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Katerina Kaouri: The sonic boom problem | TED Talk
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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym : captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

turbulence

n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight

synonym : choppiness, tumult, agitation

(1) financial **turbulence**, (2) emotional **turbulence**

The ride on the rollercoaster was full of dips and turns, creating a feeling of **turbulence**.

circumvent

v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle

synonym : evade, bypass, outsmart

(1) **circumvent** rules, (2) **circumvent** authority

I took a back road to work on time to **circumvent** the traffic jam.

stabilize

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

synonym : brace, steady, secure

(1) **stabilize** prices, (2) **stabilize** blood sugar levels

The raising of interest rates **stabilizes** the inflation rate.

chuck

v. to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone

synonym : toss, throw, discard

(1) **chuck** the ball across the yard, (2) **chuck** my job

I will **chuck** these old shoes in the trash and buy a new pair.

supersonic

adj. relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)

synonym : hypersonic, ultrasonic, transonic

(1) **supersonic** aircraft, (2) **supersonic** wind tunnel

The spacecraft reentered the Earth's atmosphere at **supersonic** speeds.

concentric

adj. having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another

synonym : homocentric, nested, circular

(1) **concentric** design, (2) **concentric** shades of color

Concentric circles surrounded the target on the shooting range.

perpendicular

adj. forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon

synonym : vertical, upright, standing

(1) **perpendicular** angles, (2) **perpendicular** walls

The two lines were perfectly **perpendicular** to each other.

whistle

v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound

synonym: sound, honk, tweet

(1) **whistle** a tune, (2) **whistle** for help

The employee decided to **whistle-blow** on the company's illegal activities.

overtake

v. to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else

synonym: surpass, outstrip, catch up with

(1) **overtake** a rival, (2) **overtake** a milestone

The race car driver knew he had to **overtake** the other drivers to win the race.

emit

v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.

synonym: give off, radiate, expel

(1) **emit** a gamma ray, (2) **emit** air pollution

During the unloading, the container box **emits** a clicking sound.

hyperbola

n. a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci

synonym: curve, ellipse, parabola

(1) **hyperbola** equation, (2) geometric **hyperbola**

The astrophysicist analyzed the light spectrum emitted from the **hyperbola** nucleus of the distant galaxy.

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.

intensify

v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength

synonym: amplify, boost, strengthen

(1) **intensify** diplomatic efforts, (2) **intensify** a good relationship

Rebels have pledged to **intensify** the armed struggle against the dictatorship.

trajectory

n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space

synonym: course, curve, orbit

(1) career **trajectory**, (2) a **trajectory** missile

The company has shown an excellent growth **trajectory** over the years.

predator

n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

synonym: vulture, bloodsucker

(1) apex **predator**, (2) sexual **predators**

The native South American animals were in danger because of the **predator's** arrival.

oversize

adj. larger than the normal or standard size

synonym: large, big, excessive

(1) **oversize** tire, (2) **oversize** bag

The **oversize** jacket was too big for her, but she still wore it because she liked the style.

claw

n. a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects

synonym: paw, talon, nail

(1) **claw** marks, (2) **claw** hammer

The bear used its **claw** to catch a fish in the river.

relentless

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting

(1) **relentless** attack, (2) face **relentless** pressure

The athlete's **relentless** training paid off in the end.

Session 2: Spelling

1. wh____e for help
v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound
2. environmental det____nt
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
3. st____ze prices
v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
4. in____fy a good relationship
v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
5. e__t air pollution
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
6. hu____g sound
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
7. c__w marks
n. a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
8. con____ic shades of color
adj. having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another

ANSWERS: 1. whistle, 2. determinant, 3. stabilize, 4. intensify, 5. emit, 6. humming, 7. claw, 8. concentric

9. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
10. emotional tur_____ce *n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight
11. sup_____ic wind tunnel *adj.* relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)
12. apex pr_____or *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
13. ch__k the ball across the yard *v.* to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone
14. geometric hy_____la *n.* a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci
15. ov_____ze bag *adj.* larger than the normal or standard size
16. ch__k my job *v.* to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone
17. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
18. ov_____ke a milestone *v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else

ANSWERS: 9. fascinate, 10. turbulence, 11. supersonic, 12. predator, 13. chuck, 14. hyperbola, 15. oversize, 16. chuck, 17. humming, 18. overtake

19. wh_____e a tune
v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound
20. face rel_____ss pressure
adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
21. cir_____nt rules
v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
22. st_____ze blood sugar levels
v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way
23. e__t a gamma ray
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
24. per_____lar walls
adj. forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon
25. hy_____la equation
n. a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci
26. fa_____te the young
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
27. per_____lar angles
adj. forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon

ANSWERS: 19. whistle, 20. relentless, 21. circumvent, 22. stabilize, 23. emit, 24. perpendicular, 25. hyperbola, 26. fascinate, 27. perpendicular

28. a tra_____ry missile *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space
29. in_____fy diplomatic efforts *v.* to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
30. c__w hammer *n.* a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
31. ov_____ke a rival *v.* to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
32. cir_____nt authority *v.* to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
33. sexual pr_____ors *n.* an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others
34. 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
35. rel_____ss attack *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
36. career tra_____ry *n.* the curved path followed by an object moving through space

ANSWERS: 28. trajectory, 29. intensify, 30. claw, 31. overtake, 32. circumvent, 33. predator, 34. determinant, 35. relentless, 36. trajectory

37. ov_____ze tire *adj.* larger than the normal or standard size
38. financial tur_____ce *n.* a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight
39. sup_____ic aircraft *adj.* relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)
40. con_____ic design *adj.* having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another

ANSWERS: 37. oversize, 38. turbulence, 39. supersonic, 40. concentric

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
2. 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
3. The company has shown an excellent growth _____ over the years.
n. the curved path followed by an object moving through space
4. The bear used its _____ to catch a fish in the river.
n. a curved, pointed appendage found on the foot or leg of an animal, used for gripping or grasping; a human hand with long, narrow fingers that are curved like a claw; a machine or tool with a claw-like opening used for gripping or lifting objects
5. _____ circles surrounded the target on the shooting range.
adj. having a common center, with circles or spheres that share a common center point; having shapes or forms that are aligned or nested within one another
6. I took a back road to work on time to _____ the traffic jam.
v. to go around, avoid, or bypass something, often to achieve an intended goal or objective; to outmaneuver or outsmart a person or obstacle
7. The spacecraft reentered the Earth's atmosphere at _____ speeds.
adj. relating to or having a speed above the speed of sound (roughly 767 miles per hour or 1,235 kilometers per hour at sea level)

ANSWERS: 1. humming, 2. determinant, 3. trajectory, 4. claw, 5. Concentric, 6. circumvent, 7. supersonic

8. During the unloading, the container box _____ a clicking sound.
v. to give off or send out something such as light, heat, sound, gas, etc.
9. The _____ jacket was too big for her, but she still wore it because she liked the style.
adj. larger than the normal or standard size
10. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
11. Rebels have pledged to _____ the armed struggle against the dictatorship.
v. to increase or make something increase in extent or strength
12. The athlete's _____ training paid off in the end.
adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
13. The astrophysicist analyzed the light spectrum emitted from the _____ nucleus of the distant galaxy.
n. a type of geometric curve, similar to an ellipse, but with two separate and distinct branches that approach infinity; (of mathematics) the curve defined by the difference of the distances from any point on the curve to two fixed points called the foci
14. The race car driver knew he had to _____ the other drivers to win the race.
v. to catch up to and pass by someone or something that is in front of you, usually about moving vehicles; to come to a point where you become more successful, important, or influential than someone or something else
15. The native South American animals were in danger because of the _____ arrival.
n. an animal whose natural behavior is to prey on others

ANSWERS: 8. emits, 9. oversize, 10. fascinated, 11. intensify, 12. relentless, 13. hyperbola, 14. overtake, 15. predator's

16. I will _____ these old shoes in the trash and buy a new pair.

v. to throw something carelessly or casually; to get rid of something or someone

17. The two lines were perfectly _____ to each other.

adj. forming, situated at, or being at a right angle to a given line or plane; upright or vertical; at right angles to the horizon

18. The ride on the rollercoaster was full of dips and turns, creating a feeling of _____.

n. a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty, often accompanied by violent or disruptive activity or behavior, such as air turbulence during a flight

19. The raising of interest rates _____ the inflation rate.

v. to become or cause to become steady or unlikely to give way

20. The employee decided to _____ on the company's illegal activities.

v. to make a high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small opening, usually with the lips or fingers; (noun) a piece of equipment that forces air or steam against an edge or into a cavity and so produces a loud shrill sound

ANSWERS: 16. chuck, 17. perpendicular, 18. turbulence, 19. stabilizes, 20. whistle-blow