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Scott Dinsmore: How to find work you love | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

slam

v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily

synonym: bang, crash, shut

(1) **slam** the door, (2) **slam** the book against a wall

She **slammed** the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.

sage

n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

synonym: philosopher, scholar, thinker

(1) a **sage** of long ago, (2) a **sage** counselor

He was famous for his **sage** advice to younger entrepreneurs.

immersion

n. the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity

synonym: submergence, involvement, engagement

(1) baptism by **immersion**, (2) **immersion** in acid

I felt like I was in a different world because of the **immersion** experience of virtual reality.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

bakery

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

synonym: bakeshop, bakehouse

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

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

embody

v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea

synonym: represent, exemplify, personify

(1) **embody** my goal, (2) **embody** a spirit of charity

The company's new products **embody** the values of innovation and sustainability.

dorm

n. a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus

synonym: residence hall, hostel, boarding house

(1) **dorm** room, (2) university **dorm**

Living in a **dorm** can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.

assimilate

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

synonym: absorb, incorporate, integrate

(1) **assimilate** into society, (2) **assimilate** a language

The immigrant struggled to **assimilate** into the new culture.

peon

n. a person of low social status or low-wage worker, often doing menial or unskilled labor; historically, a person in Spanish America held in servitude to work on large

estates or in mines

synonym : worker, laborer, serf

(1) entry-level **peon**, (2) **peon** labor

He started his career as a **peon** in the company and worked his way up to an executive position.

congruent

adj. in agreement or harmony with something; having the same shape and size, often used in mathematics

synonym : matching, identical, corresponding

(1) **congruent** squares, (2) **congruent** in style

The algebraic equation had **congruent** sides, leading to a valid solution.

ahold

adv. to take hold of something, to grasp firmly

synonym : totally, completely, firmly

(1) grab **ahold** of the rope, (2) take **ahold** of the situation

I was able to get **ahold** of the concert tickets before they sold out.

precarious

adj. not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions

synonym : precariousness, instability, uncertainty

(1) **precarious** job, (2) **precarious** financial situation

She had a **precarious** hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym : unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

murky

adj. dark and gloomy or difficult to see through

synonym : dim, fuzzy, foggy

(1) **murky** waters, (2) a **murky** dungeon

Prospects for the suspect's conviction are **murky** due to a

lack of helpful evidence.

unfounded

adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification

synonym: baseless, groundless, untrue

(1) **unfounded** allegations, (2) **unfounded** fears

The accusations were **unfounded** and lacked evidence.

tugboat

n. a small, powerful boat used mainly for towing or pushing larger vessels, typically in ports or narrow waterways

synonym: towboat, pusher boat

(1) harbor **tugboat**, (2) powerful **tugboat**

The **tugboat** captain skillfully maneuvered the ship through the treacherous waters of the storm.

stormy

adj. marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation

synonym: tempestuous, turbulent, choppy

(1) **stormy** relationship, (2) **stormy** weather

The city council meeting was **stormy**, as people argued about a controversial new policy.

windy

adj. characterized by or affected by strong winds; of or relating to the wind; describing a person who talks a lot, often in an exaggerated way or without saying much substance

synonym: airy, gusty, breezy

(1) **windy** hillside, (2) **windy** eloquence

The weather is too **windy** for us to go on a boat ride.

wetsuit

n. a close-fitting garment that covers the torso, arms, and legs and is designed to keep the wearer warm and dry, especially when participating in water sports

synonym: diving suit, neoprene suit

(1) **wetsuit** material, (2) **wetsuit** rental

He wore a **wetsuit** for the entire duration of his triathlon, from

start to finish.

kayak

n. a small, narrow boat traditionally used by the Inuit people for hunting and fishing, which has a covered deck and is propelled using a double-bladed paddle

synonym: canoe, skiff, paddle boat

(1) **kayak** adventure, (2) **kayak** paddle

We're planning a **kayak** trip down the river next weekend.

pep

n. energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness

synonym: energy, enthusiasm, liveliness

(1) **pep** me up, (2) have a lot of **peps**

The coach gave a **pep** talk to the team before the game to boost their spirits.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

thaw

v. to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly

synonym: melt, defrost, unfreeze

(1) **thaw** out a glacier, (2) **thaw** relations between countries

The sun was beginning to **thaw** the frozen ground.

flail

v. to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)

synonym: thrash, beat, whip

(1) **flail** in the strong winds, (2) **flail** at the air

The dancer's arms would **flail** gracefully as she moved to the music.

sip v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

synonym: taste, sample, drink

(1) **sip** a drink, (2) take a **sip** of beer

He **sipped** his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

plop n. a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water

synonym: drop, flop, plunk

(1) loud **plop**, (2) **plop** of water

The ball fell into the water with a **plop**.

