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Tristram Wyatt: The smelly mystery of the human pheromone | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

pheromone

n. a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

synonym : scent, odor, aroma

(1) **pheromone** trail, (2) sexual **pheromone**

The perfume industry often uses synthetic **pheromones** to enhance their products' appeal.

conjure

v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination

synonym : summon, evoke, call forth

(1) **conjure** evil spirits away, (2) **conjure** a vision

The magician **conjured** up a rabbit out of thin air.

irresistible

adj. impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling

synonym : resistless, overpowering, compelling

(1) **irresistible** charm, (2) **irresistible** force

The aroma of freshly baked cookies was **irresistible** to her.

syllable

n. a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants

(1) **syllable** structure, (2) single **syllable**

Emphasize the second **syllable** when pronouncing it.

pluck

v. to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers

synonym: grab, pull out, pick

(1) **pluck** a gray hair, (2) **pluck** out weeds

She **plucked** the flowers off the bush.

enthusiast

n. a person having a strong liking for something

synonym: buff, aficionado, devotee

(1) classic car **enthusiasts**, (2) an **enthusiastic** response

The country's economic situation has improved markedly due to reform **enthusiasts**.

quirk

n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

synonym: eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched socks.

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.

moth

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

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light

The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

stimming

n. a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

synonym: self-stimulation, repetitive behaviors

(1) autistic **stimming**, (2) **stimming** therapy

Autistic children may engage in **stimming** behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.

synthesize

v. to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound

synonym: incorporate, amalgamate

(1) **synthesize** molecules, (2) **synthesize** information

The spider can **synthesize** multiple different silk proteins.

goldfish

n. a small, freshwater fish with bright scales and a round body, often kept as a pet or used as a decorative element in ponds or aquariums

(1) **goldfish** pond, (2) breeding **goldfish**

I enjoy watching the **goldfish** swim around in their tank.

lobster

n. a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming

synonym: crustacean, crawfish, crayfish

(1) **lobster** dinner, (2) fresh **lobster**

The restaurant served a delicious **lobster**, steamed to perfection.

smelly

adj. having a strong, unpleasant, or offensive odor, particularly about something decomposing or otherwise spoiled

synonym: stinky, malodorous, fetid

(1) **smelly** socks, (2) **smelly** trash

I can't stand the **smelly** odor from the garbage can, and it's unbearable.

puberty

n. the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction

synonym : adolescence, young adulthood

(1) at the height of **puberty** ., (2) the onset of **puberty**
In this culture, men are initiated when they reach **puberty**.

pubic

adj. relating to or situated in the region of the pubes, the lower part of the human abdomen where the genitalia and certain other structures are located

synonym : inguinal, crural

(1) **pubic** osteitis, (2) **pubic** bone

The **pubic** hair is a secondary sex characteristic that typically appears during puberty.

armpit

n. the hollow under the arm where it joins the shoulder

synonym : underarm, axilla

(1) hair of the **armpits**, (2) **armpit** area

This stick will deodorize your **armpits**.

rancid

adj. having a bad taste or smell because it is old and no longer fresh

synonym : spoiled, stale, putrid

(1) turn **rancid**, (2) **rancid** oil

The food had a **rancid** smell and was inedible.

incomprehensible

adj. impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended

synonym : unintelligible, unfathomable, inexplicable

(1) **incomprehensible** jargon, (2) **incomprehensible** math problem

The mathematical formula was **incomprehensible** to most of the students.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym : perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

sniff

v. to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

synonym: smell, inhale, scent

(1) **sniff** the air, (2) **sniff** the perfume

The dog stopped to **sniff** around the tree, looking for something interesting.

coriander

n. a plant whose leaves and seeds are used as a seasoning in cooking, also known as cilantro, that has a distinctive flavor and are often used in salads, salsas, and curries

synonym: cilantro, Mexican parsley

(1) **coriander** powder, (2) fresh **coriander**

I sprinkled some ground **coriander** seeds on my roasted vegetables for added flavor.

cilantro

n. an herb with flat, delicate green leaves and a distinctively fresh and citrusy aroma, commonly used in various cuisines, especially in Latin American, Indian, and Southeast Asian dishes

synonym: coriander, Chinese parsley

(1) **cilantro** lime rice, (2) chopped **cilantro**

I need to buy some fresh **cilantro** leaves to flavor my salsa.

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.

