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Anant Agarwal: Why massive open online courses

(still) matter | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

reimagine

v. to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way

synonym: re-conceptualize, re-envision, re-create

(1) **reimagine** the future, (2) **reimagine** the possibilities

The company is trying to **reimagine** its business model to stay competitive.

credential

v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts

synonym: certify, verify, (noun) certificate

(1) **credential** themselves by showing their registration,

(2) teaching **credential**

To get the job, I need to **credential** my experience and education.

reinvent

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

synonym: recreate, remake, revive

(1) **reinvent** local dishes, (2) **reinvent** our life

They have tried to **reinvent** their grocery stores.

instruct

v. to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something

synonym: train, coach, guide

(1) **instruct** a student, (2) **instruct** a computer

The facility manager **instructed** the security guards to be on high alert.

reengineer

v. to redesign or restructure something such as a machine, system, organization, etc.

synonym: redesign, remodel, revamp

(1) **reengineer** work processes, (2) **reengineer** the organizational structure

As technology evolves, we need to **reengineer** our work styles.

micromanagement

n. a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments

synonym: control-freak management, nit-picking, excessive supervision

(1) **micromanagement** approach, (2) **micromanagement** techniques

His manager's **micromanagement** style drove him crazy, making him feel like he couldn't make any decisions on his own.

ox

n. a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body

synonym: cow, bullock, steer

(1) **ox** cart, (2) water **ox**

The sacrifice of an **ox** was a common religious ritual in ancient cultures.

blackboard

n. a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk

synonym: chalkboard, slate

(1) chalk on a **blackboard**, (2) electronic **blackboard**
The teacher asked me to rub out the **blackboard**.

gamification

n. the use of game design elements and techniques in non-game contexts to engage and motivate people to achieve their goals

(1) **gamification** of education, (2) use **gamification** to learning

The company implemented a **gamification** program to encourage employees to meet their sales targets.

alumni

n. (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program

synonym: graduates, former students, alum

(1) **alumni** network, (2) **alumni** relations

Many **alumni** of our college have become successful in their chosen fields.

grunt

v. to make a short, low noise in the throat

synonym: groan, mutter, murmur

(1) **grunt** a laugh, (2) **grunt** in discontent

She **grunted** and stopped drinking coffee.

epiphany

n. a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus

synonym: revelation, enlightenment, insight

(1) **epiphany** about life, (2) Feast of **Epiphany**

She had an **epiphany** while meditating and realized the answer to her problem.

millennial

adj. relating to a period of a thousand years or the year 2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, also called Generation Y

synonym: thousand, (noun) Generation Y

(1) **millennial** record, (2) the **millennial** reign

Earth's ecosystems are greatly affected by **millennial-scale** changes in climate.

belie

v. to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something

synonym: disprove, refute, contradict

(1) **belie** his expectations, (2) **belies** the impact of the speaker's words

The peaceful surroundings **belied** the danger lurking just around the corner.

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.

predilection

n. a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something

synonym: inclination, leaning, preference

(1) **predilection** for chocolate, (2) a strong **predilection** for dogs

Her **predilection** for spicy food made her the go-to person for restaurant recommendations.

dorm

n. a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus

synonym: residence hall, hostel, boarding house

(1) **dorm** room, (2) university **dorm**

Living in a **dorm** can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.

unbeknownst

adv. without the knowledge or awareness of someone;
without someone's knowledge or participation

synonym : secretly, covertly

(1) **unbeknownst** to me, (2) **unbeknownst** to any of us

Unbeknownst to the family, the treasure had been hidden in the attic for years.

stumble

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

synonym : bumble, struggle, misstep

(1) **stumble** financially, (2) **stumble** through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

petri

n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria

(1) **petri** dish test, (2) bacteria on **petri** dishes

Glass **petri** dishes are used to culture microorganisms.

interleave

v. to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents

synonym : interlace, interweave, intersperse

(1) **interleave** pages, (2) **interleave** yarns

To create a sturdy fabric, the weavers must **interleave** the threads.

scramble

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

synonym : jumble, disarrange

(1) **scramble** my mind, (2) **scramble** for support

Local business owners **scrambled** to find skilled workers.

