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Margaret Heffernan: The dangers of willful blindness | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

outsider

n. a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

synonym : stranger, foreigner, alien

(1) **outsider** perspective, (2) **outsider** artist

Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an **outsider** at times.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym : wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

waltz

n. a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure

synonym : ballroom dance, tango, foxtrot

(1) **waltz** music, (2) elegant **waltz**

The dancers practiced the steps of the **waltz** meticulously to perfect their performance.

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.

puzzling

adj. confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious

synonym : baffling, confusing, enigmatic

(1) **puzzling** behavior, (2) **puzzling** questions

The detective found the clues **puzzling** and couldn't solve the case immediately.

puzzled

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

synonym : confused, perplexed, bewildered

(1) **puzzled** expression, (2) **puzzled** by the question

She was **puzzled** by the strange behavior of her cat.

vermiculite

n. a hydrated laminar mineral, commonly resembling mica that expands greatly on heating, used in insulation, horticulture, and as a medium for seed germination

synonym : perlite, expanded mica

(1) asbestos-containing **vermiculite**, (2) **vermiculite** mining

The **vermiculite** insulation in our attic needs to be removed due to safety concerns.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym : isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity

We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

- loft** *n.* a large, open space in an upper part of a building, typically under a roof; a raised platform or gallery in a building, which is used for storage or as a work or living space
synonym : attic, garret, upper chamber
(1) **loft** apartment, (2) warehouse **loft**
The artist's **loft** was filled with natural light and creative energy.
- rink** *n.* a flat, typically enclosed surface used for skating or other recreational activities such as roller skating, ice hockey, or curling
synonym : park, field
(1) outdoor **rink**, (2) roller **rink**
I love to skate on the ice **rink** during the winter.
- amaze** *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
synonym : astound, surprise, stagger
(1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone
The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.
- 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.
- inhabitant** *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
synonym : dweller, occupant, resident
(1) the early **inhabitants** of Europe, (2) **inhabitant** tax
His family is the oldest **inhabitant** of the island.
- grandchild** *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
synonym : offspring, descendant, progeny
(1) **grandchild-grandparent** relationship, (2) **grandchild** development

The grandparents take care of their **grandchild** while the parents are at work.

willful

adj. deliberate or intentional; done on purpose; characterized by stubborn determination or self-will

synonym: stubborn, obstinate, headstrong

(1) **willful** disobedience, (2) **willful** misconduct

The **willful** child refused to listen to any instructions from his parents.

deem

v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

synonym: believe, consider, suppose

(1) **deem** socially responsible, (2) **deem** wrong or inappropriate

Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were **deemed** unsafe.

Catholic

adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

(1) **catholic** in his tastes, (2) the **Catholic** Church

Sociologists are now interested in **catholic** world peace.

runup

n. the period leading up to a specific event, such as an election, deadline, or project completion; the act of running up to something, as in a race or competition

synonym: approach, buildup, ramp-up

(1) interest-rate **runup**, (2) the **runup** in a stock price

The store experienced a **runup** in sales during the holiday season.

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.

germ

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

synonym : bacterium, microbe, pathogen

(1) antibiotic-resistant **germ**, (2) a **germ-free** environment

The **germ** of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

retaliation

n. the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act

synonym : retribution, revenge, vengeance

(1) **retaliation** tactics, (2) **retaliation** against discrimination

The company faced heavy **retaliation** from its competitors after releasing a controversial product.

futile

adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

synonym : useless, worthless, ineffective

(1) **futile** talk, (2) make a **futile** protest

It was **futile** to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.

whistleblower

n. a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people

synonym : informant, snitch

(1) anonymous **whistleblower**, (2) government

whistleblower

The government has laws in place to protect **whistleblowers** from retaliation.

dedicate

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular

purpose or use

synonym : consecrate, devote, commit

(1) **dedicate** a few hours, (2) **dedicate** a chapter to the subject

He **dedicated** his life to helping others.

obedient

adj. willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do

synonym : compliant, submissive, dutiful

(1) grow to be **obedient**, (2) **obedient** dog

The **obedient** dog followed its owner's commands.

bliss

n. extreme happiness or joy

synonym : delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

hard-won

adj. achieved with great effort, perseverance, or sacrifice; earned or gained only after overcoming significant obstacles or challenges

synonym : challenging, hard-fought, difficult

(1) **hard-won** victory, (2) **hard-won** peace

After years of hard work, she finally achieved her **hard-won** success.

