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John Searle: Our shared condition -- consciousness | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

appalling

adj. causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant

synonym : shocking, horrifying, alarming

(1) **appalling** crimes, (2) **appalling** behavior

The condition of that old house was **appalling**.

stab

v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

synonym : poke, thrust, jab

(1) **stab** at the enemy with a knife, (2) **stab** in the chest

He was **stabbed** many times with scissors.

neurobiology

n. a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion

synonym : brain science, neural science, neurology

(1) **neurobiology** research, (2) cellular **neurobiology**

The professor's research in **neurobiology** has led to groundbreaking discoveries in the field of brain science.

impatience

n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience

synonym : impatience, restlessness, agitation

(1) **impatience** with delays, (2) business **impatience**

The doctor advised him to manage his **impatience** as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.

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.

exasperate

v. to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury

synonym : irritate, annoy, provoke

(1) **exasperate** him to anger, (2) **exasperate** a situation

Her constant complaining about the weather started to **exasperate** everyone around her.

reluctance

n. a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking

synonym : hesitation, resistance, unwillingness

(1) overcoming **reluctance**, (2) **reluctance** in buying

The company's **reluctance** to invest in new technology kept them from competing with other businesses.

hostility

n. aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behavior

synonym : antagonism, antipathy, estrangement

(1) an act of **hostility**, (2) bitter **hostility**

Her unconcealed **hostility** made us unpleasant.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym : mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

immortality

n. the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
synonym: endless life, timelessness, agelessness

(1) the **immortality** of the soul, (2) achieve **immortality**

Many people believe in the concept of **immortality** and an afterlife.

paralyze

v. to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel

synonym: immobilize, disable, numb

(1) **paralyze** a city, (2) **paralyze** a person

The venom from the snake bite **paralyzed** his arm.

photosynthesis

n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.

(1) oxygenic **photosynthesis**, (2) process of **photosynthesis**

In **photosynthesis**, plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.

digestion

n. the process of breaking down food in the body into smaller, more usable components, typically involving enzymes and other bodily processes; the process of assimilating, understanding, or absorbing information or ideas

synonym: absorption, assimilation, metabolism

(1) poor **digestion**, (2) impaired **digestion**

Overeating can lead to discomfort and slower **digestion**.

mitosis

n. a type of cell division that occurs in eukaryotic organisms, where a single cell divides into two genetically identical daughter cells, each with the same

number of chromosomes as the parent cell

synonym : cell division, cell reproduction

(1) **mitosis** in plants, (2) stages of **mitosis**

Chromosomes condense and align at the center of the cell during the metaphase of **mitosis**.

evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

synonym : vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

consciously

adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner

synonym : intentionally, deliberately, knowingly

(1) **consciously** aware of a problem, (2) act **consciously**

He **consciously** criticizes her in the publicity.

sentience

n. the quality or state of being able to experience feelings or become aware or conscious of something

synonym : awareness, appreciation, consciousness

(1) animals with **sentience**, (2) give **sentience** to the fact

Some people believe in the **sentience** of plants.

dreamless

adj. without dreams or dreaming; not characterized by or associated with dreams

synonym : unconscious, comatose, unaware

(1) child in **dreamless** slumber, (2) **dreamless** nights

After a long day of work, he fell into a deep, **dreamless** sleep.

irreducible

adj. impossible to reduce or simplify to a simpler form or substance; essential or fundamental to the nature of something

synonym : indivisible, fundamental, essential

(1) **irreducible** complexity, (2) **irreducible** minimum

He believed that the complexity of human emotions was

irreducible to simple explanations or formulas.

marvelous

adj. causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
synonym : wonderful, amazing, superb

(1) **marvelous** performance, (2) **marvelous** power

The view from the top of the mountain was **marvelous**.

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.

acetylcholine

n. a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals

synonym : neurotransmitter, cholinergic

(1) **acetylcholine** receptor, (2) **acetylcholine** molecule

Low levels of **acetylcholine** have been linked to symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

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**.

touchy

adj. easily offended or upset, or sensitive
synonym : sensitive, easily offended

(1) **touchy** subject, (2) a little **touchy** personality

The **touchy** situation required careful handling to avoid further conflict.

- trait** *n.* a particular feature of your nature
synonym : attribute, feature, quality
(1) chemical **trait**, (2) personality **traits**
Multiple genes may influence behavioral **traits** concurrently.
- confer** *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
synonym : consult, meet, discuss
(1) **confer** degree, (2) **confer** honor
The leaders of the two countries met to **confer** on the issue.
- gravitational** *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
synonym : weighty, heavy, earthbound
(1) **gravitational** energy, (2) **gravitational** waves
The **gravitational** force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
- pun** *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
synonym : joke, quip, wordplay
(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**
The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.
- neurology** *n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system
synonym : brain science, nervous system, neuropathology
(1) cognitive **neurology**, (2) **neurology** department
She is studying clinical **neurology** to become a brain surgeon.
- refute** *v.* to say or prove that something is wrong or false
synonym : disavow, rebut, counter
(1) **refute** an opponent, (2) **refute** the foolish idea
The latest experimental results have **refuted** the previous

speculation.

Session 2: Spelling

1. witty p_n *n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
2. stages of mi____s *n.* a type of cell division that occurs in eukaryotic organisms, where a single cell divides into two genetically identical daughter cells, each with the same number of chromosomes as the parent cell
3. business imp_____ce *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
4. re___e an opponent *v.* to say or prove that something is wrong or false
5. s__b at the enemy with a knife *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
6. the imm_____ty of the soul *n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
7. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
8. to___y subject *adj.* easily offended or upset, or sensitive
9. an act of ho_____ty *n.* aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behavior
10. ap_____ng crimes *adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant

ANSWERS: 1. pun, 2. mitosis, 3. impatience, 4. refute, 5. stab, 6. immortality, 7. trait, 8. touchy, 9. hostility, 10. appalling

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|--------------------------|---|
| 11. silly p_n | <i>n.</i> a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay |
| 12. enrich my in_____ct | <i>n.</i> the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level |
| 13. ace_____ine receptor | <i>n.</i> a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals |
| 14. chemical tr__t | <i>n.</i> a particular feature of your nature |
| 15. oxygenic pho_____sis | <i>n.</i> the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities. |
| 16. pa_____ze a person | <i>v.</i> to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel |
| 17. ne_____gy department | <i>n.</i> the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system |
| 18. excite the ne___ns | <i>n.</i> a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body |

ANSWERS: 11. pun, 12. intellect, 13. acetylcholine, 14. trait, 15. photosynthesis, 16. paralyze, 17. neurology, 18. neuron

19. achieve imm_____ty *n.* the state or quality of being able to live or last forever
20. ace_____ine molecule *n.* a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals
21. imp_____ce with delays *n.* a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
22. re___e the foolish idea *v.* to say or prove that something is wrong or false
23. a little to___y personality *adj.* easily offended or upset, or sensitive
24. 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
25. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
26. pa_____ze a city *v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
27. con_____ly aware of a problem *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
28. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
29. poor di_____on *n.* the process of breaking down food in the body into smaller, more usable components, typically involving enzymes and other bodily processes; the process of assimilating, understanding, or absorbing information or ideas

ANSWERS: 19. immortality, 20. acetylcholine, 21. impatience, 22. refute, 23. touchy, 24. axon, 25. embarrass, 26. paralyze, 27. consciously, 28. intellect, 29. digestion

30. gra_____nal waves *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
31. irr_____le complexity *adj.* impossible to reduce or simplify to a simpler form or substance; essential or fundamental to the nature of something
32. ev_____te the water *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
33. dr_____ss nights *adj.* without dreams or dreaming; not characterized by or associated with dreams
34. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
35. ma_____us power *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
36. animals with se_____ce *n.* the quality or state of being able to experience feelings or become aware or conscious of something
37. give se_____ce to the fact *n.* the quality or state of being able to experience feelings or become aware or conscious of something
38. ap_____ng behavior *adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
39. exa_____te a situation *v.* to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury
40. cognitive ne_____gy *n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system

ANSWERS: 30. gravitational, 31. irreducible, 32. evaporate, 33. dreamless, 34. embarrass, 35. marvelous, 36. sentience, 37. sentience, 38. appalling, 39. exasperate, 40. neurology

41. overcoming rel_____ce *n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
42. bitter ho_____ty *n.* aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behavior
43. co____r degree *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
44. child in dr_____ss slumber *adj.* without dreams or dreaming; not characterized by or associated with dreams
45. exa_____te him to anger *v.* to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury
46. ev_____te almost overnight *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
47. cellular neu_____ogy *n.* a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion
48. ma_____us performance *adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
49. irr_____le minimum *adj.* impossible to reduce or simplify to a simpler form or substance; essential or fundamental to the nature of something

ANSWERS: 41. reluctance, 42. hostility, 43. confer, 44. dreamless, 45. exasperate, 46. evaporate, 47. neurobiology, 48. marvelous, 49. irreducible

50. act con_____ly *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
51. 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
52. s__b in the chest *v.* to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife
53. co___r honor *v.* to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
54. 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
55. process of pho_____sis *n.* the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
56. rel_____ce in buying *n.* a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
57. gra_____nal energy *adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
58. impaired di_____on *n.* the process of breaking down food in the body into smaller, more usable components, typically involving enzymes and other bodily processes; the process of assimilating, understanding, or absorbing information or ideas

