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Alessandro Acquisti: What will a future without secrets look like? | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

nit

n. the egg of a louse (= that is a tiny insect that lives in human hair) or some other insect; a foolish person

(1) **nit** in the dog's fur, (2) she is a little **nit**

Careful brushing can remove **nit**.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

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.

minuscule

adj. extremely small; tiny

synonym: tiny, insignificant, microscopic

(1) **minuscule** amount, (2) **minuscule** letters

This ore emits **minuscule** quantities of radiation

improvisation

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

(1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

ubiquitous

adj. being or existing everywhere at once

synonym: universal, omnipresent, everywhere

(1) **ubiquitous** computing, (2) **ubiquitous** across ecosystems

Sugar is **ubiquitous** in food.

supercomputer

n. a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing

synonym: high-performance computer, mainframe, giant computer

(1) **supercomputer** performance, (2) **supercomputer** technology

China has developed one of the world's fastest **supercomputers** for its space program.

conjecture

n. an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof

synonym: theory, guess, speculation

(1) **conjecture** theory, (2) scientific **conjecture**

There was much **conjecture** about the cause of the fire, but the investigation is still ongoing.

anonymity

n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information

synonym : obscurity, secrecy, namelessness

(1) comment with **anonymity**, (2) protect **anonymity**

The use of pseudonyms allows individuals to maintain their **anonymity** online.

offline

adj. not connected to the internet

synonym : disconnected, not connected, unplugged

(1) **offline** course, (2) **offline** mode

The computer is **offline** and cannot be accessed at the moment.

infer

v. to form an opinion or conclude that something is true based on existing facts

synonym : guess, deduce, assume

(1) **infer** quality from price, (2) **infer** the possibility

Animal desire and preference are always **inferred** from their behavior.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict

Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym : application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

augment

v. to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it

synonym : boost, increase, expand

(1) **augment** the reality, (2) **augment** immunity

Economic factors and monetary policy **augmented** inflation.

creepy

adj. causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease

synonym : eerie, unsettling, spooky

(1) feel **creepy**, (2) **creepy** atmosphere

The old, abandoned house was **creepy** and gave me the chills.

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.

paradoxical

adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

synonym : contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical**

it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

dissonance

n. a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds

synonym : conflict, disharmony, disagreement

(1) cognitive **dissonance**, (2) musical **dissonance**

The **dissonance** between the two melodies created a sense of tension in the music.

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.

holography

n. a technique for creating three-dimensional images using lasers to record and reconstruct interference patterns

synonym: three-dimensional photography, laser holography, digital holography

(1) optical **holography**, (2) 3D **holography**

Holography technology uses light interference patterns to create a 3D image.

underestimate

v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

synonym: underrate, misjudge, miscalculate

(1) **underestimate** an enemy, (2) **underestimate** the probability

They frequently **underestimated** their abilities and felt inferior.

spokesperson

n. a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

synonym: representative, interpreter, mouthpiece

(1) company **spokesperson**, (2) official **spokesperson**

The celebrity **spokesperson** made an appearance at the product launch event.

gunfight

n. a violent exchange of gunfire between two or more individuals or groups; often depicted in movies and media as part of the action or crime scenes

synonym: shootout, firefight, gunplay

(1) deadly **gunfight**, (2) intense **gunfight** exchange

The police were in a **gunfight** with the robbers attempting to rob the bank.

misdirect

v. to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction

synonym: misguide, mislead, botch

(1) **misdirect** my anger, (2) **misdirect** the letter

I believe this analysis is **misdirected** to some extent.

nudge

v. to push someone or something gently, especially with your elbow, to attract the person's attention; (noun) a small push or prod to encourage a desired action or behavior

synonym: bump, elbow, (noun) prod

(1) **nudge** price levels up, (2) give a person a **nudge**

The teacher **nudged** the student to get his attention and asked him a question.

nullify

v. to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void

synonym: invalidate, cancel, annul

(1) **nullify** a vote, (2) **nullify** a law

The court can **nullify** a contract if it is found to be illegal.

exceedingly

adv. to an extreme degree

synonym: enormously, especially, exceptionally

(1) **exceedingly** common, (2) an **exceedingly** difficult book

Fear is **exceedingly** infectious, and children catch it from their elders.

gloomy

adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy

synonym: melancholy, dismal, dreary

(1) **gloomy** mood, (2) **gloomy** expression

The **gloomy** weather made staying motivated and happy throughout the day hard.

aptly

adv. in a way that is appropriate or fitting; in a way that demonstrates understanding or intelligence

synonym: appropriately, fittingly, properly

(1) **aptly** named, (2) **aptly** timed

She **aptly** described the complex scientific concept in simple terms everyone could understand.

coerce

v. to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands

synonym: force, compel, pressure

(1) **coerce** him to follow an order, (2) **coerce** obedience

The boss tried to **coerce** the employees into working overtime by threatening to fire them.

savage

adj. extremely wild, ferocious, or uncivilized

synonym: brutal, fierce, barbarous

(1) reply in a **savage** voice, (2) **savage** attack

The animal was injured and became **savage**, attacking anyone who approached.

serpent

n. a large snake

synonym: snake, viper, reptile

(1) the feathered **serpent** god, (2) **Serpent** Bearer

That mythical chimera has a lion's body, a bird's wings, and a **serpent's** tail.

Session 2: Spelling

1. intense gu____ht exchange
n. a violent exchange of gunfire between two or more individuals or groups; often depicted in movies and media as part of the action or crime scenes
2. feel cr____y
adj. causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
3. imp_____ion on stage
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
4. nu____y a vote
v. to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void
5. environmental tr_____ff
n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
6. und_____ate an enemy
v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
7. reply in a sa____e voice
adj. extremely wild, ferocious, or uncivilized
8. chemical tr__t
n. a particular feature of your nature
9. tr_____ff problem
n. a balance achieved between two desirable but incompatible features; an exchange that occurs as a compromise
10. official spo_____son
n. a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

ANSWERS: 1. gunfight, 2. creepy, 3. improvisation, 4. nullify, 5. trade-off, 6. underestimate, 7. savage, 8. trait, 9. trade-off, 10. spokesperson

11. optical hol_____hy *n.* a technique for creating three-dimensional images using lasers to record and reconstruct interference patterns
12. apparently par_____al *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
13. con_____re theory *n.* an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof
14. in__r quality from price *v.* to form an opinion or conclude that something is true based on existing facts
15. au_____t the reality *v.* to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it
16. sa___e attack *adj.* extremely wild, ferocious, or uncivilized
17. of_____e course *adj.* not connected to the internet
18. mi_____le letters *adj.* extremely small; tiny
19. nu_____y a law *v.* to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void
20. cr___y atmosphere *adj.* causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease

ANSWERS: 11. holography, 12. paradoxical, 13. conjecture, 14. infer, 15. augment, 16. savage, 17. offline, 18. minuscule, 19. nullify, 20. creepy

21. 3D hol_____hy *n.* a technique for creating three-dimensional images using lasers to record and reconstruct interference patterns
22. the feathered se_____t god *n.* a large snake
23. exc_____ly common *adv.* to an extreme degree
24. company spo_____son *n.* a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public
25. sup_____ter technology *n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing
26. em_____ss political enemy *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
27. a par_____al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
28. protect an_____ty *n.* the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
29. gl___y mood *adj.* characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
30. an exc_____ly difficult book *adv.* to an extreme degree

ANSWERS: 21. holography, 22. serpent, 23. exceedingly, 24. spokesperson, 25. supercomputer, 26. embarrass, 27. paradoxical, 28. anonymity, 29. gloomy, 30. exceedingly

31. mi_____ct the letter *v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction
32. give a person a nu__e *v.* to push someone or something gently, especially with your elbow, to attract the person's attention; (noun) a small push or prod to encourage a desired action or behavior
33. she is a little n_t *n.* the egg of a louse (= that is a tiny insect that lives in human hair) or some other insect; a foolish person
34. gl___y expression *adj.* characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
35. of_____e mode *adj.* not connected to the internet
36. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
37. au_____t immunity *v.* to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it
38. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
39. Se_____t Bearer *n.* a large snake
40. co___e obedience *v.* to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands

ANSWERS: 31. misdirect, 32. nudge, 33. nit, 34. gloomy, 35. offline, 36. smartphone, 37. augment, 38. rev, 39. serpent, 40. coerce

41. nu__e price levels up *v.* to push someone or something gently, especially with your elbow, to attract the person's attention; (noun) a small push or prod to encourage a desired action or behavior
42. musical dis_____ce *n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
43. personality tr__ts *n.* a particular feature of your nature
44. mi_____le amount *adj.* extremely small; tiny
45. mi_____ct my anger *v.* to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction
46. ubi_____us computing *adj.* being or existing everywhere at once
47. co___e him to follow an order *v.* to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands
48. deadly gu_____ht *n.* a violent exchange of gunfire between two or more individuals or groups; often depicted in movies and media as part of the action or crime scenes
49. ap__y timed *adv.* in a way that is appropriate or fitting; in a way that demonstrates understanding or intelligence
50. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

ANSWERS: 41. nudge, 42. dissonance, 43. trait, 44. minuscule, 45. misdirect, 46. ubiquitous, 47. coerce, 48. gunfight, 49. aptly, 50. app

51. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
52. em_____ss my project *v.* to cause someone to feel awkward, worried, or ashamed
53. comment with an_____ty *n.* the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information
54. cognitive dis_____ce *n.* a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds
55. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
56. ubi_____us across ecosystems *adj.* being or existing everywhere at once
57. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
58. ap__y named *adv.* in a way that is appropriate or fitting; in a way that demonstrates understanding or intelligence
59. scientific con_____re *n.* an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof
60. in__r the possibility *v.* to form an opinion or conclude that something is true based on existing facts