rewind

v. to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning

synonym : wind back, back up, reverse

(1) **rewind** a film, (2) manually **rewind** the tape

Please **rewind** the thread onto the reel.

mute

adj. silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated

synonym : silent, unspoken, voiceless

(1) **mute** button, (2) **mute** sound

The actor played a **mute** character and had to rely on facial expressions to portray his emotions.

spaceship

n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space

synonym : starship, rocket, spacecraft

(1) a **spaceship** to survey the moon, (2) alien **spaceship**

They launched a crewless **spaceship** into space.

distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

synonym : divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

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.

revolutionize

v. to bring about a complete or radical change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas

synonym : transform, innovate, modernize

(1) **revolutionize** the industry, (2) **revolutionize** the technology

The invention of the smartphone **revolutionized** the way we communicate with each other.

arsenal

n. a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources

or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor

synonym: storage, stockpile, armory

(1) **arsenal** of knowledge, (2) political **arsenal**

The police found a hidden **arsenal** of weapons in the suspect's house.

raspberry

n. a sweet and tart edible fruit that grows on bushes, usually with a soft red or black color and a rough texture on the outside

synonym: blackberry, bramble, dewberry

(1) **raspberry** flavor, (2) **raspberry** tea

The **raspberry** cheesecake at that restaurant is out of this world.

mortar

n. a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

synonym: howitzer, cement mixer, masonry tool

(1) **mortar** joints, (2) apply **mortar**

The bricklayer started on the second course of bricks, laying them in fresh **mortar**.

dormitory

n. a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles

synonym: dorm, residence hall, hostel

(1) college **dormitory**, (2) shared **dormitory**

The girls' **dormitory** had a strict curfew of 11 p.m.

grandparent

n. a parent of one's father or mother

(1) great- **grandparent**, (2) person of **grandparent** age

She was close to her paternal **grandparents** and often spent summers with them.

stalk

v. to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main

stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit;
the stem or main axis of a support structure or
framework

synonym: follow, creep up on, (noun) stem

(1) **stalk** of celery, (2) **stalk** from the room

The hunter quietly **stalked** the deer for hours before taking
the shot

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. university d__m | <i>n.</i> a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus |
| 2. pe__i dish test | <i>n.</i> (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria |
| 3. re_____ne the possibilities | <i>v.</i> to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way |
| 4. in_____ct a student | <i>v.</i> to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something |
| 5. manually re___d the tape | <i>v.</i> to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning |
| 6. di_____ct public opinion | <i>v.</i> to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do |
| 7. re_____ne the future | <i>v.</i> to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way |
| 8. college do_____ry | <i>n.</i> a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles |
| 9. ra_____ry flavor | <i>n.</i> a sweet and tart edible fruit that grows on bushes, usually with a soft red or black color and a rough texture on the outside |

ANSWERS: 1. dorm, 2. petri, 3. reimagine, 4. instruct, 5. rewind, 6. distract, 7. reimagine, 8. dormitory, 9. raspberry

10. the mil_____al reign *adj.* relating to a period of a thousand years or the year 2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, also called Generation Y
11. re_____nt local dishes *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
12. cre_____al themselves by showing their registration *v.* to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
13. al____i network *n.* (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program
14. a strong pre_____ion for dogs *n.* a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something
15. teaching cre_____al *v.* to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
16. alien sp_____ip *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
17. apply mo____r *n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances
18. m__e sound *adj.* silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated

ANSWERS: 10. millennial, 11. reinvent, 12. credential, 13. alumni, 14. predilection, 15. credential, 16. spaceship, 17. mortar, 18. mute

19. unb_____st to any of us *adv.* without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
20. use gam_____ion to learning *n.* the use of game design elements and techniques in non-game contexts to engage and motivate people to achieve their goals
21. political ar_____l *n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor
22. Feast of Ep_____ny *n.* a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus
23. al_____i relations *n.* (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program
24. shared do_____ry *n.* a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles
25. sc_____le for support *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
26. mo_____r joints *n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

ANSWERS: 19. unbeknownst, 20. gamification, 21. arsenal, 22. epiphany, 23. alumni, 24. dormitory, 25. scramble, 26. mortar

27. gra_____ld development *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
28. d__m room *n.* a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus
29. great-gra_____nt *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
30. st_____e financially *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
31. re_____nt our life *v.* to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new
32. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
33. ep_____ny about life *n.* a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus
34. st__k from the room *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
35. person of gra_____nt age *n.* a parent of one's father or mother
36. re___d a film *v.* to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning

ANSWERS: 27. grandchild, 28. dorm, 29. grandparent, 30. stumble, 31. reinvent, 32. fascinate, 33. epiphany, 34. stalk, 35. grandparent, 36. rewind

37. gra_____ld-grandparent relationship *n.* a child of someone's son or daughter
38. electronic bla_____rd *n.* a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk
39. int_____ve pages *v.* to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents
40. st__k of celery *v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
41. chalk on a bla_____rd *n.* a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk
42. a sp_____ip to survey the moon *n.* (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
43. rev_____ize the technology *v.* to bring about a complete or radical change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas
44. m__e button *adj.* silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated

ANSWERS: 37. grandchild, 38. blackboard, 39. interleave, 40. stalk, 41. blackboard, 42. spaceship, 43. revolutionize, 44. mute

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| 45. ree_____er the organizational structure | v. | to redesign or restructure something such as a machine, system, organization, etc. |
| 46. gr__t in discontent | v. | to make a short, low noise in the throat |
| 47. sc_____le my mind | v. | to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you |
| 48. water ox | n. | a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavysset body |
| 49. gr__t a laugh | v. | to make a short, low noise in the throat |
| 50. be__es the impact of the speaker's words | v. | to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something |
| 51. ree_____er work processes | v. | to redesign or restructure something such as a machine, system, organization, etc. |
| 52. be__e his expectations | v. | to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something |
| 53. st_____e through life | v. | to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily |
| 54. di_____ct attention from the real issue | v. | to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do |
| 55. ar_____l of knowledge | n. | a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor |

ANSWERS: 45. reengineer, 46. grunt, 47. scramble, 48. ox, 49. grunt, 50. belie, 51. reengineer, 52. belie, 53. stumble, 54. distract, 55. arsenal

56. mil_____al record *adj.* relating to a period of a thousand years or the year 2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, also called Generation Y
57. int_____ve yarns *v.* to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents
58. pre_____ion for chocolate *n.* a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something
59. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
60. mic_____ent techniques *n.* a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments
61. gam_____ion of education *n.* the use of game design elements and techniques in non-game contexts to engage and motivate people to achieve their goals
62. bacteria on pe__i dishes *n.* (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
63. unb_____st to me *adv.* without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
64. ra_____ry tea *n.* a sweet and tart edible fruit that grows on bushes, usually with a soft red or black color and a rough texture on the outside

ANSWERS: 56. millennial, 57. interleave, 58. predilection, 59. fascinate, 60. micromanagement, 61. gamification, 62. petri, 63. unbeknownst, 64. raspberry

65. ox cart *n.* a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavyset body
66. rev_____ize the industry *v.* to bring about a complete or radical change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas
67. in_____ct a computer *v.* to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something
68. mic_____ent approach *n.* a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments

ANSWERS: 65. ox, 66. revolutionize, 67. instruct, 68. micromanagement

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Many _____ of our college have become successful in their chosen fields.
n. (the plural form of "alumnus" or "alumna") former students or graduates of an educational institution or program

2. His manager's _____ style drove him crazy, making him feel like he couldn't make any decisions on his own.
n. a style of management characterized by excessive attention to detail and control, often resulting in inefficient or demotivating work environments

3. The girls' _____ had a strict curfew of 11 p.m.
n. a large room or building that provides sleeping quarters for multiple people, typically students or workers, often in separate beds or cubicles

4. Her _____ for spicy food made her the go-to person for restaurant recommendations.
n. a preference or inclination for something; a liking or fondness for something

5. She was close to her paternal _____ and often spent summers with them.
n. a parent of one's father or mother

6. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

7. The sacrifice of an ___ was a common religious ritual in ancient cultures.
n. a large domesticated mammal, commonly used for draft purposes, with two broad horns and a heavysset body

ANSWERS: 1. alumni, 2. micromanagement, 3. dormitory, 4. predilection, 5. grandparents, 6. fascinated, 7. ox

8. The actor played a _____ character and had to rely on facial expressions to portray his emotions.

adj. silent; not speaking or unable to speak; not expressed or articulated

9. Earth's ecosystems are greatly affected by _____ changes in climate.

adj. relating to a period of a thousand years or the year 2000; (noun) a person born between the early 1980s and the late 1990s, also called Generation Y

10. They have tried to _____ their grocery stores.

v. to change something so drastically that it looks to be completely new

11. Living in a _____ can be a great way to meet new people when you're in college.

n. a residence hall or building that provides living quarters for students or other occupants, typically on a college or university campus

12. The invention of the smartphone _____ the way we communicate with each other.

v. to bring about a complete or radical change in something, often through the introduction of new methods or ideas

13. As technology evolves, we need to _____ our work styles.

v. to redesign or restructure something such as a machine, system, organization, etc.

14. Local business owners _____ to find skilled workers.

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

15. The facility manager _____ the security guards to be on high alert.

v. to teach someone practical skills or knowledge; to formally order or tell someone to do something

ANSWERS: 8. mute, 9. millennial-scale, 10. reinvent, 11. dorm, 12. revolutionized, 13. reengineer, 14. scrambled, 15. instructed

16. The hunter quietly _____ the deer for hours before taking the shot
- v.* to follow or track someone or something closely and quietly, usually to cause harm or surveillance; to move slowly and quietly to avoid detection; (noun) the main stem of a plant that supports leaves, flowers, and fruit; the stem or main axis of a support structure or framework
17. She had an _____ while meditating and realized the answer to her problem.
- n.* a moment of sudden and great realization or revelation; a Christian festival, held on 6 January, celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus
18. _____ to the family, the treasure had been hidden in the attic for years.
- adv.* without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
19. The company implemented a _____ program to encourage employees to meet their sales targets.
- n.* the use of game design elements and techniques in non-game contexts to engage and motivate people to achieve their goals
20. To create a sturdy fabric, the weavers must _____ the threads.
- v.* to insert or alternate layers of one thing between two or more layers of another thing, particularly in a patterned or systematic way, such as in computer memory or documents
21. The company is trying to _____ its business model to stay competitive.
- v.* to imagine or conceive of something in a new or different way
22. The bricklayer started on the second course of bricks, laying them in fresh _____.
- n.* a mixture of cement, sand, and water used for binding building materials together; a heavy, deep bowl used to pound or grind substances

ANSWERS: 16. stalked, 17. epiphany, 18. Unbeknownst, 19. gamification, 20. interleave, 21. reimagine, 22. mortar

23. The peaceful surroundings _____ the danger lurking just around the corner.
- v. to contradict or show to be false or untrue; to give a false impression or disguise the true nature of something
24. Please don't _____ me while I'm studying.
- v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
25. The _____ cheesecake at that restaurant is out of this world.
- n. a sweet and tart edible fruit that grows on bushes, usually with a soft red or black color and a rough texture on the outside
26. Glass _____ dishes are used to culture microorganisms.
- n. (petri dish) a small, clear, and round dish with a lid used in laboratories, especially for growing bacteria
27. They launched a crewless _____ into space.
- n. (especially in science fiction) a spacecraft designed to carry a crew into interstellar space
28. To get the job, I need to _____ my experience and education.
- v. to provide someone with certification or verification of their qualifications, usually in a particular field or profession; (noun) a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts
29. Please _____ the thread onto the reel.
- v. to make something, such as a film or tape, go back to the beginning
30. She _____ over the tree root.
- v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

ANSWERS: 23. belied, 24. distract, 25. raspberry, 26. petri, 27. spaceship, 28. credential, 29. rewind, 30. stumbled

31. The police found a hidden _____ of weapons in the suspect's house.
- n.* a collection of weapons or military equipment stored in preparation for war or conflict; a collection of resources or tools available for use in a particular field or endeavor
32. The teacher asked me to rub out the _____.
- n.* a large board made of a smooth, usually dark-colored slate attached to a wall used by teachers in schools for writing on with chalk
33. She _____ and stopped drinking coffee.
- v.* to make a short, low noise in the throat
34. The grandparents take care of their _____ while the parents are at work.
- n.* a child of someone's son or daughter

ANSWERS: 31. arsenal, 32. blackboard, 33. grunted, 34. grandchild