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Melody Hobson: Color blind or color brave? | TED

Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

Senate

n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

synonym: upper house, council, assembly

(1) **Senate** hearing, (2) **Senate** Finance Committee

The **Senate** majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

receptionist

n. a person employed at a front desk or in a waiting area of an office, hotel, or other organization, whose job is to greet visitors, answer phones, and perform other general administrative tasks

synonym: clerk, secretary

(1) friendly **receptionist**, (2) hotel **receptionist**

Our company is looking to hire a bilingual **receptionist** to serve our diverse clients better.

stark

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

synonym: crude, blunt, desolate

(1) **stark** landscape, (2) **stark** truth

The scenery of the battlefield was **stark** and grey.

ruthlessly

adv. without compassion or pity; mercilessly

synonym: mercilessly, brutally, cruelly

(1) **ruthlessly** efficient, (2) judge **ruthlessly**
He **ruthlessly** cut ties with anyone who crossed him.

moth

n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light
The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

militant

n. willing to use force or violence to achieve a political or social goal

synonym: combative, aggressive, bellicose

(1) **militant** nations, (2) a **militant** reformer
The **militant** group launched a series of attacks on government buildings.

quantifiable

adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms

synonym: measurable, calculable

(1) non- **quantifiable** risk, (2) **quantifiable** results
The impact of the new policy will be **quantifiable** through measurable data.

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.

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.

boardroom

n. a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets

synonym: meeting room, conference room, executive room

(1) **boardroom** meeting, (2) **boardroom** decision

The corporate **boardroom** was filled with tense silence as the CEO presented the new plan.

institutionalize

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

synonym: formalize, establish, regularize

(1) **institutionalize** a system, (2) **institutionalize** customary laws

The new policy aims to **institutionalize** the use of renewable energy sources.

grapple

v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons

synonym: brawl, scuffle, wrestle

(1) **grapple** with problem, (2) **grapple** with each other

He needed to **grapple** with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.

elicit

v. to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty

synonym: bring out, obtain, evoke

(1) **elicit** a confession, (2) **elicit** a solution

Have you **elicited** a response from them yet?

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.

debunk

v. to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless
synonym: expose, discredit, demystify

(1) **debunk** an urban legend, (2) **debunk** theory

The myth was **debunked** by scientists, who provided evidence to the contrary.

stereotype

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

(1) avoid **stereotype**, (2) negative **stereotypes**

Changing **stereotypes** about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

exasperated

adj. feeling intense irritation or frustration, especially over a persistent problem or difficulty

synonym: annoyed, angry, frustrated

(1) **exasperated** sigh, (2) feel **exasperated**

The politician's **exasperated** tone reflected her frustration with the lack of progress on the issue.

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.

bravery

n. courage in the face of danger

synonym: courage, valor, heroism

(1) **bravery** against the enemy, (2) **bravery** under fire

His **bravery** in the face of danger saved the lives of his comrades.

quintessence

n. the perfect example of a quality or class

synonym: essence, core, heart

(1) the **quintessence** of virtue, (2) **quintessence** of life

The **quintessence** of the author's writing is the depth of emotion conveyed.

bristle

n. a stiff, short hair on a mammal's skin or a natural or artificial brush; a stiff, sharp point on a plant such as a thorn or a prickle; (verb) to react defensively to something; to stand up stiffly and be rigid

synonym : spike, prickle, hair

(1) **bristle** brush, (2) **bristle** with anger

The dog's **bristle** on its back stood up as it growled at the mailman.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym : mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

smallpox

n. a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

synonym : variola

(1) **smallpox** epidemic, (2) **smallpox** vaccine

An outbreak of **smallpox** occurred in the 1920s.

ravage

v. to cause damage to something badly

synonym : devastate, ruin, destroy

(1) **ravage** a country, (2) **ravage** the brain

A large fire **ravaged** the forest.

stump

v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

synonym : mix up

(1) the riddle **stumped** everybody, (2) we are **stumped** with the problem

He is **stumped** with the question.

vaccinate

v. to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease

synonym: immunize, inject, inoculate

(1) **vaccinate** against scarlet fever, (2) **vaccinate** every year

The nurse **vaccinated** the children in the school.

bovine

adj. relating to or resembling cows or cattle; pertaining to the characteristics or behavior of bovines

synonym: cattle-like, bovid, cow-like

(1) **bovine** disease, (2) **bovine** respiratory disease

The farm had a herd of **bovine** animals, including cows and bulls.

purposeful

adj. having a specific aim or purpose; determined

synonym: determined, resolved, resolute

(1) **purposeful** series of actions, (2) at a **purposeful** pace

She had a **purposeful** look and was determined to complete the task.

