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Richard E. Cytowic: What percentage of your brain do you use? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

mistakenly

adv. in a mistaken or incorrect way; wrongly

synonym: incorrectly, erroneously, wrongly

(1) **mistakenly** left his keys, (2) **mistakenly** delete the important file

He **mistakenly** thought the red liquid was juice, but it was paint.

indict

v. to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

synonym: accuse, charge, prosecute

(1) **indict** a suspect, (2) **indict** him of injuries

The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to **indict** the corrupt politician.

scant

adj. barely sufficient or adequate; lacking in quantity or amount

synonym : minimal, scanty, sparse

(1) **scant** resources, (2) **scant** century

There was a **scant** amount of food left in the fridge.

misunderstand

v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way

synonym : misinterpret, misperceive, misapprehend

(1) **misunderstand** each other, (2) **misunderstand** entirely about her

You should not **misunderstand** the meaning of freedom.

lobe

n. a rounded projection or division, especially of the brain, lung, or liver

synonym : part, section, division

(1) **lobe** of the liver, (2) frontal **lobe**

The lungs are divided into five **lobes**.

parietal

adj. relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure

synonym : cerebral, skull, cranial

(1) **parietal** cortex, (2) **parietal** bone

The **parietal** lobe of the brain is responsible for processing sensory information.

elusive

adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

synonym : mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

underscore

v. to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it

synonym : emphasize, underline, highlight

(1) **underscore** an important fact, (2) **underscore** the

severity

That incident **underscored** the vulnerability of the national defense system.

rodent

n. a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail

synonym : mouse, rat, hamster

(1) **rodent** repellent, (2) prevent **rodent** damage

He set up a trap to catch the **rodent**.

canine

adj. relating to or characteristic of dogs or the dog family; having qualities that are similar to those of dogs, such as loyalty or aggressiveness

synonym : laniary, dog-like, doggy

(1) **canine** behavior, (2) **canine** teeth

The veterinarian recommended a **canine-friendly** diet for my dog's health.

neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

synonym : nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

trade-off

n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise

synonym : compromise, balance, exchange

(1) **trade-off** problem, (2) environmental **trade-off**

There was a **trade-off** between speed and accuracy in the task.

primate

n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

synonym : ape, monkey, lemur

(1) **primate** species, (2) **primate** sanctuary

Many scientists study **primate** behavior and intelligence.

ape

n. a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons

synonym: monkey, primate, simian

(1) jungle **ape**, (2) play the **ape**

The scientist studied the behavior of **apes** in the wild.

uphold

v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

synonym: defend, maintain, sustain

(1) **uphold** the law, (2) **uphold** tradition

The judge may **uphold** the decision of the lower court.

gutsy

adj. displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges

synonym: courageous, brave, daring

(1) **gutsy** move, (2) **gutsy** performance

It was **gutsy** to quit her job and start her own business.

hog

n. a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

synonym: pig, swine, boar

(1) **hog** farming, (2) **hog** all the glory

The farmer raised his **hogs** for meat and sold them at a local market.

astound

v. to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

synonym: amaze, astonish, surprise

(1) **astound** everyone, (2) **astound** the viewer

The final result was nothing short of **astounding**.

propel

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

synonym: drive, push, move

(1) **propel** growth, (2) **propel** the ship

An increase in employment helps **propel** economic growth.

axon

n. a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell

(1) an **axon** of a nerve cell, (2) the **axon** terminals

We are developing a technology to promote the elongation and regeneration of sensory nerve **axons**.

synapse

n. the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it

(1) **synapse** circuit, (2) end at a **synapse**

Animals transmit nerve impulses through **synapses**.

sparse

adj. only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area

synonym: scarce, exiguous, infrequent

(1) a **sparse** population, (2) **sparse** snowfall

There is a **sparse** area between galaxies.

drawback

n. a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

synonym: disadvantage, defect, weakness

(1) the **drawback** of his method, (2) one of the main **drawbacks**

He pointed out all the **drawbacks** to our plan.

superfluous

adj. unnecessary; more than what is needed or required

synonym: extra, unnecessary, redundant

(1) **superfluous** information, (2) **superfluous** words

The recipe called for a **superfluous** amount of salt and made the dish too salty.

jettison

v. to throw away or abandon something, often to lighten a load or to remove something that is no longer needed; to discard or get rid of something

synonym: discard, dump, unload

(1) **jettison** cargo, (2) **jettison** old habits

The spaceship had to **jettison** some of its fuel to lighten its weight for liftoff.

