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Handspring Puppet Co.: The genius puppetry behind War Horse | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

puppet

n. a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else

synonym: marionette, dummy, mannequin

(1) **puppet** theater, (2) corporate **puppet**

The politician was merely a **puppet** for the wealthy elite.

basil

n. an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine

synonym: herb

(1) freshly chopped **basil**, (2) **basil** leaves

The **basil** in the garden was ready to be picked for tonight's pasta dish.

hyena

n. a carnivorous mammal with a distinctive laugh-like vocalization, known for scavenging and hunting in packs

synonym: jackal, coyote, wild dog

(1) **hyena** den, (2) spotted **hyena**

The **hyena's** powerful jaws and teeth enable it to crush bones and devour its prey.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
synonym : forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

paw

n. the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one

synonym : mitt, manus, talon

(1) **paw** print, (2) **paw** pad

The cat batted at the toy with its **paw**.

onstage

adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

(1) appeared **onstage**, (2) walk **onstage**

He performed his magic trick **onstage**, leaving the audience in awe.

plywood

n. a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles

synonym : panel board, veneer panel, plyboard

(1) flexible **plywood**, (2) **plywood** furniture

Manufacturing companies use large sheets of **plywood** to make furniture and fixtures.

canoe

n. a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle

(1) **canoe** race, (2) make a **canoe** trip

After the accident, the police found an empty **canoe**.

avant-garde

adj. relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions

synonym : innovative, experimental, unconventional

(1) **avant-garde** art, (2) **avant-garde** music

The artist's **avant-garde** approach to sculpture challenged conventional ideas of art.

miraculous

adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

synonym : amazing, astonishing, awesome

(1) a **miraculous** encounter, (2) go through a **miraculous** change

He made a **miraculous** recovery.

troupe

n. a group of actors, dancers, or performers who work together as a team, typically in a theatrical or musical production

synonym : company, ensemble, group

(1) **troupe** rehearsal, (2) circus **troupe**

The theater **troupe** is performing Hamlet this weekend.

giraffe

n. a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves

synonym : gazelle, okapi, camelopard

(1) **giraffe** pattern, (2) **giraffe** exhibit

The **giraffe's** long neck makes reaching leaves high up in the trees easy.

hoop

n. a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration

synonym : ring, circle, band

(1) **hoop** earring, (2) basketball **hoop**

The circus clown jumped through a fiery **hoop** as the audience gasped in amazement.

stilt

n. a tall, narrow pole used as a support for a building, bridge, or other structure; a pair of long, slender poles with footrests used to elevate someone above the ground

synonym : pole, post, long-legs

(1) **stilt** grass, (2) **stilt** walking

The archeologists found ancient **stilt** houses that were preserved under the water.

steer

v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
synonym: guide, direct, control

(1) **steer** a steady course, (2) **steer** a conversation

The captain told him to **steer** the ship north.

hind

adj. situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal
synonym: back, rear, posterior

(1) **hind** toe, (2) **hind** paw

The farmer noticed a **hind** leg injury on one of his cows and called the vet for help.

cavalry

n. a highly mobile army unit

(1) troop of **cavalry**, (2) superbly trained **cavalry**

The **cavalry** regrouped and launched another attack.

plow

n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

synonym: plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

crate

n. a large container, typically made of wood or metal, used for transporting or storing goods

synonym: box, container, receptacle

(1) **crate** of apples, (2) beer **crate**

The shipping **crate** was filled with fragile glassware that must be shipped carefully.

cape

n. a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water

synonym : shawl, cloak, mantle

(1) **cape** cod, (2) red **cape**

The superhero wore a flowing **cape** as part of their costume.

gallop

v. (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly

synonym : canter, race, bound

(1) **gallop** a horse, (2) **gallop** off at top speed

The horse **galloped** across the field at a fast pace.

terrify

v. to frighten someone very much

synonym : unnerve, scare, horrify

(1) **terrify** people, (2) the threats **terrify** him

It would be best not to **terrify** your associates into doing complex tasks.

choreograph

v. to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music

(1) **choreograph** a stage performance, (2) exquisitely **choreographed**

He had **choreographed** the dance in this play himself.

twig

n. a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

synonym : branchlet, sprig, osier

(1) **twig** branch, (2) **twig** basket

The bird perched on a **twig** and sang a beautiful melody.

irritate

v. to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore

synonym : annoy, vex, bother

(1) **irritate** skin, (2) **irritate** my partner

The sound of his chewing loudly **irritates** me during dinner.

eyesight

n. the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness

synonym: vision, sight, eyes

(1) impaired **eyesight**, (2) acute **eyesight**

His excellent **eyesight** allowed him to spot the bird in the dense foliage.

tendon

n. a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone

synonym: tissue, sinew, ligament

(1) **tendon** grafting, (2) **tendon** collagen

Tendon injuries are common among athletes.

