moves quickly through the air

synonym : whoosh, swish, sweep

(1) **swoosh** sound, (2) **swoosh** through the tall trees

The basketball **swooshed** into the net, signaling the end of the game.

timescale

n. a period or interval of time, particularly one used as a standard for measuring or comparing other periods of time; a reference point or benchmark for the duration or length of a particular event or process

synonym : time frame, schedule, duration

(1) long- **timescale**, (2) realistic **timescale**

The **timescale** for completing the construction project is three years.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym : settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

replicate

v. to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

synonym : duplicate, imitate, reproduce

(1) **replicate** the cell, (2) **replicate** data

The experiment was **replicated** several times to ensure accuracy.

headway

n. forward movement or progress made despite obstacles or resistance; clearance or space in which to move forward

synonym : progress, advancement, improvement

(1) lack of **headway**, (2) gain **headway**

We are making **headway** in our research and hope to have some significant findings soon.

anthropomorphize

v. to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities

synonym : personify, humanize

(1) **anthropomorphize** animals, (2) **anthropomorphize** God

The children **anthropomorphized** their stuffed animals and gave them personalities.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym : sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

conceive

v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

synonym : imagine, envision, concoct

(1) **conceive** of an idea, (2) **conceive** a child

I can't **conceive** he'd want to harm us.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

synonym : guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

amuse

v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

synonym : entertain, delight, divert

(1) **amuse** a baby with a rattle, (2) **amuse** guests

He **amused** himself by playing video games during his free time.

greedy

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

synonym : avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

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.

flick

v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement

synonym: snap, tap, flip

(1) **flicker** candle, (2) **flick** through pages

He **flicked** the light switch, and the room was illuminated.

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.

adversary

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

synonym: opponent, enemy, foe

(1) **adversary** team, (2) political **adversary**

The boxer's toughest **adversary** was his fear of losing.

transgress

v. to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something

synonym: trespass, violate, infringe

(1) **transgress** boundaries, (2) **transgress** against the rules

The company was fined for **transgressing** environmental regulations.

wiggle

v. to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements

synonym : wiggle, jiggle, squirm

(1) **wiggle** her lips, (2) **wiggle** with excitement

Her hips **wiggle** as she walks.

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.

malfunction

v. to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate

synonym : malfunction, break down, fail

(1) **malfunction** alarm, (2) **malfunction** and start moving unpredictably

The car's engine **malfunctioned** on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.

blueprint

n. a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine

synonym : draft, prototype, sketch

(1) **blueprint** for economic reform, (2) architect's **blueprint**

A business plan is a **blueprint** for your success.

nifty

adj. attractive and stylish; clever and ingenious; neat and handy

synonym : cool, clever, ingenious

(1) **nifty** gadget, (2) **nifty** idea

The car has a **nifty** feature that alerts you when you're about to veer off the road.

surreptitious

adj. kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate

synonym: clandestine, covert, sneaky

(1) **surreptitious** glance, (2) **surreptitious** meeting

The thief made a **surreptitious** escape from the scene of the crime.

genie

n. in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires

synonym: djinn, spirit, demon

(1) **genie** bottle, (2) **genie** lamp

No one believed in the **genie's** existence until he appeared in front of them.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym: despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

detonation

n. a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode

synonym: explosion, blast, burst

(1) accidental **detonation**, (2) **detonation** velocity

The **detonation** of the explosive was heard throughout the entire city.

indefinite

adj. without any fixed or defined limit; vague or unclear; lasting for an unknown or unspecified period of time

synonym: unclear, uncertain, ambiguous

(1) **indefinite** period, (2) **indefinite** number

The company's financial troubles have resulted in an **indefinite** hiring freeze.

esoteric

adj. intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest

synonym: abstruse, recondite, arcane

(1) an **esoteric** religion, (2) **esoteric** tome

The book's content was so **esoteric** only a select few scholars could fully understand it.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. do_____t account | <i>adj.</i> in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances |
| 2. earliest human an_____or | <i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |
| 3. pr_____te a rumor | <i>v.</i> to spread or promote something widely, particularly beliefs, ideas, or plants and animals through reproduction |
| 4. an_____y detection | <i>n.</i> something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand |
| 5. co_____ve of an idea | <i>v.</i> to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant |
| 6. fl__ker candle | <i>v.</i> to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement |
| 7. co_____ry relief | <i>n.</i> (in mathematics) a theorem of less importance which can be readily deduced from the proof of another notable proposition; a practical consequence that follows naturally |
| 8. un_____h her anger | <i>v.</i> to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled |
| 9. tera-he__z radiation | <i>n.</i> the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals |

ANSWERS: 1. dormant, 2. ancestor, 3. propagate, 4. anomaly, 5. conceive, 6. flick, 7. corollary, 8. unleash, 9. hertz

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 10. a pai_____ng student | <i>adj.</i> cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort |
| 11. wi___e her lips | <i>v.</i> to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements |
| 12. mal_____on alarm | <i>v.</i> to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate |
| 13. un_____h a hound | <i>v.</i> to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled |
| 14. chi_____ee society | <i>n.</i> a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur |
| 15. aw___n at daybreak | <i>v.</i> to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping |
| 16. chi_____ee behavior | <i>n.</i> a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur |
| 17. an_____or language | <i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |
| 18. ch__e with anger | <i>v.</i> to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something |
| 19. det_____on velocity | <i>n.</i> a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode |

ANSWERS: 10. painstaking, 11. wiggle, 12. malfunction, 13. unleash, 14. chimpanzee, 15. awaken, 16. chimpanzee, 17. ancestor, 18. choke, 19. detonation

20. dispel the mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
21. am__e a baby with a rattle *v.* to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
22. fl__k through pages *v.* to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement
23. ni__y idea *adj.* attractive and stylish; clever and ingenious; neat and handy
24. sup_____ng cosmology *n.* a hypothetical one-dimensional string-like fundamental particle or entity posited by certain theoretical models in physics, such as string theory, theorized to be the building blocks of the universe at the smallest scales
25. the a__n terminals *n.* a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell
26. long-ti_____le *n.* a period or interval of time, particularly one used as a standard for measuring or comparing other periods of time; a reference point or benchmark for the duration or length of a particular event or process
27. gr___y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
28. Greek-English le_____n *n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical

ANSWERS: 20. misconception, 21. amuse, 22. flick, 23. nifty, 24. superstring, 25. axon, 26. timescale, 27. greedy, 28. lexicon

29. ind_____te period *adj.* without any fixed or defined limit; vague or unclear; lasting for an unknown or unspecified period of time
30. le_____n of business phrases *n.* all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical
31. re_____te data *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
32. tra_____ss against the rules *v.* to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something
33. ant_____ize animals *v.* to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities
34. a co_____ry from the first theory *n.* (in mathematics) a theorem of less importance which can be readily deduced from the proof of another notable proposition; a practical consequence that follows naturally
35. 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
36. political ad_____ry *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
37. ge__e bottle *n.* in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires

ANSWERS: 29. indefinite, 30. lexicon, 31. replicate, 32. transgress, 33. anthropomorphize, 34. corollary, 35. pretension, 36. adversary, 37. genie

38. tra_____or radio *n.* a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics
39. gr___y person *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
40. on the ve__e of tears *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
41. audio he__z *n.* the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals
42. sur_____ous glance *adj.* kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate
43. pro_____tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
44. br_____e material *adj.* easily broken, cracked, or shattered when subjected to pressure or stress; lacking flexibility or resilience; fragile
45. pr_____te plants *v.* to spread or promote something widely, particularly beliefs, ideas, or plants and animals through reproduction
46. do_____t volcano *adj.* in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

ANSWERS: 38. transistor, 39. greedy, 40. verge, 41. hertz, 42. surreptitious, 43. probabilistic, 44. brittle, 45. propagate, 46. dormant

47. architect's bl_____nt *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
48. mal_____on and start moving unpredictably *v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
49. es_____ic tome *adj.* intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest
50. tra_____or circuit *n.* a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics
51. co_____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
52. bl_____nt for economic reform *n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
53. lack of he_____y *n.* forward movement or progress made despite obstacles or resistance; clearance or space in which to move forward
54. ne____n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
55. ve__e of bankruptcy *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

ANSWERS: 47. blueprint, 48. malfunction, 49. esoteric, 50. transistor, 51. colonize, 52. blueprint, 53. headway, 54. neuron, 55. verge

56. an a__n of a nerve cell *n.* a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell
57. ch__e off the blood supply *v.* to prevent or obstruct the normal breathing or swallowing of someone or something
58. sw___h through the tall trees *v.* to move through the air with a rushing or hissing sound; to make such a sound; (noun) a sound that something makes when it moves quickly through the air
59. han_____ft workshop *n.* a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving
60. gain he____y *n.* forward movement or progress made despite obstacles or resistance; clearance or space in which to move forward
61. sur_____ous meeting *adj.* kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate
62. realistic ti_____le *n.* a period or interval of time, particularly one used as a standard for measuring or comparing other periods of time; a reference point or benchmark for the duration or length of a particular event or process
63. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

ANSWERS: 56. axon, 57. choke, 58. swoosh, 59. handicraft, 60. headway, 61. surreptitious, 62. timescale, 63. hopeless