evict

v. to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law

synonym: oust, expel, eject

(1) **evict** a person from his home, (2) **evict** squatter

The landlord may **evict** tenants for violations of the lease agreement.

pragmatist

n. a person who practically approaches situations and problems; someone who prioritizes usefulness and functionality over abstract principles or ideals

synonym: realist, practical person, utilitarian

(1) **pragmatist** perspective, (2) a true **pragmatist**

As a **pragmatist**, she always focuses on finding practical solutions to problems.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym: braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story

The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. bo_____om meeting | <i>n.</i> a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets |
| 2. br_____y under fire | <i>n.</i> courage in the face of danger |
| 3. exa_____ed sigh | <i>adj.</i> feeling intense irritation or frustration, especially over a persistent problem or difficulty |
| 4. st__k truth | <i>adj.</i> empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications |
| 5. ins_____ize a system | <i>v.</i> to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.) |
| 6. ev__t a person from his home | <i>v.</i> to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law |
| 7. a true pra_____st | <i>n.</i> a person who practically approaches situations and problems; someone who prioritizes usefulness and functionality over abstract principles or ideals |
| 8. bo_____om decision | <i>n.</i> a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets |
| 9. avoid ste_____pe | <i>n.</i> a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense |
| 10. ind_____us worker | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |

ANSWERS: 1. boardroom, 2. bravery, 3. exasperated, 4. stark, 5. institutionalize, 6. evict, 7. pragmatist, 8. boardroom, 9. stereotype, 10. industrious

11. de___k theory *v.* to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless
12. pra_____st perspective *n.* a person who practically approaches situations and problems; someone who prioritizes usefulness and functionality over abstract principles or ideals
13. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
14. bo___e disease *adj.* relating to or resembling cows or cattle; pertaining to the characteristics or behavior of bovines
15. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
16. we are st__ped with the problem *v.* to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
17. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
18. br_____e with anger *n.* a stiff, short hair on a mammal's skin or a natural or artificial brush; a stiff, sharp point on a plant such as a thorn or a prickle; (verb) to react defensively to something; to stand up stiffly and be rigid
19. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

ANSWERS: 11. debunk, 12. pragmatist, 13. opportune, 14. bovine, 15. institutionalize, 16. stump, 17. moth, 18. bristle, 19. intellect

20. mi____nt nations *n.* willing to use force or violence to achieve a political or social goal
21. ra___e the brain *v.* to cause damage to something badly
22. negative ste_____pes *n.* a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense
23. ra___e a country *v.* to cause damage to something badly
24. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
25. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
26. Se___e Finance Committee *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
27. qua_____ble results *adj.* able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
28. st__k landscape *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
29. hotel rec_____ist *n.* a person employed at a front desk or in a waiting area of an office, hotel, or other organization, whose job is to greet visitors, answer phones, and perform other general administrative tasks
30. de___k an urban legend *v.* to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless

ANSWERS: 20. militant, 21. ravage, 22. stereotype, 23. ravage, 24. moth, 25. intellect, 26. Senate, 27. quantifiable, 28. stark, 29. receptionist, 30. debunk

31. ev__t squatter *v.* to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law
32. br____y against the enemy *n.* courage in the face of danger
33. a mi____nt reformer *n.* willing to use force or violence to achieve a political or social goal
34. 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
35. op____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
36. bo___e respiratory disease *adj.* relating to or resembling cows or cattle; pertaining to the characteristics or behavior of bovines
37. br____e brush *n.* a stiff, short hair on a mammal's skin or a natural or artificial brush; a stiff, sharp point on a plant such as a thorn or a prickle; (verb) to react defensively to something; to stand up stiffly and be rigid
38. el___t a solution *v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
39. gr____e with problem *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
40. va____te every year *v.* to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease

ANSWERS: 31. evict, 32. bravery, 33. militant, 34. pretension, 35. opportune, 36. bovine, 37. bristle, 38. elicit, 39. grapple, 40. vaccinate

41. el___t a confession *v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
42. gr_____e with each other *v.* to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
43. the di_____ty between theory and reality *n.* a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
44. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
45. we___e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
46. the qui_____nce of virtue *n.* the perfect example of a quality or class
47. pur_____ul series of actions *adj.* having a specific aim or purpose; determined
48. Se___e hearing *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
49. the riddle st___ped everybody *v.* to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled
50. sm_____ox vaccine *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
51. friendly rec_____ist *n.* a person employed at a front desk or in a waiting area of an office, hotel, or other organization, whose job is to greet visitors, answer phones, and perform other general administrative tasks

ANSWERS: 41. elicit, 42. grapple, 43. disparity, 44. industrious, 45. weave, 46. quintessence, 47. purposeful, 48. Senate, 49. stump, 50. smallpox, 51. receptionist