Norman *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period

synonym: medieval, antique, archaic

(1) **norman** cathedral, (2) **norman** invasion

The **Norman** architecture in the old city was a sight to behold.

complacency n. a feeling of self-satisfaction or contentment, often resulting in a lack of motivation to improve or address problems

synonym: self-satisfaction, smugness, satisfaction

(1) dangerous **complacency**, (2) avoid **complacency**

The team's **complacency** led to their defeat, as they didn't put in the effort needed to win the game.

dime n. an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar

(1) **dime** store, (2) behind a **dime**

He never received a **dime**, even from the company of a close friend.

hound

- v.* to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way;
(*noun*) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity

synonym : chase, badger, annoy

(1) beagle **hound**, (2) **hound** him for payment

The paparazzi constantly **hound** celebrities for a photo or a story.

ripple

- n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind

synonym : wave, undulation, fluctuation

(1) a **ripple** of laughter, (2) **ripple** in the water

Many businesses felt the **ripple** effect of the economy's decline.

recession

- n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases

synonym : downturn, slump, contraction

(1) **recession** period, (2) recover from a **recession**

The country is facing a **recession**, with high unemployment and low GDP.

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.

cliche

- n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

synonym : truism, platitude, stereotype

(1) **cliche** plot, (2) age-old **cliche**

Using the same **cliche** phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.

Session 2: Spelling

1. no___n cathedral
adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period
2. t__w out a glacier
v. to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly
3. 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
4. ka__k paddle
n. a small, narrow boat traditionally used by the Inuit people for hunting and fishing, which has a covered deck and is propelled using a double-bladed paddle
5. t__w relations between countries
v. to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly
6. un_____ed allegations
adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
7. have a lot of p_ps
n. energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness
8. ass_____te into society
v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

ANSWERS: 1. Norman, 2. thaw, 3. anomaly, 4. kayak, 5. thaw, 6. unfounded, 7. pep, 8. assimilate

9. the threats te____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
10. ho__d him for payment *v.* to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way; (noun) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity
11. s__m the book against a wall *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
12. dangerous com_____cy *n.* a feeling of self-satisfaction or contentment, often resulting in a lack of motivation to improve or address problems
13. s__m the door *v.* to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
14. p__p of water *n.* a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water
15. d__e store *n.* an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar
16. grab ah__d of the rope *adv.* to take hold of something, to grasp firmly
17. p__n labor *n.* a person of low social status or low-wage worker, often doing menial or unskilled labor; historically, a person in Spanish America held in servitude to work on large estates or in mines
18. p_p me up *n.* energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness

ANSWERS: 9. terrify, 10. hound, 11. slam, 12. complacency, 13. slam, 14. plop, 15. dime, 16. ahold, 17. peon, 18. pep

19. ka__k adventure *n.* a small, narrow boat traditionally used by the Inuit people for hunting and fishing, which has a covered deck and is propelled using a double-bladed paddle
20. a s__e of long ago *n.* a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
21. mu__y waters *adj.* dark and gloomy or difficult to see through
22. co_____nt squares *adj.* in agreement or harmony with something; having the same shape and size, often used in mathematics
23. wi__y eloquence *adj.* characterized by or affected by strong winds; of or relating to the wind; describing a person who talks a lot, often in an exaggerated way or without saying much substance
24. age-old cl___e *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement
25. s_p a drink *v.* to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink
26. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
27. a mu__y dungeon *adj.* dark and gloomy or difficult to see through
28. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

ANSWERS: 19. kayak, 20. sage, 21. murky, 22. congruent, 23. windy, 24. cliché, 25. sip, 26. terrify, 27. murky, 28. quitter

29. avoid com_____cy *n.* a feeling of self-satisfaction or contentment, often resulting in a lack of motivation to improve or address problems
30. an_____y detection *n.* something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand
31. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
32. recover from a re_____on *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
33. co_____nt in style *adj.* in agreement or harmony with something; having the same shape and size, often used in mathematics
34. ex_____e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
35. beagle ho__d *v.* to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way; (noun) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity
36. cl_____e plot *n.* a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

ANSWERS: 29. complacency, 30. anomaly, 31. quitter, 32. recession, 33. congruent, 34. excite, 35. hound, 36. cliché

37. em___y my goal *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
38. university d__m *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
39. baptism by im_____on *n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
40. take ah__d of the situation *adv.* to take hold of something, to grasp firmly
41. em___y a spirit of charity *v.* to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
42. behind a d__e *n.* an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar
43. pre_____us financial situation *adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
44. st___y relationship *adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
45. we_____t rental *n.* a close-fitting garment that covers the torso, arms, and legs and is designed to keep the wearer warm and dry, especially when participating in water sports

ANSWERS: 37. embody, 38. dorm, 39. immersion, 40. ahold, 41. embody, 42. dime, 43. precarious, 44. stormy, 45. wetsuit

46. im_____on in acid *n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity
47. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
48. st___y weather *adj.* marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation
49. pre_____us job *adj.* not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions
50. run a ba___y *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
51. ri___e in the water *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
52. ass_____te a language *v.* to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate
53. fl__l at the air *v.* to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)
54. a s___e counselor *n.* a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb

ANSWERS: 46. immersion, 47. excite, 48. stormy, 49. precarious, 50. bakery, 51. ripple, 52. assimilate, 53. flail, 54. sage

55. no___n invasion *adj.* relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period
56. powerful tu____t *n.* a small, powerful boat used mainly for towing or pushing larger vessels, typically in ports or narrow waterways
57. entry-level p__n *n.* a person of low social status or low-wage worker, often doing menial or unskilled labor; historically, a person in Spanish America held in servitude to work on large estates or in mines
58. a ri___e of laughter *n.* a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
59. harbor tu____t *n.* a small, powerful boat used mainly for towing or pushing larger vessels, typically in ports or narrow waterways
60. re_____on period *n.* a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
61. ba___y industry *n.* a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
62. loud p__p *n.* a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water

ANSWERS: 55. Norman, 56. tugboat, 57. peon, 58. ripple, 59. tugboat, 60. recession, 61. bakery, 62. plop

63. we____t material *n.* a close-fitting garment that covers the torso, arms, and legs and is designed to keep the wearer warm and dry, especially when participating in water sports
64. fl__l in the strong winds *v.* to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)
65. d__m room *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
66. un____ed fears *adj.* not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
67. take a s_p of beer *v.* to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink
68. wi__y hillside *adj.* characterized by or affected by strong winds; of or relating to the wind; describing a person who talks a lot, often in an exaggerated way or without saying much substance

ANSWERS: 63. wetsuit, 64. flail, 65. dorm, 66. unfounded, 67. sip, 68. windy

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He never received a _____ even from the company of a close friend.
n. an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar

2. The paparazzi constantly _____ celebrities for a photo or a story.
v. to persistently pursue, harass, or pressure someone or something, often in a negative or unwelcome way; (noun) a type of dog, often bred for hunting that has a keen sense of smell and is known for its persistence and tenacity

3. The dancer's arms would _____ gracefully as she moved to the music.
v. to wave or swing something wildly or uncontrollably; to thrash or beat something with a flail (= a type of farm tool used for threshing, which is the process of separating grains from their husks)

4. The sun was beginning to _____ the frozen ground.
v. to become less rigid or hostile; to melt, soften, or become more friendly

5. The coach gave a _____ talk to the team before the game to boost their spirits.
n. energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness; (verb) to give someone energy, enthusiasm, or liveliness

6. He wore a _____ for the entire duration of his triathlon, from start to finish.
n. a close-fitting garment that covers the torso, arms, and legs and is designed to keep the wearer warm and dry, especially when participating in water sports

7. The accusations were _____ and lacked evidence.
adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification

ANSWERS: 1. dime, 2. hound, 3. flail, 4. thaw, 5. pep, 6. wetsuit, 7. unfounded

8. The weather is too _____ for us to go on a boat ride.

adj. characterized by or affected by strong winds; of or relating to the wind; describing a person who talks a lot, often in an exaggerated way or without saying much substance

9. The immigrant struggled to _____ into the new culture.

v. to take in and understand information or ideas; to integrate

10. We're planning a _____ trip down the river next weekend.

n. a small, narrow boat traditionally used by the Inuit people for hunting and fishing, which has a covered deck and is propelled using a double-bladed paddle

11. He _____ his tea slowly, savoring the taste.

v. to drink a liquid by taking small mouthfuls; (noun) a small drink

12. Using the same _____ phrase in every conversation can take time and effort.

n. a phrase or expression that has become overused to the point that it has lost its original impact or meaning; a trite or unoriginal idea or statement

13. 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

14. Prospects for the suspect's conviction are _____ due to a lack of helpful evidence.

adj. dark and gloomy or difficult to see through

15. He started his career as a _____ in the company and worked his way up to an executive position.

n. a person of low social status or low-wage worker, often doing menial or unskilled labor; historically, a person in Spanish America held in servitude to work on large estates or in mines

ANSWERS: 8. windy, 9. assimilate, 10. kayak, 11. sipped, 12. cliché, 13. anomaly,

14. murky, 15. peon

16. Many businesses felt the _____ effect of the economy's decline.
n. a small wave on the surface of a liquid, typically caused by an object falling into it or a slight wind
17. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
v. to frighten someone very much
18. I was able to get _____ of the concert tickets before they sold out.
adv. to take hold of something, to grasp firmly
19. The country is facing a _____ with high unemployment and low GDP.
n. a period of economic decline, typically lasting for six months or more, during which trade and industrial activity decrease, and unemployment increases
20. She _____ the door shut, angry at the person on the other side.
v. to shut a door or window noisily; to strike something violently or noisily
21. The company's new products _____ the values of innovation and sustainability.
v. to represent or exemplify something; to give tangible form to an abstract idea
22. Living in a _____ can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.
n. a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
23. The city council meeting was _____ as people argued about a controversial new policy.
adj. marked by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, and lightning; characterized by tumultuous or rough emotions, particularly in a relationship or situation

ANSWERS: 16. ripple, 17. terrify, 18. ahold, 19. recession, 20. slammed, 21. embody, 22. dorm, 23. stormy,

24. He was famous for his _____ advice to younger entrepreneurs.
n. a very wise and experienced person; a small evergreen subshrub with flat and light green leaves that has a strong smell and are used as a culinary herb
25. The team's _____ led to their defeat, as they didn't put in the effort needed to win the game.
n. a feeling of self-satisfaction or contentment, often resulting in a lack of motivation to improve or address problems
26. He worked at the _____ as a baker.
n. a place where bread and other baked goods are made and sold
27. The ball fell into the water with a _____.
n. a short and soft sound like that of a small object dropping into water without a splash; (verb) drop with the sound of something falling into water
28. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
29. The algebraic equation had _____ sides, leading to a valid solution.
adj. in agreement or harmony with something; having the same shape and size, often used in mathematics
30. The _____ architecture in the old city was a sight to behold.
adj. relating to or characteristic of the Normans, a people who originally came from Normandy, France, and who had a significant impact on the history and culture of Britain and other European countries; the term can also refer to a style of architecture or art that developed during the Norman period
31. She had a _____ hold on the ladder and was afraid to move.
adj. not securely held or in position; dangerously unstable or uncertain; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions

ANSWERS: 24. sage, 25. complacency, 26. bakery, 27. plop, 28. excited, 29. congruent, 30. Norman, 31. precarious

32. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
- n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
33. The _____ captain skillfully maneuvered the ship through the treacherous waters of the storm.
- n.* a small, powerful boat used mainly for towing or pushing larger vessels, typically in ports or narrow waterways
34. I felt like I was in a different world because of the _____ experience of virtual reality.
- n.* the act of putting someone or something into a liquid completely; the state of being completely involved in a subject or activity

ANSWERS: 32. quitter, 33. tugboat, 34. immersion