64. pro_____tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
65. co_____ve a child *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
66. ba_____ic vest *adj.* relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
67. wi_____e with excitement *v.* to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements
68. ad_____ry team *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
69. an ir_____c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
70. aw_____n a child *v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping
71. int_____tal phone call *adj.* relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport
72. digital sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
73. sw_____h sound *v.* to move through the air with a rushing or hissing sound; to make such a sound; (noun) a sound that something makes when it moves quickly through the air

ANSWERS: 64. probabilistic, 65. conceive, 66. ballistic, 67. wiggle, 68. adversary, 69. ironic, 70. awaken, 71. intercontinental, 72. superintelligence, 73. swoosh

74. quantum sup_____ng *n.* a hypothetical one-dimensional string-like fundamental particle or entity posited by certain theoretical models in physics, such as string theory, theorized to be the building blocks of the universe at the smallest scales
75. ba_____ic missile *adj.* relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control
76. pr_____te location *adj.* very near or close, either in space or time; immediately preceding or following something
77. int_____tal ballistic missile *adj.* relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport
78. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
79. 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
80. an es_____ic religion *adj.* intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest
81. ni__y gadget *adj.* attractive and stylish; clever and ingenious; neat and handy
82. ge__e lamp *n.* in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires

ANSWERS: 74. superstring, 75. ballistic, 76. proximate, 77. intercontinental, 78. motto, 79. pretension, 80. esoteric, 81. nifty, 82. genie

83. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
84. st__r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
85. re_____te the cell *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
86. commonly held mis_____ion *n.* a belief or an idea that is wrong because it has been based on faulty thinking, understanding, or hypothesis
87. ant_____ize God *v.* to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities
88. co_____ze planets *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
89. accidental det_____on *n.* a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode
90. ind_____te number *adj.* without any fixed or defined limit; vague or unclear; lasting for an unknown or unspecified period of time
91. tra_____ss boundaries *v.* to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something
92. ho_____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

ANSWERS: 83. motto, 84. steer, 85. replicate, 86. misconception, 87. anthropomorphize, 88. colonize, 89. detonation, 90. indefinite, 91. transgress, 92. hopeless

93. pr_____te region *adj.* very near or close, either in space or time; immediately preceding or following something
94. am__e guests *v.* to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh
95. st__r a conversation *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
96. traditional han_____fts *n.* a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving
97. excite the ne___ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
98. global temperature an____y *n.* something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand
99. artificial sup_____nce *n.* a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind
100. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
101. pai_____ng research *adj.* cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

ANSWERS: 93. proximate, 94. amuse, 95. steer, 96. handicraft, 97. neuron, 98. anomaly, 99. superintelligence, 100. ironic, 101. painstaking

102. br____e bones

adj. easily broken, cracked, or shattered
when subjected to pressure or stress;
lacking flexibility or resilience; fragile

ANSWERS: 102. brittle

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. This bilingual _____ was essential for his language improvement.
n. all the words and phrases of a particular language or branch of knowledge, such as nautical or medical

2. He _____ himself by playing video games during his free time.
v. to entertain or divert the mind; to make someone laugh

3. He is looking for evidence of the existence of _____ from cosmic signals.
n. a hypothetical agent, for example, a computer or space alien, that possesses intelligence far surpassing that of humankind

4. The company's financial troubles have resulted in an _____ hiring freeze.
adj. without any fixed or defined limit; vague or unclear; lasting for an unknown or unspecified period of time

5. 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

6. The company is working hard to _____ their brand message to as many people as possible
v. to spread or promote something widely, particularly beliefs, ideas, or plants and animals through reproduction

7. The experiment was _____ several times to ensure accuracy.
v. to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

ANSWERS: 1. lexicon, 2. amused, 3. superintelligence, 4. indefinite, 5. pretensions, 6. propagate, 7. replicated

8. The sudden drop in the stock market was an _____ that puzzled many investors.
- n.* something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand
9. The invention of the _____ revolutionized the field of electronics.
- n.* a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics
10. No one believed in the _____ existence until he appeared in front of them.
- n.* in Islamic mythology, a supernatural spirit that is usually depicted as being bound to serve a human master and possessing magical powers; a creature or a force that can grant wishes or fulfill desires
11. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.
- n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
12. The boxer's toughest _____ was his fear of losing.
- n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
13. The basketball _____ into the net, signaling the end of the game.
- v.* to move through the air with a rushing or hissing sound; to make such a sound; (noun) a sound that something makes when it moves quickly through the air
14. I can't _____ he'd want to harm us.
- v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
15. The old books in the library were so _____ that they crumbled upon touch.
- adj.* easily broken, cracked, or shattered when subjected to pressure or stress; lacking flexibility or resilience; fragile