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.

odorless

adj. without a smell or scent; lacking any noticeable or distinct odor

synonym: scentless, fragrance-free, unscented

(1) **odorless** gas, (2) **odorless** chemicals

The **odorless** cleaning product is safe to use in enclosed spaces.

rainforest

n. a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall

(1) **rainforest** destruction, (2) tropical **rainforest**

The destruction of the **rainforest** is a ticking time bomb for the Earth.

incidentally

adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing

synonym: by chance, by accident, inadvertently

(1) **incidentally** discovered, (2) **incidentally** mentioned

Incidentally, I know the answer to that question.

embarrass

v. to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

synonym: disconcert, unsettle, agitate

(1) **embarrass** political enemy, (2) **embarrass** my project

He looked for an opportunity to **embarrass** that actor in public.

ethnology

n. an academic field that compares and analyzes the characteristics of different peoples and the relationships between them

(1) regional **ethnology**, (2) museum of **ethnology**

Recently, some anthropologists conducted an interesting comparative study in **ethnology**.

tread

v. to step or walk on something

synonym: step, walk, pace

(1) **tread** water, (2) **tread** a similar path

He **treads** carefully on the slippery ice.

droplet

n. a small drop of liquid

synonym: bead, drip, dewdrop

(1) **droplet** size, (2) **droplet** formation

A single **droplet** of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

areola

n. the circular area around the center of a flower; (of anatomy and physiology) the colored area surrounding the nipple that contains the milk ducts

synonym: nipple, mamilla, papilla

(1) **areola** color, (2) **areola** size

Changes in the appearance of the **areola** may be a sign of breast cancer.

lactation

n. the secretion of milk by the mammary glands of a female mammal, typically the following pregnancy

synonym: nursing, breastfeeding, milk production

(1) **lactation** period, (2) **lactation** support

After giving birth, the mother's body produces milk through **lactation**.

connoisseur

n. a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions

synonym: expert, specialist, aficionado

(1) **connoisseur** of art, (2) **connoisseur** of wine

He's a **connoisseur** of fine wine and can tell you all about the various regions and vintages.

suckle

v. to feed or nurse at the mother's breast or a similar source of fluid, usually used for infants or young animals obtaining milk

synonym : nurse, breastfeed, feed

(1) **suckle** a baby, (2) **suckle** from the breast

The newborn calf instinctively knows how to **suckle** for nourishment.

Session 2: Spelling

1. od____ss chemicals *adj.* without a smell or scent; lacking any noticeable or distinct odor
2. syn_____ze information *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
3. go_____sh pond *n.* a small, freshwater fish with bright scales and a round body, often kept as a pet or used as a decorative element in ponds or aquariums
4. irr_____ble force *adj.* impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
5. single sy_____le *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
6. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
7. an ent_____stic response *n.* a person having a strong liking for something
8. lo_____r dinner *n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
9. co_____e a vision *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
10. pr_____e sanctuary *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

ANSWERS: 1. odorless, 2. synthesize, 3. goldfish, 4. irresistible, 5. syllable, 6. rot, 7. enthusiast, 8. lobster, 9. conjure, 10. primate

11. la_____on support *n.* the secretion of milk by the mammary glands of a female mammal, typically the following pregnancy
12. co_____er powder *n.* a plant whose leaves and seeds are used as a seasoning in cooking, also known as cilantro, that has a distinctive flavor and are often used in salads, salsas, and curries
13. sexual ph_____ne *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
14. inc_____lly discovered *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
15. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
16. su___e a baby *v.* to feed or nurse at the mother's breast or a similar source of fluid, usually used for infants or young animals obtaining milk
17. pr_____e species *n.* any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans
18. pu__c bone *adj.* relating to or situated in the region of the pubes, the lower part of the human abdomen where the genitalia and certain other structures are located
19. fresh lo_____r *n.* a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming

ANSWERS: 11. lactation, 12. coriander, 13. pheromone, 14. incidentally, 15. moth, 16. suckle, 17. primate, 18. pubic, 19. lobster

20. hair of the ar___ts *n.* the hollow under the arm where it joins the shoulder
21. a qu__k of fate *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
22. con_____ur of wine *n.* a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions
23. sy_____le structure *n.* a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
24. breeding go_____sh *n.* a small, freshwater fish with bright scales and a round body, often kept as a pet or used as a decorative element in ponds or aquariums
25. 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
26. museum of et_____gy *n.* an academic field that compares and analyzes the characteristics of different peoples and the relationships between them
27. st_____ng therapy *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation

ANSWERS: 20. armpit, 21. quirk, 22. connoisseur, 23. syllable, 24. goldfish, 25. germ, 26. ethnology, 27. stimming

28. syn_____ze molecules *v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
29. inc_____ble jargon *adj.* impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended
30. sn__f the perfume *v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath
31. dr_____t formation *n.* a small drop of liquid
32. con_____ur of art *n.* a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions
33. inc_____lly mentioned *adv.* by the way; as an aside or in passing
34. su___e from the breast *v.* to feed or nurse at the mother's breast or a similar source of fluid, usually used for infants or young animals obtaining milk
35. regional et_____gy *n.* an academic field that compares and analyzes the characteristics of different peoples and the relationships between them
36. 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
37. ar___a color *n.* the circular area around the center of a flower; (of anatomy and physiology) the colored area surrounding the nipple that contains the milk ducts

ANSWERS: 28. synthesize, 29. incomprehensible, 30. sniff, 31. droplet, 32. connoisseur, 33. incidentally, 34. suckle, 35. ethnology, 36. ape, 37. areola

38. r_t with age *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
39. classic car ent_____sts *n.* a person having a strong liking for something
40. chopped ci_____ro *n.* an herb with flat, delicate green leaves and a distinctively fresh and citrusy aroma, commonly used in various cuisines, especially in Latin American, Indian, and Southeast Asian dishes
41. tr__d a similar path *v.* to step or walk on something
42. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
43. irr_____ble charm *adj.* impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
44. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
45. inc_____ble math problem *adj.* impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended
46. turn ra____d *adj.* having a bad taste or smell because it is old and no longer fresh
47. sm____y trash *adj.* having a strong, unpleasant, or offensive odor, particularly about something decomposing or otherwise spoiled
48. ar____a size *n.* the circular area around the center of a flower; (of anatomy and physiology) the colored area surrounding the nipple that contains the milk ducts

ANSWERS: 38. rot, 39. enthusiast, 40. cilantro, 41. tread, 42. embarrass, 43. irresistible, 44. moth, 45. incomprehensible, 46. rancid, 47. smelly, 48. areola

49. pl__k out weeds *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
50. ci____ro lime rice *n.* an herb with flat, delicate green leaves and a distinctively fresh and citrusy aroma, commonly used in various cuisines, especially in Latin American, Indian, and Southeast Asian dishes
51. ph_____ne trail *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
52. autistic st_____ng *n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
53. 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
54. rai_____st destruction *n.* a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
55. tropical rai_____st *n.* a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
56. tr__d water *v.* to step or walk on something

ANSWERS: 49. pluck, 50. cilantro, 51. pheromone, 52. stimming, 53. germ, 54. rainforest, 55. rainforest, 56. tread

57. pu__c osteitis *adj.* relating to or situated in the region of the pubes, the lower part of the human abdomen where the genitalia and certain other structures are located
58. fresh co_____er *n.* a plant whose leaves and seeds are used as a seasoning in cooking, also known as cilantro, that has a distinctive flavor and are often used in salads, salsas, and curries
59. at the height of pu_____y. *n.* the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction
60. the onset of pu_____y *n.* the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction
61. od_____ss gas *adj.* without a smell or scent; lacking any noticeable or distinct odor
62. ra___d oil *adj.* having a bad taste or smell because it is old and no longer fresh
63. co_____e evil spirits away *v.* to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
64. ar___t area *n.* the hollow under the arm where it joins the shoulder
65. sn__f the air *v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

ANSWERS: 57. pubic, 58. coriander, 59. puberty, 60. puberty, 61. odorless, 62. rancid, 63. conjure, 64. armpit, 65. sniff

66. 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
67. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
68. dr_____t size *n.* a small drop of liquid
69. sm___y socks *adj.* having a strong, unpleasant, or offensive odor, particularly about something decomposing or otherwise spoiled
70. pl__k a gray hair *v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
71. la_____on period *n.* the secretion of milk by the mammary glands of a female mammal, typically the following pregnancy
72. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

ANSWERS: 66. ape, 67. embarrass, 68. droplet, 69. smelly, 70. pluck, 71. lactation, 72. quirk

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

2. The country's economic situation has improved markedly due to reform _____.
n. a person having a strong liking for something

3. 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

4. He's a _____ of fine wine and can tell you all about the various regions and vintages.
n. a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions

5. One of her _____ is that she always wears mismatched socks.
n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

6. I enjoy watching the _____ swim around in their tank.
n. a small, freshwater fish with bright scales and a round body, often kept as a pet or used as a decorative element in ponds or aquariums

7. I sprinkled some ground _____ seeds on my roasted vegetables for added flavor.
n. a plant whose leaves and seeds are used as a seasoning in cooking, also known as cilantro, that has a distinctive flavor and are often used in salads, salsas, and curries