ANSWERS: 51. rev, 52. embarrass, 53. anonymity, 54. dissonance, 55. smartphone, 56. ubiquitous, 57. improvisation, 58. aptly, 59. conjecture, 60. infer

61. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
62. sup_____ter performance *n.* a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing
63. und_____ate the probability *v.* to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is
64. n_t in the dog's fur *n.* the egg of a louse (= that is a tiny insect that lives in human hair) or some other insect; a foolish person

ANSWERS: 61. app, 62. supercomputer, 63. underestimate, 64. nit

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Economic factors and monetary policy _____ inflation.
 - v. to increase the size, extent, quantity, etc. of something by adding something to it

2. They frequently _____ their abilities and felt inferior.
 - v. to think or suppose that a quantity, price, or size is smaller than it is

3. The use of pseudonyms allows individuals to maintain their _____ online.
 - n. the condition of being anonymous or unidentified; the state of not revealing one's name, identity, or other personal information

4. The _____ between the two melodies created a sense of tension in the music.
 - n. a lack of harmony or agreement between people or things; a harsh or discordant combination of sounds

5. The teacher _____ the student to get his attention and asked him a question.
 - v. to push someone or something gently, especially with your elbow, to attract the person's attention; (noun) a small push or prod to encourage a desired action or behavior

6. it is _____ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
 - adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

7. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
 - n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 1. augmented, 2. underestimated, 3. anonymity, 4. dissonance, 5. nudged, 6. paradoxical, 7. rev

8. Animal desire and preference are always _____ from their behavior.
v. to form an opinion or conclude that something is true based on existing facts
9. The _____ weather made staying motivated and happy throughout the day hard.
adj. characterized by a lack of light or sunshine, resulting in a dark or dim atmosphere; feeling despondent, dismal, or melancholy
10. The court can _____ a contract if it is found to be illegal.
v. to make something legally invalid or without effect; to cancel out, negate, or render something null (= the absence or lack of value, validity, or significance) and void
11. The police were in a _____ with the robbers attempting to rob the bank.
n. a violent exchange of gunfire between two or more individuals or groups; often depicted in movies and media as part of the action or crime scenes
12. Fear is _____ infectious, and children catch it from their elders.
adv. to an extreme degree
13. The old, abandoned house was _____ and gave me the chills.
adj. causing an uneasy feeling of fear or unease
14. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
15. The celebrity _____ made an appearance at the product launch event.
n. a person who represents or speaks on behalf of an organization, group, or individual to the media or the public

ANSWERS: 8. inferred, 9. gloomy, 10. nullify, 11. gunfight, 12. exceedingly, 13. creepy, 14. app's, 15. spokesperson

16. Multiple genes may influence behavioral _____ concurrently.
n. a particular feature of your nature
17. _____ technology uses light interference patterns to create a 3D image.
n. a technique for creating three-dimensional images using lasers to record and reconstruct interference patterns
18. The computer is _____ and cannot be accessed at the moment.
adj. not connected to the internet
19. She _____ described the complex scientific concept in simple terms everyone could understand.
adv. in a way that is appropriate or fitting; in a way that demonstrates understanding or intelligence
20. The boss tried to _____ the employees into working overtime by threatening to fire them.
v. to force, pressure, or compel someone to do something against their will or better judgment; to use threatening or intimidating tactics to persuade someone to comply with one's demands
21. This ore emits _____ quantities of radiation
adj. extremely small; tiny
22. 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
23. China has developed one of the world's fastest _____ for its space program.
n. a computer with a high level of computing power and speed, typically used for scientific or engineering computations that require immense amounts of data processing

ANSWERS: 16. traits, 17. Holography, 18. offline, 19. aptly, 20. coerce, 21. minuscule, 22. trade-off, 23. supercomputers

24. He looked for an opportunity to _____ that actor in public.

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

25. Sugar is _____ in food.

adj. being or existing everywhere at once

26. I believe this analysis is _____ to some extent.

v. to give someone the wrong order, information, etc.; to send someone or something to the wrong place or wrong direction

27. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.

n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

28. That mythical chimera has a lion's body, a bird's wings, and a _____ tail.

n. a large snake

29. The animal was injured and became _____ attacking anyone who approached.

adj. extremely wild, ferocious, or uncivilized

30. Careful brushing can remove _____.

n. the egg of a louse (= that is a tiny insect that lives in human hair) or some other insect; a foolish person

31. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

ANSWERS: 24. embarrass, 25. ubiquitous, 26. misdirected, 27. improvisation, 28. serpent's, 29. savage, 30. nit, 31. smartphones

32. There was much _____ about the cause of the fire, but the investigation is still ongoing.

- n.* an opinion or conclusion formed based on incomplete information; a theory or speculation that is unsupported by firm evidence or proof

ANSWERS: 32. conjecture