ANSWERS: 8. anomaly, 9. transistor, 10. genie's, 11. neuron, 12. adversary, 13. swooshed, 14. conceive, 15. brittle

16. Scientists are studying the intricate properties of _____ theory in theoretical physics.

n. a hypothetical one-dimensional string-like fundamental particle or entity posited by certain theoretical models in physics, such as string theory, theorized to be the building blocks of the universe at the smallest scales

17. The car has a _____ feature that alerts you when you're about to veer off the road.

adj. attractive and stylish; clever and ingenious; neat and handy

18. The airline offers _____ flights to destinations around the world.

adj. relating to or occurring between continents, usually referring to travel, communication, or transport

19. The boss went _____ when he found out we missed the deadline.

adj. relating to or resembling the motion or behavior of a projectile in flight; intensely angry or out of control

20. The disease can remain _____ for years before it presents any symptoms.

adj. in a state of temporary inactivity, rest, or sleep; not growing or progressing but capable of doing so under the right circumstances

21. 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

22. The training of a hawk was a _____ process.

adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

23. Many zoos have _____ exhibits, allowing visitors to observe these intelligent primates up close.

n. a small, very intelligent ape found in west and central Africa with black or brown fur

ANSWERS: 16. superstring, 17. nifty, 18. intercontinental, 19. ballistic, 20. dormant, 21. misconceptions, 22. painstaking, 23. chimpanzee

24. The car's engine _____ on the highway, so we had to call for a tow truck.
- v.* to fail to operate or work properly; to break down or stop functioning as expected or intended; (noun) a failure or defect in the way a machine, system, or device is supposed to operate
25. His _____ behavior led him to steal from the company.
- adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
26. The _____ cause of the accident was the driver texting on their phone.
- adj.* very near or close, either in space or time; immediately preceding or following something
27. The human ear can detect sounds with frequencies ranging from 20 to 20,000 _____.
- n.* the unit of frequency, equal to one cycle per second, often used to describe the frequency of electromagnetic waves or electronic signals
28. We are developing a technology to promote the elongation and regeneration of sensory nerve _____.
- n.* a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell
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. The friend's death _____ them.
- v.* to stop sleeping or to cause someone to stop sleeping

ANSWERS: 24. malfunctioned, 25. greedy, 26. proximate, 27. hertz, 28. axons, 29. choke, 30. awakens

31. The _____ for completing the construction project is three years.
- n.* a period or interval of time, particularly one used as a standard for measuring or comparing other periods of time; a reference point or benchmark for the duration or length of a particular event or process
32. He stood on the _____ of a major discovery.
- n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
33. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
- n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
34. In a _____ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.
- adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
35. A business plan is a _____ for your success.
- n.* a photographic print of an early plan for a building or machine
36. The thief made a _____ escape from the scene of the crime.
- adj.* kept secret or done in a way that avoids attention, often because it is seen as dishonest or inappropriate
37. The _____ of the explosive was heard throughout the entire city.
- n.* a sudden and violent explosion, often caused by the ignition of an explosive substance; the act of causing something to explode
38. Her hips _____ as she walks.
- v.* to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements

ANSWERS: 31. timescale, 32. verge, 33. ancestor, 34. probabilistic, 35. blueprint, 36. surreptitious, 37. detonation, 38. wiggle

39. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

40. The company was fined for _____ environmental regulations.

v. to break the law or moral code; to go beyond or exceed the limits or boundaries of something

41. Newton derived the momentum conservation law as a _____ of his second and third laws.

n. (in mathematics) a theorem of less importance which can be readily deduced from the proof of another notable proposition; a practical consequence that follows naturally

42. She spent her free time making _____ like pottery and crocheting to sell at the local market.

n. a skill or trade that involves making things by hand, often using traditional methods and materials, which include activities such as woodworking, sewing, pottery, and weaving

43. The children _____ their stuffed animals and gave them personalities.

v. to attribute human characteristics, emotions, and abilities to non-human entities

44. He _____ the light switch, and the room was illuminated.

v. to make a sudden sharp movement or hit something quickly with a sharp movement

45. The book's content was so _____ only a select few scholars could fully understand it.

adj. intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest

ANSWERS: 39. ironic, 40. transgressing, 41. corollary, 42. handicrafts, 43. anthropomorphized, 44. flicked, 45. esoteric

46. The general was still reluctant to _____ his troops in pursuit of an enemy.
v. to suddenly release a strong force, emotion, etc. that cannot be controlled
47. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
48. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
49. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.
v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
50. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
51. We are making _____ in our research and hope to have some significant findings soon.
n. forward movement or progress made despite obstacles or resistance; clearance or space in which to move forward

ANSWERS: 46. unleash, 47. hopeless, 48. motto, 49. steer, 50. colonized, 51. headway