ANSWERS: 1. moth, 2. enthusiasts, 3. germ, 4. connoisseur, 5. quirks, 6. goldfish, 7. coriander

8. Changes in the appearance of the _____ may be a sign of breast cancer.
n. the circular area around the center of a flower; (of anatomy and physiology) the colored area surrounding the nipple that contains the milk ducts
9. _____ I know the answer to that question.
adv. by the way; as an aside or in passing
10. The _____ hair is a secondary sex characteristic that typically appears during puberty.
adj. relating to or situated in the region of the pubes, the lower part of the human abdomen where the genitalia and certain other structures are located
11. The restaurant served a delicious _____ steamed to perfection.
n. a marine crustacean with a hard, often brightly colored shell, a pair of large pincers, and a tail used for swimming
12. I can't stand the _____ odor from the garbage can, and it's unbearable.
adj. having a strong, unpleasant, or offensive odor, particularly about something decomposing or otherwise spoiled
13. The magician _____ up a rabbit out of thin air.
v. to call forth by magic; to create or bring about through the imagination
14. Emphasize the second _____ when pronouncing it.
n. a single unit of spoken language more significant than a phoneme containing a vowel sound and usually one or more consonants
15. Many scientists study _____ behavior and intelligence.
n. any mammal of the order Primates, which includes monkeys, apes, and humans

ANSWERS: 8. areola, 9. Incidentally, 10. pubic, 11. lobster, 12. smelly, 13. conjured, 14. syllable, 15. primate

16. A single _____ of water can reflect the entire world upside down.
- n.* a small drop of liquid
17. 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
18. I need to buy some fresh _____ leaves to flavor my salsa.
- n.* an herb with flat, delicate green leaves and a distinctively fresh and citrusy aroma, commonly used in various cuisines, especially in Latin American, Indian, and Southeast Asian dishes
19. The newborn calf instinctively knows how to _____ for nourishment.
- v.* to feed or nurse at the mother's breast or a similar source of fluid, usually used for infants or young animals obtaining milk
20. In this culture, men are initiated when they reach _____.
- n.* the process of a person's physical changes through which their sexual organs develop and become capable of reproduction
21. Autistic children may engage in _____ behaviors, such as rocking or hand flapping, to self-regulate.
- n.* a behavior often exhibited by individuals on the autism spectrum characterized by repetitive bodily movements or sounds, such as hand flapping or rocking, often used as a form of self-regulation or sensory stimulation
22. The spider can _____ multiple different silk proteins.
- v.* to combine a substance to make a more complex product or compound
23. The dog stopped to _____ around the tree, looking for something interesting.
- v.* to inhale audibly through the nose, often to detect or identify a smell; to draw in air through the nostrils with a quick, audible intake of breath

ANSWERS: 16. droplet, 17. apes, 18. cilantro, 19. suckle, 20. puberty, 21. stimming, 22. synthesize, 23. sniff

24. After giving birth, the mother's body produces milk through _____.
- n.* the secretion of milk by the mammary glands of a female mammal, typically the following pregnancy
25. The destruction of the _____ is a ticking time bomb for the Earth.
- n.* a forest rich in biodiversity that is generally found in tropical settings with heavy annual rainfall
26. She _____ the flowers off the bush.
- v.* to pull or draw something, especially with sudden force or effort; to strip of feathers
27. The food had a _____ smell and was inedible.
- adj.* having a bad taste or smell because it is old and no longer fresh
28. Recently, some anthropologists conducted an interesting comparative study in _____.
- n.* an academic field that compares and analyzes the characteristics of different peoples and the relationships between them
29. He _____ carefully on the slippery ice.
- v.* to step or walk on something
30. This stick will deodorize your _____.
- n.* the hollow under the arm where it joins the shoulder
31. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed

ANSWERS: 24. lactation, 25. rainforest, 26. plucked, 27. rancid, 28. ethnology, 29. treads, 30. armpits, 31. embarrass

32. The aroma of freshly baked cookies was _____ to her.

adj. impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling

33. The _____ cleaning product is safe to use in enclosed spaces.

adj. without a smell or scent; lacking any noticeable or distinct odor

34. The mathematical formula was _____ to most of the students.

adj. impossible to understand or explain; not able to be grasped or comprehended

35. The perfume industry often uses synthetic _____ to enhance their products' appeal.

n. a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

36. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will ____.

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

ANSWERS: 32. irresistible, 33. odorless, 34. incomprehensible, 35. pheromones, 36. rot