hoof

n. the horny part of the foot of some mammals, such as horses, deer, and cattle

synonym: foot, paw

(1) **hoof** mark, (2) clean **hoof**

The horse's **hoof** was injured and needed to be treated by a veterinarian.

naturalism

n. a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws

(1) **naturalism** in literature, (2) philosophical **naturalism**

The scientific method is often seen as an embodiment of **naturalism**, as it seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.

quiver

v. to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion

synonym: shake, tremble, shiver

(1) **quiver** in the breeze, (2) **quiver** with excitement

The archer's hands **quivered** as he aimed the arrow at the target.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for

too long

synonym : cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

skeletal

adj. of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones);
very thin or emaciated

synonym : bony, emaciated, gaunt

(1) **skeletal** system, (2) **skeletal** muscles

The older man was skinny and **skeletal** and not in good health.

Session 2: Spelling

1. st__r a conversation
v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
2. ba__l leaves
n. an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine
3. flexible pl____d
n. a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles
4. clean h__f
n. the horny part of the foot of some mammals, such as horses, deer, and cattle
5. gi____e pattern
n. a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
6. impaired ey____ht
n. the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness
7. h__d toe
adj. situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal
8. te____n collagen
n. a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone
9. deeply p__w the soil
n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

ANSWERS: 1. steer, 2. basil, 3. plywood, 4. hoof, 5. giraffe, 6. eyesight, 7. hind, 8. tendon, 9. plow

10. cho_____ph a stage performance *v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
11. beer cr__e *n.* a large container, typically made of wood or metal, used for transporting or storing goods
12. ir_____te my partner *v.* to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
13. the threats te_____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
14. sk_____al system *adj.* of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated
15. pl_____d furniture *n.* a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles
16. basketball h__p *n.* a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration
17. spotted hy__a *n.* a carnivorous mammal with a distinctive laugh-like vocalization, known for scavenging and hunting in packs
18. t__g branch *n.* a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual
19. ava_____de art *adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions

ANSWERS: 10. choreograph, 11. crate, 12. irritate, 13. terrify, 14. skeletal, 15. plywood, 16. hoop, 17. hyena, 18. twig, 19. avant-garde

20. acute ey____ht *n.* the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness
21. walk on____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
22. p__w equipment *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
23. hy__a den *n.* a carnivorous mammal with a distinctive laugh-like vocalization, known for scavenging and hunting in packs
24. ca__e race *n.* a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle
25. corporate pu____t *n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else
26. st__t grass *n.* a tall, narrow pole used as a support for a building, bridge, or other structure; a pair of long, slender poles with footrests used to elevate someone above the ground
27. h__p earring *n.* a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration
28. freshly chopped ba__l *n.* an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine

ANSWERS: 20. eyesight, 21. onstage, 22. plow, 23. hyena, 24. canoe, 25. puppet, 26. stilt, 27. hoop, 28. basil

29. a mir_____us encounter *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected
30. st__r a steady course *v.* to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone
31. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
32. nat_____sm in literature *n.* a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
33. make a ca__e trip *n.* a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle
34. m__d allergy *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
35. qu___r with excitement *v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
36. pu___t theater *n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else
37. te___n grafting *n.* a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone

ANSWERS: 29. miraculous, 30. steer, 31. onstage, 32. naturalism, 33. canoe, 34. mold, 35. quiver, 36. puppet, 37. tendon

38. ava_____de music *adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions
39. tr___e rehearsal *n.* a group of actors, dancers, or performers who work together as a team, typically in a theatrical or musical production
40. troop of ca_____y *n.* a highly mobile army unit
41. c__e cod *n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
42. superbly trained ca_____y *n.* a highly mobile army unit
43. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
44. ga___p off at top speed *v.* (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly
45. exquisitely cho_____phed *v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music
46. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
47. h__f mark *n.* the horny part of the foot of some mammals, such as horses, deer, and cattle
48. go through a mir_____us change *adj.* very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

ANSWERS: 38. avant-garde, 39. troupe, 40. cavalry, 41. cape, 42. cavalry, 43. ancestor, 44. gallop, 45. choreograph, 46. ancestor, 47. hoof, 48. miraculous

49. ir____te skin *v.* to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
50. st__t walking *n.* a tall, narrow pole used as a support for a building, bridge, or other structure; a pair of long, slender poles with footrests used to elevate someone above the ground
51. cr__e of apples *n.* a large container, typically made of wood or metal, used for transporting or storing goods
52. circus tr____e *n.* a group of actors, dancers, or performers who work together as a team, typically in a theatrical or musical production
53. p_w pad *n.* the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one
54. philosophical nat____sm *n.* a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws
55. sk____al muscles *adj.* of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated
56. p_w print *n.* the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one
57. qu____r in the breeze *v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion

ANSWERS: 49. irritate, 50. stilt, 51. crate, 52. troupe, 53. paw, 54. naturalism, 55. skeletal, 56. paw, 57. quiver

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The horse _____ across the field at a fast pace.
v. (of a horse) to run very quickly so that all four feet come off the ground together; to proceed very quickly

2. He made a _____ recovery.
adj. very effective or lucky, or completely unexpected

3. His excellent _____ allowed him to spot the bird in the dense foliage.
n. the ability to see; visual acuity or sharpness

4. The older man was skinny and _____ and not in good health.
adj. of, relating to, or forming a skeleton (= frame of bones); very thin or emaciated

5. The _____ powerful jaws and teeth enable it to crush bones and devour its prey.
n. a carnivorous mammal with a distinctive laugh-like vocalization, known for scavenging and hunting in packs

6. The shipping _____ was filled with fragile glassware that must be shipped carefully.
n. a large container, typically made of wood or metal, used for transporting or storing goods

7. The _____ regrouped and launched another attack.
n. a highly mobile army unit

8. The scientific method is often seen as an embodiment of _____ as it seeks to understand the natural world through observation and experimentation.
n. a philosophical belief that everything, including human behavior and cognition, can be explained solely by natural causes and laws

ANSWERS: 1. galloped, 2. miraculous, 3. eyesight, 4. skeletal, 5. hyena's, 6. crate, 7. cavalry, 8. naturalism,

9. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
10. After the accident, the police found an empty _____.
n. a narrow, light boat with pointy ends and no keel that is propelled by a paddle
11. The _____ in the garden was ready to be picked for tonight's pasta dish.
n. an herb with fragrant, green leaves that is used to flavor many different types of food, especially Italian and Thai cuisine
12. _____ injuries are common among athletes.
n. a strong, fibrous cord of tissue that connects muscle to bone
13. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
14. The theater _____ is performing Hamlet this weekend.
n. a group of actors, dancers, or performers who work together as a team, typically in a theatrical or musical production
15. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the _____.
n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
16. The captain told him to _____ the ship north.
v. to control the direction or movement of a vehicle; to direct a course of action; to guide or motivate someone

ANSWERS: 9. onstage, 10. canoe, 11. basil, 12. Tendon, 13. ancestor, 14. troupe, 15. plow, 16. steer

17. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.

- n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

18. The artist's _____ approach to sculpture challenged conventional ideas of art.

- adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions

19. The archeologists found ancient _____ houses that were preserved under the water.

- n.* a tall, narrow pole used as a support for a building, bridge, or other structure; a pair of long, slender poles with footrests used to elevate someone above the ground

20. He had _____ the dance in this play himself.

- v.* to compose a sequence of dance steps, often to music

21. The cat batted at the toy with its _____.

- n.* the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog, or bear; a person's hand, especially a clumsy or heavy-handed one

22. The circus clown jumped through a fiery _____ as the audience gasped in amazement.

- n.* a circular band or ring, often made of metal or wood, used as a toy, a part of the equipment, or a decoration

ANSWERS: 17. mold, 18. avant-garde, 19. stilt, 20. choreographed, 21. paw, 22. hoop

23. The politician was merely a _____ for the wealthy elite.
- n.* a doll or figure that is manipulated by strings, wires, or hands to represent a person or animal; a person who is controlled or manipulated by someone else
24. The archer's hands _____ as he aimed the arrow at the target.
- v.* to shake or tremble with a slight, rapid motion
25. The sound of his chewing loudly _____ me during dinner.
- v.* to annoy, provoke, or cause resentment or anger in someone; to inflame or make sore
26. The farmer noticed a _____ leg injury on one of his cows and called the vet for help.
- adj.* situated at the back or rear; coming after, following; of, or relating to the hindquarters or hind legs of an animal
27. The superhero wore a flowing _____ as part of their costume.
- n.* a type of long, loose outer garment that covers the back, shoulders, and arms; a headland or promontory extending into the sea or other large body of water
28. The _____ long neck makes reaching leaves high up in the trees easy.
- n.* a tall African mammal with a very long neck and legs, typically with distinctive brownish-yellow fur and dark patches; an animal often found in zoos and wildlife preserves
29. Manufacturing companies use large sheets of _____ to make furniture and fixtures.
- n.* a strong, flexible, and lightweight engineered wood made of thin layers of wood veneer that have been glued together at alternating, perpendicular angles

ANSWERS: 23. puppet, 24. quivered, 25. irritates, 26. hind, 27. cape, 28. giraffe's, 29. plywood

30. The bird perched on a _____ and sang a beautiful melody.

n. a small, thin, flexible branch or shoot of a tree or shrub; a slender, fragile, or delicate object or individual

31. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.

v. to frighten someone very much

32. The horse's _____ was injured and needed to be treated by a veterinarian.

n. the horny part of the foot of some mammals, such as horses, deer, and cattle

ANSWERS: 30. twig, 31. terrify, 32. hoof