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Wisecrack: Plato's best (and worst) ideas | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

platonic

adj. (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual

synonym : nonphysical, nonsexual, spiritual

(1) **platonic** relationship, (2) **platonic** love

His relationship with her was completely **platonic**.

footnote

n. a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text

synonym : annotation, comment, reference

(1) **footnote** citation, (2) add a **footnote**

I included a **footnote** in my essay to provide additional information and sources for my argument.

rundown

n. a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay

synonym : summation, summary, synopsis

(1) a **rundown** of local events, (2) **rundown** building

The boss gave us a quick **rundown** of the new project during the meeting.

imperfectly

adv. in a faulty or incomplete way

synonym: amiss, insufficiently, clumsily

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

He created an **imperfectly** shaped torso.

unchanging

adj. not changing or subject to change; constant

synonym: constant, stable, static

(1) **unchanging** laws, (2) rigidly **unchanging**

The **unchanging** nature of the mountain range was a source of constant wonder for the hikers.

contemplate

v. to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully

synonym: think over, ponder, consider

(1) **contemplate** a marriage, (2) **contemplated** leaving school

I recently **contemplated** dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.

mislead

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

synonym: misinform, delude, belie

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

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

vex

v. to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation

synonym: annoy, irritate, bother

(1) **vex** my mind, (2) **vex** me all night

The loud noise from the construction site was starting to **vex** the nearby residents.

theologian

n. an expert or student who studies theology

synonym: clergyperson, philosopher, scholar

(1) Swedish **theologian**, (2) great **theologians**

Death gets more than its share of attention from **theologians**.

screenwriter

n. a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media

synonym : scriptwriter, playwright

(1) aspiring **screenwriter**, (2) experienced **screenwriter**

The movie's success was largely attributed to the **screenwriter's** cleverly written script.

situ

adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

synonym : situational, contextual, circumstantial

(1) ex- **situ** conservation, (2) in- **situ** control

Melanoma in **situ** is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.

featherless

adj. devoid of feathers, or with few or inadequate feathers; often used metaphorically to describe something or someone that lacks the usual characteristics or qualities associated with it

synonym : bald, naked, unfeathered

(1) **featherless** bird, (2) **featherless** chicken

The bald eagle's **featherless** head distinguishes it from other birds of prey.

biped

n. an animal with two feet

synonym : hominoid

(1) **biped** robot, (2) a featherless **biped**

Biped walking encouraged the further evolution of humankind.

cynical

adj. believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

synonym : skeptical, mistrustful, doubtful

(1) **cynical** remarks, (2) **cynical** worldview

He was very **cynical** and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.

annoy

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
synonym: aggravate, irritate, unsettle

(1) **annoy** at the time, (2) **annoy** everyone else

Her constant chatter was starting to **annoy** the neighbors.

pluck

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

synonym: grab, pull out, pick

(1) **pluck** a gray hair, (2) **pluck** out weeds

She **plucked** the flowers off the bush.

utopia

n. an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity

synonym: paradise, heaven, Arcadia

(1) perfect **utopia**, (2) a **utopia** for an engineer

The concept of **utopia** is often viewed as an impossible or unrealistic goal, as it goes beyond what is currently possible.

harmonious

adj. characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone

synonym: concordant, consistent, melodious

(1) **harmonious** relationship, (2) **harmonious** blend

The painting's **harmonious** composition and balance of colors made it a masterpiece.

liken

v. to compare something or someone to something or someone else to emphasize similarity or likeness; to describe or represent something as being like something else in some way

synonym: compare, equate, analogize

(1) **liken** to a flower, (2) **liken** to a bird

Some people **liken** meditation to a mental shower, refreshing and rejuvenating the mind.

womb

n. the organ of a woman or female mammal in which a baby develops before birth

synonym : uterus, matrice

(1) tumor of **womb**, (2) **womb** transplant

The fertilized egg implanted itself in the **womb**.

espouse

v. to adopt or support a particular belief, theory, or cause; to take up or support; to marry

synonym : adopt, support, embrace

(1) **espouse** a cause, (2) **espouse** an idea

She **espoused** the philosophy of non-violence.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym : curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

creditor

n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

(1) the **creditor's** claims, (2) bankrupt **creditor**

I asked the lawyer to initiate **creditor** negotiations for voluntary liquidation.

dictator

n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

synonym : autocrat, tyrant, despot

(1) military **dictator**, (2) a **dictator** with enormous powers

A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the **dictator**.

tarnish

v. to become dull or discolored from exposure to elements or from being damaged or neglected; to damage or detract from someone's reputation or image

synonym: mar, stain, blemish

(1) **tarnish** reputation, (2) **tarnish** brass

Leaving the silver in the open air caused it to **tarnish** and lose its shine.

Session 2: Spelling

1. military di____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

2. li__n to a bird *v.* to compare something or someone to something or someone else to emphasize similarity or likeness; to describe or represent something as being like something else in some way

3. bankrupt cr____or *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money

4. li__n to a flower *v.* to compare something or someone to something or someone else to emphasize similarity or likeness; to describe or represent something as being like something else in some way

5. ex-s__u conservation *adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

6. rigidly unc_____ng *adj.* not changing or subject to change; constant

7. a di____or with enormous powers *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

8. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 1. dictator, 2. liken, 3. creditor, 4. liken, 5. situ, 6. unchanging, 7. dictator, 8. determinant

9. tumor of w__b *n.* the organ of a woman or female mammal in which a baby develops before birth
10. perfect ut___a *n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity
11. fea_____ss chicken *adj.* devoid of feathers, or with few or inadequate feathers; often used metaphorically to describe something or someone that lacks the usual characteristics or qualities associated with it
12. fea_____ss bird *adj.* devoid of feathers, or with few or inadequate feathers; often used metaphorically to describe something or someone that lacks the usual characteristics or qualities associated with it
13. ru_____n building *n.* a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay
14. an__y at the time *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
15. a ru_____n of local events *n.* a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay

ANSWERS: 9. womb, 10. utopia, 11. featherless, 12. featherless, 13. rundown, 14.

annoy, 15. rundown

16. a ut___a for an engineer *n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity
17. mi_____d him into trusting her *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
18. v_x my mind *v.* to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation
19. a featherless bi__d *n.* an animal with two feet
20. me_____al chemistry *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
21. Swedish the_____an *n.* an expert or student who studies theology
22. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
23. unc_____ng laws *adj.* not changing or subject to change; constant
24. imp_____ly developed *adv.* in a faulty or incomplete way
25. har_____us blend *adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
26. con_____ted leaving school *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
27. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

ANSWERS: 16. utopia, 17. mislead, 18. vex, 19. biped, 20. medicinal, 21. theologian, 22. pluck, 23. unchanging, 24. imperfectly, 25. harmonious, 26. contemplate, 27. pluck

28. experienced scr_____ter *n.* a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media
29. pl_____ic relationship *adj.* (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
30. an__y everyone else *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
31. cy_____l worldview *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
32. v_x me all night *v.* to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation
33. pl_____ic love *adj.* (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
34. cy_____l remarks *adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
35. w__b transplant *n.* the organ of a woman or female mammal in which a baby develops before birth
36. har_____us relationship *adj.* characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
37. ta_____h brass *v.* to become dull or discolored from exposure to elements or from being damaged or neglected; to damage or detract from someone's reputation or image

ANSWERS: 28. screenwriter, 29. platonic, 30. annoy, 31. cynical, 32. vex, 33. platonic, 34. cynical, 35. womb, 36. harmonious, 37. tarnish

38. es_____e an idea *v.* to adopt or support a particular belief, theory, or cause; to take up or support; to marry
39. imp_____ly known disease *adv.* in a faulty or incomplete way
40. con_____te a marriage *v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
41. mi_____d the enemy *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
42. in-s__u control *adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
43. ta_____h reputation *v.* to become dull or discolored from exposure to elements or from being damaged or neglected; to damage or detract from someone's reputation or image
44. the cr_____or's claims *n.* a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
45. es_____e a cause *v.* to adopt or support a particular belief, theory, or cause; to take up or support; to marry
46. add a fo_____te *n.* a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text
47. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 38. espouse, 39. imperfectly, 40. contemplate, 41. mislead, 42. situ, 43. tarnish, 44. creditor, 45. espouse, 46. footnote, 47. determinant

48. aspiring scr_____ter *n.* a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media
49. fo_____te citation *n.* a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text
50. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
51. great the_____ans *n.* an expert or student who studies theology
52. bi__d robot *n.* an animal with two feet

ANSWERS: 48. screenwriter, 49. footnote, 50. medicinal, 51. theologian, 52. biped

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The painting's _____ composition and balance of colors made it a masterpiece.
adj. characterized by harmony or agreement; free from conflict or disagreement; pleasing or soothing in sound or tone
2. Some people _____ meditation to a mental shower, refreshing and rejuvenating the mind.
v. to compare something or someone to something or someone else to emphasize similarity or likeness; to describe or represent something as being like something else in some way
3. A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the _____.
n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
4. Death gets more than its share of attention from _____.
n. an expert or student who studies theology
5. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.
v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
6. I included a _____ in my essay to provide additional information and sources for my argument.
n. a note of additional information provided at the bottom of a page in a book or document, often indicated by a superscript number or symbol in the main text
7. _____ walking encouraged the further evolution of humankind.
n. an animal with two feet

ANSWERS: 1. harmonious, 2. liken, 3. dictator, 4. theologians, 5. annoy, 6. footnote, 7. Biped

8. Melanoma in _____ is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.
adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
9. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.
v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true
10. She _____ the philosophy of non-violence.
v. to adopt or support a particular belief, theory, or cause; to take up or support; to marry
11. The loud noise from the construction site was starting to _____ the nearby residents.
v. to irritate or annoy with petty frustrations; to cause distress or agitation
12. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
13. His relationship with her was completely _____.
adj. (of relationship or emotion) friendly or affectionate but not sexual
14. I asked the lawyer to initiate _____ negotiations for voluntary liquidation.
n. a person, company, etc. to whom a debtor owes money
15. He created an _____ shaped torso.
adv. in a faulty or incomplete way

ANSWERS: 8. situ, 9. mislead, 10. espoused, 11. vex, 12. medicinal, 13. platonic, 14. creditor, 15. imperfectly

16. I recently _____ dropping out of school and getting a full-time job.
- v.* to think about a possible future action or to think about something for a long time thoughtfully
17. The bald eagle's _____ head distinguishes it from other birds of prey.
- adj.* devoid of feathers, or with few or inadequate feathers; often used metaphorically to describe something or someone that lacks the usual characteristics or qualities associated with it
18. The fertilized egg implanted itself in the _____.
- n.* the organ of a woman or female mammal in which a baby develops before birth
19. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
20. He was very _____ and didn't believe anything anyone said unless he saw evidence for himself.
- adj.* believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity
21. The boss gave us a quick _____ of the new project during the meeting.
- n.* a brief or summary account of something, usually presented in a list or sequence; a state of disrepair or neglect; (adjective) of or relating to a physical object, typically a building or area, which has not been well-maintained and is in a state of disrepair or decay
22. The concept of _____ is often viewed as an impossible or unrealistic goal, as it goes beyond what is currently possible.
- n.* an ideal and perfect society in which all social and political problems have been solved, and all members live in harmony and prosperity

ANSWERS: 16. contemplated, 17. featherless, 18. womb, 19. determinant, 20. cynical, 21. rundown, 22. utopia

23. Leaving the silver in the open air caused it to _____ and lose its shine.

- v. to become dull or discolored from exposure to elements or from being damaged or neglected; to damage or detract from someone's reputation or image

24. The movie's success was largely attributed to the _____ cleverly written script.

- n. a writer who writes or creates scripts, screenplays, or stories for movies, television shows, or other visual media

25. The _____ nature of the mountain range was a source of constant wonder for the hikers.

- adj. not changing or subject to change; constant

26. She _____ the flowers off the bush.

- v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

ANSWERS: 23. tarnish, 24. screenwriter's, 25. unchanging, 26. plucked