conserve

v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction

synonym: preserve, save, maintain

(1) means to **conserve** energy, (2) **conserve** coal resources

Children must be taught to **conserve** our natural environment.

multitasking

n. the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time

synonym: juggling, multihandling, parallelism

(1) computer **multitasking**, (2) **multitasking** ability

She could finish all her work on time because of her **multitasking** skills.

errand

n. a short trip that is taken to perform a specified task, such as to take a message or to take or collect something

synonym: task, chore

(1) **errand** boy, (2) run an **errand**

He sent me on an **errand**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. as_____d everyone | <i>v.</i> to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much |
| 2. sup_____us information | <i>adj.</i> unnecessary; more than what is needed or required |
| 3. co_____ve coal resources | <i>v.</i> to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction |
| 4. sy_____e circuit | <i>n.</i> the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it |
| 5. environmental tr_____ff | <i>n.</i> a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise |
| 6. computer mul_____ing | <i>n.</i> the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time |
| 7. je_____on cargo | <i>v.</i> to throw away or abandon something, often to lighten a load or to remove something that is no longer needed; to discard or get rid of something |
| 8. the dr_____ck of his method | <i>n.</i> a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive |
| 9. mis_____and entirely about her | <i>v.</i> to interpret or understand something in the wrong way |
| 10. in____t him of injuries | <i>v.</i> to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them |

ANSWERS: 1. astound, 2. superfluous, 3. conserve, 4. synapse, 5. trade-off, 6. multitasking, 7. jettison, 8. drawback, 9. misunderstand, 10. indict

11. a sp___e population *adj.* only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area
12. h_g farming *n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others
13. pr____e sanctuary *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
14. gu__y performance *adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
15. excite the ne___ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
16. ro___t repellent *n.* a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail
17. as____d the viewer *v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much
18. play the a_e *n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
19. one of the main dr____cks *n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

ANSWERS: 11. sparse, 12. hog, 13. primate, 14. gutsy, 15. neuron, 16. rodent, 17. astound, 18. ape, 19. drawback

20. prevent ro___t damage *n.* a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail
21. pa_____al cortex *adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure
22. mul_____ing ability *n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time
23. tr_____ff problem *n.* a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
24. sup_____us words *adj.* unnecessary; more than what is needed or required
25. the a__n terminals *n.* a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell
26. pr___l the ship *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
27. frontal l__e *n.* a rounded projection or division, especially of the brain, lung, or liver
28. run an er___d *n.* a short trip that is taken to perform a specified task, such as to take a message or to take or collect something
29. ca___e teeth *adj.* relating to or characteristic of dogs or the dog family; having qualities that are similar to those of dogs, such as loyalty or aggressiveness

ANSWERS: 20. rodent, 21. parietal, 22. multitasking, 23. trade-off, 24. superfluous, 25. axon, 26. propel, 27. lobe, 28. errand, 29. canine

30. pa____al bone *adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure
31. und_____re the severity *v.* to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it
32. mis_____and each other *v.* to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
33. up____d the law *v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
34. l__e of the liver *n.* a rounded projection or division, especially of the brain, lung, or liver
35. mis_____ly delete the important file *adv.* in a mistaken or incorrect way; wrongly
36. up____d tradition *v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
37. ne____n cell body *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
38. und_____re an important fact *v.* to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it
39. ca____e behavior *adj.* relating to or characteristic of dogs or the dog family; having qualities that are similar to those of dogs, such as loyalty or aggressiveness
40. h_g all the glory *n.* a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

ANSWERS: 30. parietal, 31. underscore, 32. misunderstand, 33. uphold, 34. lobe, 35. mistakenly, 36. uphold, 37. neuron, 38. underscore, 39. canine, 40. hog

41. means to co____ve energy *v.* to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
42. gu__y move *adj.* displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
43. er____d boy *n.* a short trip that is taken to perform a specified task, such as to take a message or to take or collect something
44. sc__t century *adj.* barely sufficient or adequate; lacking in quantity or amount
45. je____on old habits *v.* to throw away or abandon something, often to lighten a load or to remove something that is no longer needed; to discard or get rid of something
46. pr____l growth *v.* to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force
47. an a__n of a nerve cell *n.* a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell
48. pr____e species *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
49. a theoretical concept in
neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
50. track down an el____e fact *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

ANSWERS: 41. conserve, 42. gutsy, 43. errand, 44. scant, 45. jettison, 46. propel, 47. axon, 48. primate, 49. neuroscience, 50. elusive