naysaying

n. the act or practice of habitually objecting or criticizing; a tendency to be negative, pessimistic, or unsupportive

synonym : doubt, skepticism, criticism

(1) **naysaying** attitude, (2) constant **naysaying**

I ignore the **naysaying** of others and pursue my dreams anyway.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym : defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when

demolishing petroleum plants.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. gra_____ld development | <i>n.</i> a child of someone's son or daughter |
| 2. de_____te a chapter to the subject | <i>v.</i> to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use |
| 3. grow to be ob_____nt | <i>adj.</i> willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do |
| 4. in_____te the room from sound | <i>v.</i> to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc. |
| 5. the Ca_____ic Church | <i>adj.</i> universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader |
| 6. warehouse l__t | <i>n.</i> a large, open space in an upper part of a building, typically under a roof; a raised platform or gallery in a building, which is used for storage or as a work or living space |
| 7. ind_____us student | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 8. ret_____on against discrimination | <i>n.</i> the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act |

ANSWERS: 1. grandchild, 2. dedicate, 3. obedient, 4. insulate, 5. Catholic, 6. loft, 7. industrious, 8. retaliation

9. am__e everyone *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
10. con_____te his ego *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
11. wa__z music *n.* a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure
12. ret_____on tactics *n.* the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act
13. inh_____nt tax *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
14. ver_____te mining *n.* a hydrated laminar mineral, commonly resembling mica that expands greatly on heating, used in insulation, horticulture, and as a medium for seed germination
15. antibiotic-resistant g__m *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one
16. 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
17. fu___e talk *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

ANSWERS: 9. amaze, 10. contaminate, 11. waltz, 12. retaliation, 13. inhabitant, 14. vermiculite, 15. germ, 16. anomaly, 17. futile

18. ha____on victory *adj.* achieved with great effort, perseverance, or sacrifice; earned or gained only after overcoming significant obstacles or challenges
19. ultimate bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy
20. constant na_____ng *n.* the act or practice of habitually objecting or criticizing; a tendency to be negative, pessimistic, or unsupportive
21. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
22. pu____ng behavior *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
23. anonymous whi_____wer *n.* a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people
24. ins_____ize customary laws *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
25. am__e and entertain visitors *v.* to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
26. d__m wrong or inappropriate *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
27. pu____ng questions *adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
28. ignorance is bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy

ANSWERS: 18. hard-won, 19. bliss, 20. naysaying, 21. electrify, 22. puzzling, 23. whistleblower, 24. institutionalize, 25. amaze, 26. deem, 27. puzzling, 28. bliss

29. ha____on peace *adj.* achieved with great effort, perseverance, or sacrifice; earned or gained only after overcoming significant obstacles or challenges
30. ou____er artist *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
31. the ru__p in a stock price *n.* the period leading up to a specific event, such as an election, deadline, or project completion; the act of running up to something, as in a race or competition
32. con____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
33. in____te electricity *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
34. ind____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
35. make a fu___e protest *adj.* incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
36. l__t apartment *n.* a large, open space in an upper part of a building, typically under a roof; a raised platform or gallery in a building, which is used for storage or as a work or living space
37. wi____l disobedience *adj.* deliberate or intentional; done on purpose; characterized by stubborn determination or self-will

ANSWERS: 29. hard-won, 30. outsider, 31. runup, 32. contaminate, 33. insulate, 34. industrious, 35. futile, 36. loft, 37. willful

38. ins_____ize a system *v.* to establish or make something a part of an institution (= a place such as a university, hospital, etc.)
39. government whi_____wer *n.* a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people
40. pu_____d expression *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
41. roller r__k *n.* a flat, typically enclosed surface used for skating or other recreational activities such as roller skating, ice hockey, or curling
42. asbestos-containing ver_____te *n.* a hydrated laminar mineral, commonly resembling mica that expands greatly on heating, used in insulation, horticulture, and as a medium for seed germination
43. the early inh_____nts of Europe *n.* a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
44. interest-rate ru__p *n.* the period leading up to a specific event, such as an election, deadline, or project completion; the act of running up to something, as in a race or competition
45. na_____ng attitude *n.* the act or practice of habitually objecting or criticizing; a tendency to be negative, pessimistic, or unsupportive
46. wi_____l misconduct *adj.* deliberate or intentional; done on purpose; characterized by stubborn determination or self-will

ANSWERS: 38. institutionalize, 39. whistleblower, 40. puzzled, 41. rink, 42. vermiculite, 43. inhabitant, 44. runup, 45. naysaying, 46. willful

47. elegant wa__z *n.* a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure
48. ob____nt dog *adj.* willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do
49. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
50. ou_____er perspective *n.* a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles
51. ca_____ic in his tastes *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
52. d__m socially responsible *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
53. pu_____d by the question *adj.* confused or uncertain because you do not understand something
54. 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
55. a g__m-free environment *n.* a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

ANSWERS: 47. waltz, 48. obedient, 49. grandchild, 50. outsider, 51. Catholic, 52. deem, 53. puzzled, 54. anomaly, 55. germ

56. de____te a few hours *v.* to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use
57. outdoor r__k *n.* a flat, typically enclosed surface used for skating or other recreational activities such as roller skating, ice hockey, or curling
58. el_____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

ANSWERS: 56. dedicate, 57. rink, 58. electrify

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ dog followed its owner's commands.

adj. willing to do what someone in authority tells you to do

2. The company faced heavy _____ from its competitors after releasing a controversial product.

n. the act of seeking vengeance or revenge in response to a perceived wrong or harm suffered, usually to cause harm to the person or group responsible for the initial act

3. She was _____ by the strange behavior of her cat.

adj. confused or uncertain because you do not understand something

4. It was _____ to try and fix the broken vase, as it was too badly damaged.

adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

5. The _____ of his idea came from watching birds flying in flocks.

n. a very tiny living that causes the disease; a piece of something such as an organism, concept, etc., capable of growing into a new one or part of one

6. Living in a foreign country can make you feel like an _____ at times.

n. a person who is not part of a particular group, community, or society; someone who is considered to be on the periphery or outside of established social circles

7. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

ANSWERS: 1. obedient, 2. retaliation, 3. puzzled, 4. futile, 5. germ, 6. outsider, 7. contaminate

8. The _____ insulation in our attic needs to be removed due to safety concerns.
- n.* a hydrated laminar mineral, commonly resembling mica that expands greatly on heating, used in insulation, horticulture, and as a medium for seed germination
9. The _____ child refused to listen to any instructions from his parents.
- adj.* deliberate or intentional; done on purpose; characterized by stubborn determination or self-will
10. The first two years of her marriage were sheer _____.
- n.* extreme happiness or joy
11. After years of hard work, she finally achieved her _____ success.
- adj.* achieved with great effort, perseverance, or sacrifice; earned or gained only after overcoming significant obstacles or challenges
12. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
- n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
13. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
- v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
14. The detective found the clues _____ and couldn't solve the case immediately.
- adj.* confusing or difficult to understand; mysterious
15. I ignore the _____ of others and pursue my dreams anyway.
- n.* the act or practice of habitually objecting or criticizing; a tendency to be negative, pessimistic, or unsupportive

ANSWERS: 8. vermiculite, 9. willful, 10. bliss, 11. hard-won, 12. grandchild, 13. electrify, 14. puzzling, 15. naysaying

16. I love to skate on the ice _____ during the winter.
n. a flat, typically enclosed surface used for skating or other recreational activities such as roller skating, ice hockey, or curling
17. His family is the oldest _____ of the island.
n. a person or an animal that lives in a particular place
18. 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
19. 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.)
20. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.
v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
21. Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were _____ unsafe.
v. to consider or decide something in a particular way
22. The artist's _____ was filled with natural light and creative energy.
n. a large, open space in an upper part of a building, typically under a roof; a raised platform or gallery in a building, which is used for storage or as a work or living space
23. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

ANSWERS: 16. rink, 17. inhabitant, 18. anomaly, 19. institutionalize, 20. amazed, 21. deemed, 22. loft, 23. industrious

24. Sociologists are now interested in _____ world peace.

adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

25. He _____ his life to helping others.

v. to give all of your energy, time, etc., entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause; to set apart for a particular purpose or use

26. The government has laws in place to protect _____ from retaliation.

n. a person who reveals or reports illegal, unethical, or immoral activities, primarily in the workplace or government, that are not publicly known but harm the public interest or other people

27. The dancers practiced the steps of the _____ meticulously to perfect their performance.

n. a ballroom dance in triple time that originated in Vienna and is characterized by a flowing, graceful style and a strong accent on the first beat of each measure

28. The store experienced a _____ in sales during the holiday season.

n. the period leading up to a specific event, such as an election, deadline, or project completion; the act of running up to something, as in a race or competition

29. We had our bedroom _____ before winter came.

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

ANSWERS: 24. catholic, 25. dedicated, 26. whistleblowers, 27. waltz, 28. runup, 29. insulated