52. qui_____nce of life *n.* the perfect example of a quality or class
53. we__e on a loom *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
54. va_____te against scarlet fever *v.* to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease
55. feel exa_____ed *adj.* feeling intense irritation or frustration, especially over a persistent problem or difficulty
56. an__y at the time *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
57. 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
58. rut_____ly efficient *adv.* without compassion or pity; mercilessly
59. at a pur_____ul pace *adj.* having a specific aim or purpose; determined
60. sm_____ox epidemic *n.* a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death
61. judge rut_____ly *adv.* without compassion or pity; mercilessly
62. an__y everyone else *v.* to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly
63. non-qua_____ble risk *adj.* able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms

ANSWERS: 52. quintessence, 53. weave, 54. vaccinate, 55. exasperated, 56. annoy, 57. pretension, 58. ruthlessly, 59. purposeful, 60. smallpox, 61. ruthlessly, 62. annoy, 63. quantifiable

64. income di_____ty

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

ANSWERS: 64. disparity

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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

2. He is _____ with the question.

v. to cause to be perplexed or confused; (noun) the base part of a tree that remains standing after the tree has been felled

3. The politician's _____ tone reflected her frustration with the lack of progress on the issue.

adj. feeling intense irritation or frustration, especially over a persistent problem or difficulty

4. The landlord may _____ tenants for violations of the lease agreement.

v. to expel someone from a property, especially with the support of the law

5. The new policy aims to _____ the use of renewable energy sources.

v. to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)

6. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

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

7. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 1. pretensions, 2. stumped, 3. exasperated, 4. evict, 5. institutionalize, 6. opportune, 7. industrious

8. The _____ majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.
n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
9. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
10. He needed to _____ with structural reforms to improve the company's revenue.
v. to make a strenuous effort to solve a problem; to engage in a close fight or conflict without weapons
11. The impact of the new policy will be _____ through measurable data.
adj. able to be measured, expressed, or quantified in numerical or statistical terms
12. Have you _____ a response from them yet?
v. to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
13. Our company is looking to hire a bilingual _____ to serve our diverse clients better.
n. a person employed at a front desk or in a waiting area of an office, hotel, or other organization, whose job is to greet visitors, answer phones, and perform other general administrative tasks
14. The farm had a herd of _____ animals, including cows and bulls.
adj. relating to or resembling cows or cattle; pertaining to the characteristics or behavior of bovines
15. His _____ in the face of danger saved the lives of his comrades.
n. courage in the face of danger

ANSWERS: 8. Senate, 9. moth, 10. grapple, 11. quantifiable, 12. elicited, 13. receptionist, 14. bovine, 15. bravery

16. The scenery of the battlefield was _____ and grey.

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

17. She had a _____ look and was determined to complete the task.

adj. having a specific aim or purpose; determined

18. Her constant chatter was starting to _____ the neighbors.

v. to make someone angry, anxious, or irritating slightly

19. Changing _____ about LGBTQ requires considerable effort.

n. a fixed and unvarying idea or image that people have about what someone or something is like, but which is often not true in reality and may cause hurt and offense

20. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

21. An outbreak of _____ occurred in the 1920s.

n. a highly contagious viral disease characterized by fever, weakness, spots on the skin, and often death

22. The nurse _____ the children in the school.

v. to treat with a vaccine, usually by injection, to produce immunity against a disease

23. The corporate _____ was filled with tense silence as the CEO presented the new plan.

n. a room where the board of directors of a company or organization meets

ANSWERS: 16. stark, 17. purposeful, 18. annoy, 19. stereotypes, 20. weaves, 21. smallpox, 22. vaccinated, 23. boardroom

24. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
25. There is a significant _____ in pay between men and women in the company.
n. a significant difference or inequality between two or more things
26. The _____ group launched a series of attacks on government buildings.
n. willing to use force or violence to achieve a political or social goal
27. As a _____ she always focuses on finding practical solutions to problems.
n. a person who practically approaches situations and problems; someone who prioritizes usefulness and functionality over abstract principles or ideals
28. He _____ cut ties with anyone who crossed him.
adv. without compassion or pity; mercilessly
29. A large fire _____ the forest.
v. to cause damage to something badly
30. The dog's _____ on its back stood up as it growled at the mailman.
n. a stiff, short hair on a mammal's skin or a natural or artificial brush; a stiff, sharp point on a plant such as a thorn or a prickle; (verb) to react defensively to something; to stand up stiffly and be rigid
31. The _____ of the author's writing is the depth of emotion conveyed.
n. the perfect example of a quality or class

ANSWERS: 24. intellect, 25. disparity, 26. militant, 27. pragmatist, 28. ruthlessly, 29. ravaged, 30. bristle, 31. quintessence

32. The myth was _____ by scientists, who provided evidence to the contrary.
- v. to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless

ANSWERS: 32. debunked