51. an el_____e criminal *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
52. sc__t resources *adj.* barely sufficient or adequate; lacking in quantity or amount
53. mis_____ly left his keys *adv.* in a mistaken or incorrect way; wrongly
54. end at a sy_____e *n.* the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
55. jungle a_e *n.* a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
56. sp___e snowfall *adj.* only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area
57. in___t a suspect *v.* to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them
58. the branch of neu_____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

ANSWERS: 51. elusive, 52. scant, 53. mistakenly, 54. synapse, 55. ape, 56. sparse, 57. indict, 58. neuroscience

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. It was _____ to quit her job and start her own business.
adj. displaying courage, determination, or boldness; characterized by a willingness to take risks or face challenges
2. The scientist studied the behavior of _____ in the wild.
n. a large animal with long arms, no tail, and usually a lot of body hair, including gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons
3. We are developing a technology to promote the elongation and regeneration of sensory nerve _____.
n. a long and slender projection of a nerve cell, or neuron, that sends out signals away from the nerve cell
4. There is a _____ area between galaxies.
adj. only in small quantities or numbers and often spread over a wide area
5. The lungs are divided into five _____.
n. a rounded projection or division, especially of the brain, lung, or liver
6. He set up a trap to catch the _____.
n. a small, gnawing mammal, such as a mouse, rat, or squirrel, that has sharp incisors and typically has a long, thin tail
7. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

ANSWERS: 1. gutsy, 2. apes, 3. axons, 4. sparse, 5. lobes, 6. rodent, 7. neuroscience

8. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.
n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
9. Children must be taught to _____ our natural environment.
v. to protect something, especially the natural environment or culture, from change, damage, or destruction
10. The physicist who found the _____ particle won the Nobel Prize.
adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
11. You should not _____ the meaning of freedom.
v. to interpret or understand something in the wrong way
12. There was a _____ between speed and accuracy in the task.
n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
13. The recipe called for a _____ amount of salt and made the dish too salty.
adj. unnecessary; more than what is needed or required
14. Animals transmit nerve impulses through _____.
n. the fact or state of failing to finish an activity and of stopping using, making, or doing it
15. The spaceship had to _____ some of its fuel to lighten its weight for liftoff.
v. to throw away or abandon something, often to lighten a load or to remove something that is no longer needed; to discard or get rid of something

ANSWERS: 8. primate, 9. conserve, 10. elusive, 11. misunderstand, 12. trade-off, 13. superfluous, 14. synapses, 15. jettison

16. He sent me on an _____.

- n.* a short trip that is taken to perform a specified task, such as to take a message or to take or collect something

17. He pointed out all the _____ to our plan.

- n.* a disadvantage or inconvenience that makes something less attractive

18. The FBI worked tirelessly to gather enough evidence to _____ the corrupt politician.

- v.* to formally charge or accuse someone of a crime, based on the decision of a grand jury or other legal authority; to bring a legal case against someone, typically to prosecute and punish them

19. That incident _____ the vulnerability of the national defense system.

- v.* to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it

20. The final result was nothing short of _____.

- v.* to surprise or shock someone with wonder very much

21. The veterinarian recommended a _____ diet for my dog's health.

- adj.* relating to or characteristic of dogs or the dog family; having qualities that are similar to those of dogs, such as loyalty or aggressiveness

22. The _____ lobe of the brain is responsible for processing sensory information.

- adj.* relating to or situated near the wall of a body cavity; of, relating to, or involving the walls or outer surfaces of an organ or structure

23. She could finish all her work on time because of her _____ skills.

- n.* the ability to do more than one task at the same time; the state of doing more than one task at the same time

ANSWERS: 16. errand, 17. drawbacks, 18. indict, 19. underscored, 20. astounding, 21. canine-friendly, 22. parietal, 23. multitasking

24. The judge may _____ the decision of the lower court.

v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

25. He _____ thought the red liquid was juice, but it was paint.

adv. in a mistaken or incorrect way; wrongly

26. An increase in employment helps _____ economic growth.

v. to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction, often with a lot of force

27. Our body transfers information along each _____ using an electrical impulse.

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

28. There was a _____ amount of food left in the fridge.

adj. barely sufficient or adequate; lacking in quantity or amount

29. The farmer raised his _____ for meat and sold them at a local market.

n. a domesticated pig or swine; a selfish or greedy person who keeps or takes more than their fair share of something; (verb) to take or use more than one's fair share of something, often to the detriment of others

ANSWERS: 24. uphold, 25. mistakenly, 26. propel, 27. neuron, 28. scant, 29. hogs