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Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel: Mysteries of vernacular: Robot | TED Talk

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

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

mystery

n. something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

synonym : enigma, puzzle, secret

(1) **mystery** novel, (2) unsolved **mystery**

The **mystery** surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.

vernacular

n. a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region

synonym : dialect, idiom, lingo

(1) **vernacular** language, (2) native **vernacular**

The poet wrote in the **vernacular** of ordinary people.

origin

n. the first existence or beginning of something

synonym : root, source, ancestor

(1) **origin** of information, (2) racial **origin**

There are various hypotheses concerning the **origin** of life.

serf

n. a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority

synonym : peasant, slave, servant

(1) **serf** labor, (2) medieval **serfs**

My history class discussed the **serf-based** economy that dominated Europe during the Middle Ages.

servitude

n. the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience

synonym : bondage, slavery, subjugation

(1) **servitude** system, (2) mental **servitude**

The practice of forcing people into **servitude** is now illegal in many countries.

currency

n. a system of money in general use in a particular country

synonym : money, tender, cash

(1) **currency** exchange, (2) digital **currency**

The **currency** used in this country is the Euro.

church

n. a building or institution dedicated to religious worship or activities; a Christian religious organization or denomination

synonym : chapel, cathedral, synagogue

(1) **church** bell, (2) small **church**

The **church** on the corner is hosting a free community meal tonight.

labor

n. productive work, especially physical work done for wages; the people who do manual or physical work in a country or company for wage; (verb) to work hard or to strive and make an effort to reach a goal

synonym : toil, toil, donkeywork

(1) seasonal **labor**, (2) manual **labor**

In several countries, child **labor** is a serious social problem.

slight

adj. very small in degree or amount

synonym : feeble, nuanced, subtle

(1) feel a **slight** concern, (2) **slight** increase

We made **slight** modifications to reflect the views of both sides.

adjustment

n. a small change or movement made to something to improve it and achieve the desired result

synonym: alteration, adaptation, modification

(1) **adjustment** by hand, (2) a fine **adjustment**

He assumed the role of the arbitral **adjustment** of the controversy.

addition

n. the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers

synonym: accumulation, expansion, addendum

(1) chemical **addition**, (2) **addition** of vectors

In **addition**, private corporations provide healthcare services.

define

v. to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something

synonym: characterize, depict, express

(1) **define** a word, (2) **define** my position

To advance this discussion, we must **define** "success" rigorously.

toil

v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time

synonym: struggle, labor, work hard

(1) **toil** to make a living, (2) **toil** up the mountain

The farmers **toiled** in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.

figurative

adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal

synonym: metaphorical, symbolic, allegorical

(1) in a **figurative** sense, (2) **figurative** painting

When he said he was starving to death, it was a **figurative**

way of saying he was very hungry.

drudgery

n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant

synonym: tedium, laboriousness, grind

(1) office **drudgery**, (2) daily **drudgery**

The tedious **drudgery** of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.

fiction

n. the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true

synonym: fantasy, fable, invention

(1) stuff of science **fiction**, (2) non- **fiction** bestseller

Truth is stranger than **fiction**.

universal

adj. existing or affecting everywhere or everyone

synonym: common, broad, worldwide

(1) **universal** life, (2) principles of **universal** design

The picture earned near- **universal** acclaim from critics.

feat

n. a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery

synonym: achievement, accomplishment, exploit

(1) intellectual **feat**, (2) **feat** accomplishment

It is an incredible **feat** to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

automated

adj. carried out by machines or computers to replace or decrease human labor

synonym: computerized, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **automated** manual transmission, (2) **automated** way

The plant will continue operating through an **automated** system 24 hours a day.

distinctly

adv. in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is

unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable

synonym: clearly, obviously, unmistakably

(1) **distinctly** remember, (2) **distinctly** different

The **distinctly** floral scent of the perfume lingered in the air long after the wearer had left the room.

revolt

n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

synonym: rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

whim

n. a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

synonym: fancy, caprice, whimsy

(1) at the **whim** of circumstance, (2) **whim** of youth

He quit his job on a **whim** and moved to a new city.

scholarly

adj. relating to or characteristic of academic study

synonym: academic, learned, erudite

(1) **scholarly** article, (2) **scholarly** attainment

The **scholarly** journal published articles on various academic subjects.

opt

v. to make a choice from a range of possibilities

synonym: choose, select, pick

(1) **opt** out of society, (2) **opt** for a traditional wedding

I decided to **opt** for premature retirement.

emphasize

v. to give or show particular importance to something

synonym: highlight, accentuate, stress

(1) **emphasize** her words, (2) **emphasize** a direct relationship

Use italics or capitals to **emphasize** a word in a piece of writing.

enslave

v. to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action

synonym: coerce, deprive, imprison

(1) **enslave** poor peasants, (2) **enslave** indigenous people

Her beauty **enslaved** me completely.

translate

v. to convert or change words into another language

synonym: convert, transcribe, render

(1) **translate** a document into English, (2) **translate** the emotion to a movement

Translate the text from Italian into English.

enthusiastically

adv. in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

synonym: fervently, eagerly, passionately

(1) **enthusiastically** applauded, (2) discuss

enthusiastically

The study participants **enthusiastically** participated in the discussion, showing genuine interest.

embrace

v. to accept something willingly and enthusiastically;
(noun) the act of clasping another person in the arms as in greeting or affection

synonym: grasp, hold tightly, accept

(1) **embrace** an opportunity, (2) a warm **embrace**

The woods **embrace** the house.

predict

v. to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience

synonym: forecast, anticipate, foresee

(1) **predict** the future, (2) **predict** when she will arrive

It's notoriously challenging to **predict** birth rates.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. adj_____nt by hand | <i>n.</i> a small change or movement made to something to improve it and achieve the desired result |
| 2. unsolved my_____y | <i>n.</i> something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle |
| 3. sc_____ly attainment | <i>adj.</i> relating to or characteristic of academic study |
| 4. sl____t increase | <i>adj.</i> very small in degree or amount |
| 5. o_t for a traditional wedding | <i>v.</i> to make a choice from a range of possibilities |
| 6. pr_____t when she will arrive | <i>v.</i> to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience |
| 7. at the w__m of circumstance | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |
| 8. chemical ad_____on | <i>n.</i> the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers |
| 9. principles of un_____al design | <i>adj.</i> existing or affecting everywhere or everyone |
| 10. native ver_____ar | <i>n.</i> a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region |

ANSWERS: 1. adjustment, 2. mystery, 3. scholarly, 4. slight, 5. opt, 6. predict, 7. whim, 8. addition, 9. universal, 10. vernacular

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11. discuss ent_____lly | <i>adv.</i> in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval |
| 12. ent_____lly applauded | <i>adv.</i> in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval |
| 13. au_____ed manual transmission | <i>adj.</i> carried out by machines or computers to replace or decrease human labor |
| 14. em_____ze a direct relationship | <i>v.</i> to give or show particular importance to something |
| 15. intellectual f__t | <i>n.</i> a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery |
| 16. mental se_____de | <i>n.</i> the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience |
| 17. ver_____ar language | <i>n.</i> a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region |
| 18. t__l to make a living | <i>v.</i> to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time |
| 19. stuff of science fi_____n | <i>n.</i> the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true |
| 20. or____n of information | <i>n.</i> the first existence or beginning of something |
| 21. w__m of youth | <i>n.</i> a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained |

ANSWERS: 11. enthusiastically, 12. enthusiastically, 13. automated, 14. emphasize, 15. feat, 16. servitude, 17. vernacular, 18. toil, 19. fiction, 20. origin, 21. whim

22. racial or ___n *n.* the first existence or beginning of something
23. ch___h bell *n.* a building or institution dedicated to religious worship or activities; a Christian religious organization or denomination
24. dis_____ly remember *adv.* in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable
25. tr_____te a document into English *v.* to convert or change words into another language
26. pr_____t the future *v.* to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience
27. de___e a word *v.* to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something
28. sc_____ly article *adj.* relating to or characteristic of academic study
29. tr_____te the emotion to a movement *v.* to convert or change words into another language
30. cu_____cy exchange *n.* a system of money in general use in a particular country
31. t__l up the mountain *v.* to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
32. manual la__r *n.* productive work, especially physical work done for wages; the people who do manual or physical work in a country or company for wage; (verb) to work hard or to strive and make an effort to reach a goal

ANSWERS: 22. origin, 23. church, 24. distinctly, 25. translate, 26. predict, 27. define, 28. scholarly, 29. translate, 30. currency, 31. toil, 32. labor

33. o_t out of society *v.* to make a choice from a range of possibilities
34. non-fi_____n bestseller *n.* the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
35. a fine adj_____nt *n.* a small change or movement made to something to improve it and achieve the desired result
36. a warm em_____e *v.* to accept something willingly and enthusiastically; (noun) the act of claspng another person in the arms as in greeting or affection
37. seasonal la__r *n.* productive work, especially physical work done for wages; the people who do manual or physical work in a country or company for wage; (verb) to work hard or to strive and make an effort to reach a goal
38. em_____e an opportunity *v.* to accept something willingly and enthusiastically; (noun) the act of claspng another person in the arms as in greeting or affection
39. en_____e poor peasants *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
40. au_____ed way *adj.* carried out by machines or computers to replace or decrease human labor
41. un_____al life *adj.* existing or affecting everywhere or everyone

ANSWERS: 33. opt, 34. fiction, 35. adjustment, 36. embrace, 37. labor, 38. embrace, 39. enslave, 40. automated, 41. universal

42. en____e indigenous people *v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
43. feel a sl____t concern *adj.* very small in degree or amount
44. my____y novel *n.* something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle
45. re____t against the dictator *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
46. em____ze her words *v.* to give or show particular importance to something
47. s__f labor *n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
48. medieval s__fs *n.* a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
49. fig____ve painting *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
50. re____t against existing ways of thinking *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

ANSWERS: 42. enslave, 43. slight, 44. mystery, 45. revolt, 46. emphasize, 47. serf, 48. serf, 49. figurative, 50. revolt

51. office dr____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
52. small ch____h *n.* a building or institution dedicated to religious worship or activities; a Christian religious organization or denomination
53. in a fig____ve sense *adj.* using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
54. se____de system *n.* the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience
55. ad____on of vectors *n.* the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers
56. f__t accomplishment *n.* a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery
57. de____e my position *v.* to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something
58. digital cu____cy *n.* a system of money in general use in a particular country
59. daily dr____ry *n.* hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant
60. dis____ly different *adv.* in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable

ANSWERS: 51. drudgery, 52. church, 53. figurative, 54. servitude, 55. addition, 56. feat, 57. define, 58. currency, 59. drudgery, 60. distinctly

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ journal published articles on various academic subjects.
adj. relating to or characteristic of academic study
2. The _____ used in this country is the Euro.
n. a system of money in general use in a particular country
3. The farmers _____ in the fields, harvesting the crops before the start of the rainy season.
v. to work hard and persistently; to engage in physically or mentally demanding tasks or activities for extended periods of time
4. We made _____ modifications to reflect the views of both sides.
adj. very small in degree or amount
5. The _____ on the corner is hosting a free community meal tonight.
n. a building or institution dedicated to religious worship or activities; a Christian religious organization or denomination
6. My history class discussed the _____ economy that dominated Europe during the Middle Ages.
n. a person in feudal society who is bound to work on a lord's land and owes allegiance to the lord; a person who is subjected to a tyrannical or oppressive authority
7. The tedious _____ of answering phones all day made me want to quit my job.
n. hard, menial, and tedious work; a routine, monotonous task that is considered boring or unpleasant

ANSWERS: 1. scholarly, 2. currency, 3. toiled, 4. slight, 5. church, 6. serf-based, 7. drudgery

8. Truth is stranger than _____.
- n.* the type of book or story, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people; anything made up or imagined that is not true
9. In several countries, child _____ is a serious social problem.
- n.* productive work, especially physical work done for wages; the people who do manual or physical work in a country or company for wage; (verb) to work hard or to strive and make an effort to reach a goal
10. There are various hypotheses concerning the _____ of life.
- n.* the first existence or beginning of something
11. The plant will continue operating through an _____ system 24 hours a day.
- adj.* carried out by machines or computers to replace or decrease human labor
12. The practice of forcing people into _____ is now illegal in many countries.
- n.* the state of being a slave or being subject to someone else's control or domination; a condition of subjugation or subservience
13. The people tried to _____ to oust the tyrant.
- n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
14. Her beauty _____ me completely.
- v.* to make someone a slave; to deprive someone of their freedom of choice or action
15. He quit his job on a _____ and moved to a new city.
- n.* a sudden idea or desire, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

ANSWERS: 8. fiction, 9. labor, 10. origin, 11. automated, 12. servitude, 13. revolt, 14. enslaved, 15. whim

16. When he said he was starving to death, it was a _____ way of saying he was very hungry.
adj. using figures of speech, especially metaphors, to create a special effect; not literal
17. _____ the text from Italian into English.
v. to convert or change words into another language
18. The picture earned near-_____ acclaim from critics.
adj. existing or affecting everywhere or everyone
19. The poet wrote in the _____ of ordinary people.
n. a language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region
20. It is an incredible _____ to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.
n. a notable or impressive achievement, especially one that requires great skill or bravery
21. In _____ private corporations provide healthcare services.
n. the act or process of adding something to something else; the process of adding numbers
22. The woods _____ the house.
v. to accept something willingly and enthusiastically; (noun) the act of clasping another person in the arms as in greeting or affection
23. The _____ surrounding the disappearance of the traveler has yet to be solved by authorities.
n. something difficult to understand or explain; a secret or enigmatic quality that adds to the fascination or interest of something; a genre of fiction that involves the solution of a crime or a puzzle

ANSWERS: 16. figurative, 17. Translate, 18. universal, 19. vernacular, 20. feat, 21. addition, 22. embrace, 23. mystery

24. The _____ floral scent of the perfume lingered in the air long after the wearer had left the room.

adv. in a way that is clearly or noticeably different or separates from something else; in a way that is unmistakably or unequivocally defined or identifiable

25. Use italics or capitals to _____ a word in a piece of writing.

v. to give or show particular importance to something

26. He assumed the role of the arbitral _____ of the controversy.

n. a small change or movement made to something to improve it and achieve the desired result

27. To advance this discussion, we must _____ "success" rigorously.

v. to state or explain precisely the nature, scope, or meaning of something

28. I decided to ____ for premature retirement.

v. to make a choice from a range of possibilities

29. It's notoriously challenging to _____ birth rates.

v. to state beforehand that something will happen in the future, mainly based on knowledge or experience

30. The study participants _____ participated in the discussion, showing genuine interest.

adv. in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

ANSWERS: 24. distinctly, 25. emphasize, 26. adjustment, 27. define, 28. opt, 29. predict, 30. enthusiastically