ANSWERS: 50. consciously, 51. neuron, 52. stab, 53. confer, 54. axon, 55. photosynthesis, 56. reluctance, 57. gravitational, 58. digestion

59. neu_____ogy research

n. a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion

60. mi_____s in plants

n. a type of cell division that occurs in eukaryotic organisms, where a single cell divides into two genetically identical daughter cells, each with the same number of chromosomes as the parent cell

ANSWERS: 59. neurobiology, 60. mitosis

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She is studying clinical _____ to become a brain surgeon.
n. the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system

2. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.
n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

3. After a long day of work, he fell into a deep, _____ sleep.
adj. without dreams or dreaming; not characterized by or associated with dreams

4. Her constant complaining about the weather started to _____ everyone around her.
v. to irritate or annoy someone intensely; to provoke or aggravate someone to the point of exasperation, frustration, or fury

5. The sun will _____ the mist.
v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

6. He was _____ many times with scissors.
v. to cause harm with a sharp, pointed object, such as a knife

7. He _____ criticizes her in the publicity.
adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner

8. Many people believe in the concept of _____ and an afterlife.
n. the state or quality of being able to live or last forever

ANSWERS: 1. neurology, 2. pun, 3. dreamless, 4. exasperate, 5. evaporate, 6. stabbed, 7. consciously, 8. immortality

9. Her unconcealed _____ made us unpleasant.
n. aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behavior
10. The leaders of the two countries met to _____ on the issue.
v. to have a meeting or discussion to come to a decision or agreement or exchange ideas; to bestow something
11. Overeating can lead to discomfort and slower _____.
n. the process of breaking down food in the body into smaller, more usable components, typically involving enzymes and other bodily processes; the process of assimilating, understanding, or absorbing information or ideas
12. The company's _____ to invest in new technology kept them from competing with other businesses.
n. a feeling of unwillingness or hesitation, especially when faced with a decision or undertaking
13. The doctor advised him to manage his _____ as stress could exacerbate his medical condition.
n. a feeling of restlessness or irritation caused by a desire for something to happen or be done more quickly; lack of patience
14. In _____ plants use carbon dioxide to feed themselves.
n. the process through which plants and other organisms transform light energy into chemical energy, which is then released through cellular respiration to power the organism's activities.
15. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
n. a particular feature of your nature

ANSWERS: 9. hostility, 10. confer, 11. digestion, 12. reluctance, 13. impatience, 14. photosynthesis, 15. traits

16. The condition of that old house was _____.
- adj.* causing horror or shock; deeply disturbing or offensive; extremely bad or unpleasant
17. The venom from the snake bite _____ his arm.
- v.* to cause a person or part of the body to become unable to move or feel
18. Chromosomes condense and align at the center of the cell during the metaphase of _____.
- n.* a type of cell division that occurs in eukaryotic organisms, where a single cell divides into two genetically identical daughter cells, each with the same number of chromosomes as the parent cell
19. The view from the top of the mountain was _____.
- adj.* causing wonder or astonishment; excellent
20. The _____ force of the black hole was so strong that nothing, not even light, could escape.
- adj.* relating to or caused by gravity (= the force that attracts objects towards one another)
21. He believed that the complexity of human emotions was _____ to simple explanations or formulas.
- adj.* impossible to reduce or simplify to a simpler form or substance; essential or fundamental to the nature of something
22. The _____ situation required careful handling to avoid further conflict.
- adj.* easily offended or upset, or sensitive
23. 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

ANSWERS: 16. appalling, 17. paralyzed, 18. mitosis, 19. marvelous, 20. gravitational, 21. irreducible, 22. touchy, 23. neuron

24. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
- n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
25. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.
- v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
26. Some people believe in the _____ of plants.
- n.* the quality or state of being able to experience feelings or become aware or conscious of something
27. The latest experimental results have _____ the previous speculation.
- v.* to say or prove that something is wrong or false
28. 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
29. The professor's research in _____ has led to groundbreaking discoveries in the field of brain science.
- n.* a field of biology that studies the structure, function, and development of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves encompassing a wide range of research topics, including the molecular and cellular processes involved in neural signaling, the organization of neural circuits, and the neural basis of behavior, cognition, and emotion
30. Low levels of _____ have been linked to symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.
- n.* a neurotransmitter chemical that is involved in the transmission of signals between nerve cells and the activation of muscle cells, which plays an important role in the functioning of the nervous system and in generating movement and behavior in animals

ANSWERS: 24. intellect, 25. embarrass, 26. sentience, 27. refuted, 28. axons, 29. neurobiology, 30. acetylcholine

ANSWERS: