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Navi Radjou: Creative problem-solving in the face of extreme limits | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

resourceful

adj. showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems

synonym: inventive, imaginative, clever

(1) **resourceful** thinker, (2) **resourceful** cook in town

She was **resourceful** and found a solution to the problem on her own.

recharge

v. to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep

synonym: renew, refresh, replenish

(1) **recharge** brain and body, (2) **recharge** energy

He needed to **recharge** his phone before the meeting.

billboard

n. a large outdoor sign or display that is used for advertising, marketing, or public information, typically located along highways or main roads

synonym : hoarding, signboard, advertisement

(1) **billboard** advertising, (2) digital **billboard**

The new **billboard** on the highway promotes a popular vacation destination.

purify

v. to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

synonym : refine, filter, clarify

(1) **purify** hydrogen gas, (2) **purify** the blood

The equipment is frequently used to **purify** and distribute drinking water.

ingenuity

n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways

synonym : creativity, invention, originality

(1) the infinite **ingenuity** of man, (2) abound in **ingenuity**

Creativity and **ingenuity** are often brought about by extreme concentration.

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

adversity

n. difficulties or hardships that someone faces

synonym : hardship, difficulty, trial

(1) environmental **adversity**, (2) struggling with **adversity**

The team demonstrated great resilience in the face of **adversity** and won the game.

alchemy

n. a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce

a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

synonym : sorcery, magic, transmutation

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

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

opportune

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

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

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

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

frugal

adj. characterized by being sparing or economical about money or resources; avoiding waste or luxury

synonym : economical, thrifty, sparing

(1) live a **frugal** lifestyle, (2) a **frugal** meal

My grandparents were always **frugal** with their money, even when they had plenty of it.

aspiration

n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

synonym : ambition, inhalation, intake

(1) no **aspiration** for fame, (2) **aspiration** into the lungs

He has an **aspiration** to become a doctor.

telemedicine

n. the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients using telecommunications technology, such as video conferencing, phone calls, or messaging services

synonym : remote healthcare, online medicine, virtual care

(1) **telemedicine** consultation, (2) **telemedicine** technology

Due to the pandemic, many doctors have started offering **telemedicine** appointments.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by

causing a problem or disturbance

synonym : interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep
I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

rooftop

n. the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes

synonym : roof, terrace, deck

(1) **rooftop** live, (2) **rooftop** deck

They held the dinner party on the **rooftop** terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.

innovate

v. to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

synonym : bring in, introduce, found

(1) **innovate** a new method, (2) **innovate** the quality of his life

Companies developing self-driving cars consistently **innovate** the emerging technologies.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict
Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

diminish

v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

synonym : decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling

As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

scarcity

n. the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount

synonym : lack, absence, dearth

(1) fuel **scarcity**, (2) **scarcity** of capital

Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries

is causing labor **scarcity**.

disparity

n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things

synonym: difference, inequality, gap

(1) the **disparity** between theory and reality, (2) income **disparity**

There is a significant **disparity** in pay between men and women in the company.

underbanked

adj. not having enough access or connection to mainstream banking services or financial institutions

synonym: underfunded, financially excluded, marginalized

(1) **underbanked** community, (2) **underbanked** customers

The **underbanked** population is often forced to rely on alternative financial services such as payday loans and check cashing.

prolong

v. to extend the duration or length of something, particularly a period of time or an event

synonym: extend, lengthen, stretch

(1) **prolong** the agony, (2) measures to **prolong** the lifespan

We need to **prolong** the meeting for another hour to discuss all the issues.

deprivation

n. a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life

synonym: poverty, destitution, forfeiture

(1) chronic sleep **deprivation**, (2) **deprivation** of liberty

Losing him is great **deprivation** to our team.

postmodern

adj. relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation

synonym: contemporary, poststructural, relativistic

(1) **postmodern** art, (2) **postmodern** anthropology

The **postmodern** architecture of the building was a contrast to the traditional designs in the neighborhood.

horrendous

adj. causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying

synonym: dreadful, terrible, horrifying

(1) **horrendous** traffic, (2) a **horrendous** crime

The **horrendous** storm caused massive flooding in the town and destroyed many houses.

congest

v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid

synonym: clog, choke, crowd

(1) **congest** in a vein, (2) **congest** a highway

The roads to the airport were heavily **congested**.

glean

v. to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products

synonym: cull, collect, extract

(1) **glean** important information, (2) **glean** the fields

He carefully interviewed the victims and tried to **glean** the details of the culprit.

reinvent

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

synonym: recreate, remake, revive

(1) **reinvent** local dishes, (2) **reinvent** our life

They have tried to **reinvent** their grocery stores.

agile

adj. able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled

synonym: nimble, quick, flexible

(1) an **agile** mind, (2) **agile** in his movements

The **agile** development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.

transcend

v. to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
synonym: surpass, exceed, overcome

(1) **transcend** boundaries, (2) **transcend** limits

The music **transcended** cultural barriers and reached audiences globally.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. the di_____ty between theory and reality | <i>n.</i> a significant difference or inequality between two or more things |
| 2. environmental ad_____ty | <i>n.</i> difficulties or hardships that someone faces |
| 3. imp_____ion on stage | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation |
| 4. an ag__e mind | <i>adj.</i> able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled |
| 5. sc_____ty of capital | <i>n.</i> the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount |
| 6. und_____ed customers | <i>adj.</i> not having enough access or connection to mainstream banking services or financial institutions |
| 7. re_____ge brain and body | <i>v.</i> to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep |
| 8. di_____t sleep | <i>v.</i> to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance |
| 9. re_____ge energy | <i>v.</i> to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep |

ANSWERS: 1. disparity, 2. adversity, 3. improvisation, 4. agile, 5. scarcity, 6. underbanked, 7. recharge, 8. disrupt, 9. recharge

10. co_____t in a vein *v.* to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
11. ag__e in his movements *adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled
12. a hor_____us crime *adj.* causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying
13. chronic sleep dep_____on *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
14. no asp_____on for fame *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
15. gl__n the fields *v.* to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products
16. pu___y hydrogen gas *v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it
17. fuel sc_____ty *n.* the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
18. al_____y experiment *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious
19. al_____y of emotions *n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

ANSWERS: 10. congest, 11. agile, 12. horrendous, 13. deprivation, 14. aspiration, 15. glean, 16. purify, 17. scarcity, 18. alchemy, 19. alchemy

20. re_____nt our life *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
21. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
22. re_____nt local dishes *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
23. res_____ul thinker *adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems
24. hor_____us traffic *adj.* causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying
25. ro_____p deck *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
26. asp_____on into the lungs *n.* a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath
27. tel_____ine consultation *n.* the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients using telecommunications technology, such as video conferencing, phone calls, or messaging services
28. pos_____rn anthropology *adj.* relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation
29. pu___y the blood *v.* to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

ANSWERS: 20. reinvent, 21. electrify, 22. reinvent, 23. resourceful, 24. horrendous, 25. rooftop, 26. aspiration, 27. telemedicine, 28. postmodern, 29. purify

30. di_____sh a reputation *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
31. live a fr____l lifestyle *adj.* characterized by being sparing or economical about money or resources; avoiding waste or luxury
32. pr_____g the agony *v.* to extend the duration or length of something, particularly a period of time or an event
33. in_____te the quality of his life *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
34. res_____ul cook in town *adj.* showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems
35. bi_____rd advertising *n.* a large outdoor sign or display that is used for advertising, marketing, or public information, typically located along highways or main roads
36. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
37. the infinite in_____ty of man *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
38. tr_____nd limits *v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
39. measures to pr_____g the lifespan *v.* to extend the duration or length of something, particularly a period of time or an event
40. und_____ed community *adj.* not having enough access or connection to mainstream banking services or financial institutions

ANSWERS: 30. diminish, 31. frugal, 32. prolong, 33. innovate, 34. resourceful, 35. billboard, 36. smartpone, 37. ingenuity, 38. transcend, 39. prolong, 40. underbanked

41. tr_____nd boundaries *v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
42. gl__n important information *v.* to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products
43. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
44. ro_____p live *n.* the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
45. pos_____rn art *adj.* relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation
46. income di_____ty *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
47. a fr___l meal *adj.* characterized by being sparing or economical about money or resources; avoiding waste or luxury
48. abound in in_____ty *n.* the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
49. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
50. digital bi_____rd *n.* a large outdoor sign or display that is used for advertising, marketing, or public information, typically located along highways or main roads

ANSWERS: 41. transcend, 42. glean, 43. disrupt, 44. rooftop, 45. postmodern, 46. disparity, 47. frugal, 48. ingenuity, 49. smartphone, 50. billboard

51. tel_____ine technology *n.* the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients using telecommunications technology, such as video conferencing, phone calls, or messaging services
52. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
53. dep_____on of liberty *n.* a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life
54. in_____te a new method *v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products
55. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
56. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
57. struggling with ad_____ty *n.* difficulties or hardships that someone faces
58. co_____t a highway *v.* to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
59. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
60. di_____sh swelling *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

ANSWERS: 51. telemedicine, 52. opportune, 53. deprivation, 54. innovate, 55. improvisation, 56. opportune, 57. adversity, 58. congest, 59. electrify, 60. diminish

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Today, the study of _____ remains an important part of the history of science and philosophy
 - n.* a medieval chemical philosophy and speculative theory that aimed to transform base metals into gold or produce a universal elixir that could cure all diseases and grant immortality; a process of transformation or creation that appears magical or mysterious

2. The _____ development process allowed the team to make changes quickly.
 - adj.* able to move quickly and easily, often in a way that is graceful and controlled

3. We need to _____ the meeting for another hour to discuss all the issues.
 - v.* to extend the duration or length of something, particularly a period of time or an event

4. My grandparents were always _____ with their money, even when they had plenty of it.
 - adj.* characterized by being sparing or economical about money or resources; avoiding waste or luxury

5. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
 - adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

6. As people get old, their energies may _____.
 - v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

7. Companies developing self-driving cars consistently _____ the emerging technologies.
 - v.* to introduce new methods, ideas, or products

ANSWERS: 1. alchemy, 2. agile, 3. prolong, 4. frugal, 5. opportune, 6. diminish, 7. innovate

8. The _____ population is often forced to rely on alternative financial services such as payday loans and check cashing.
adj. not having enough access or connection to mainstream banking services or financial institutions
9. They have tried to _____ their grocery stores.
v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
10. There is a significant _____ in pay between men and women in the company.
n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
11. They held the dinner party on the _____ terrace, enjoying the beautiful view of the city.
n. the upper surface or cover of a building's roof, often used for recreational or other purposes
12. Due to the pandemic, many doctors have started offering _____ appointments.
n. the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients using telecommunications technology, such as video conferencing, phone calls, or messaging services
13. Creativity and _____ are often brought about by extreme concentration.
n. the quality of inventing things or solving problems in clever new ways
14. The music _____ cultural barriers and reached audiences globally.
v. to rise above or go beyond the limits of something
15. He has an _____ to become a doctor.
n. a strong desire to achieve something; the action or process of drawing breath

ANSWERS: 8. underbanked, 9. reinvent, 10. disparity, 11. rooftop, 12. telemedicine, 13. ingenuity, 14. transcended, 15. aspiration

16. The new _____ on the highway promotes a popular vacation destination.
n. a large outdoor sign or display that is used for advertising, marketing, or public information, typically located along highways or main roads
17. She was _____ and found a solution to the problem on her own.
adj. showing creativity and ability to find quick and practical solutions to problems
18. He carefully interviewed the victims and tried to _____ the details of the culprit.
v. to collect information, knowledge, etc., in small amounts and often with difficulty; to gather, as natural products
19. Some research says that a relative decline in teacher salaries is causing labor _____.
n. the state of being in short supply; a small and inadequate amount
20. The roads to the airport were heavily _____.
v. to make something blocked or crowded so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement or flow of liquid
21. He needed to _____ his phone before the meeting.
v. to restore the energy or power of something by supplying it with more energy or power; to refresh or renew oneself by rest or sleep
22. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
23. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.
v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 16. billboard, 17. resourceful, 18. glean, 19. scarcity, 20. congested, 21. recharge, 22. electrify, 23. disrupt

24. Losing him is great _____ to our team.

n. a state of not having something, such as food or money, that you need for a pleasant life

25. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

26. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

27. The _____ storm caused massive flooding in the town and destroyed many houses.

adj. causing horror, shock, or a feeling of extreme disgust; extremely unpleasant or terrifying

28. The team demonstrated great resilience in the face of _____ and won the game.

n. difficulties or hardships that someone faces

29. The _____ architecture of the building was a contrast to the traditional designs in the neighborhood.

adj. relating to or characterized by a rejection of objective truth and global cultural narratives and instead emphasizing the role of personal interpretation

30. The equipment is frequently used to _____ and distribute drinking water.

v. to remove harmful substances from something and increase the concentration of it

ANSWERS: 24. deprivation, 25. improvisation, 26. smartphones, 27. horrendous, 28. adversity, 29. postmodern, 30. purify

ANSWERS: