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TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

crumble

v. to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support

synonym: disintegrate, collapse, deteriorate

(1) **crumble** to dust, (2) began to **crumble** under financial pressure

The old building was starting to **crumble** due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance.

crossroad

n. a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences

synonym: intersection, junction, fork

(1) critical **crossroad**, (2) major **crossroad**

I'm at a career **crossroads** and unsure which path to take.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym: ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

priceless

adj. extremely valuable or important

synonym: invaluable, incalculable, precious

(1) **priceless** work of art, (2) **priceless** opportunity

Investigators discovered **priceless** documents throughout the house.

fortify

v. to make something stronger or more resistant to attack or damage; to give someone or something more strength or support

synonym: strengthen, reinforce, bolster

(1) **fortify** a building, (2) **fortify** an immune system

He drank a protein shake to **fortify** his muscles before the marathon.

moat

n. a deep, wide ditch, typically filled with water, surrounding a castle, fort, or town, primarily as a defense

synonym: ditch, trench, channel

(1) the **moat** around the castle, (2) fill in a **moat**

The castle had a deep **moat** around it to protect it from attackers.

archer

n. a person who shoots with a bow and arrow; a soldier equipped with a bow and arrows

synonym: Bowman, marksman, shooter

(1) **archer's** bow, (2) skilled **archer**

The **archer's** aim was so accurate he could hit a moving target without fail.

soaked

adj. completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid

synonym: drenched, saturated, wet

(1) **soaked** clothes, (2) **soaked** sponge

The hiker's boots were **soaked** from walking through the stream.

contend

v. to struggle to win or surmount something

synonym: compete, oppose, argue

(1) **contend** that tobacco is nonaddictive, (2) **contend** for a championship

Tobacco companies have long **contended** that their product is not addictive.

spear

n. a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past

synonym: javelin, pike, lance

(1) hunting **spear**, (2) sharp-pointed **spear**

Ancient people made **spears** with wood entirely.

napalm

n. a highly flammable substance consisting of a petroleum jelly thickened with a chemical compound, used in warfare to create a highly incendiary weapon capable of causing extensive fire damage

synonym: firebomb, gelnite, jellied gasoline

(1) **napalm** explosion, (2) **napalm** attack

The war zone was devastated by the use of **napalm** bombs.

ignite

v. to set on fire; to cause to start burning

synonym: light, set fire to, ignite

(1) **ignite** a boom, (2) **ignite** passion

He **ignited** the fireworks with a single spark.

extinguish

v. to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining

synonym: quench, smother, blow out

(1) **extinguish** a cigarette, (2) **extinguish** the street lamp

Firefighters made every effort to **extinguish** the blaze immediately.

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.

siphon

n. a tube or conduit used to transfer liquids, usually from a higher to a lower level, by means of atmospheric pressure, gravity, or vacuum; a device used to extract a

liquid from a container

synonym : tube, hose, pipe

(1) **siphon** off political funds, (2) **siphon** jet

The **siphon** pipe in my aquarium helps to keep the water clean and clear by removing debris and waste.

rampart

n. a defensive wall or embankment built around a castle, city, or fortification; a protective barrier or structure that serves as a defense against attacks or encroachment

synonym : fortification, bulwark, bastion

(1) ruined **rampart**, (2) old **rampart**

A sturdy **rampart** surrounded the old castle to protect it from invaders.

catapult

n. a device used to hurl an object a long distance

synonym : launcher, trebuchet, slingshot

(1) powerful **catapult**, (2) **catapult** mechanism

The army used a **catapult** to launch large rocks over the castle walls.

invade

v. to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation

synonym : intrude, raid, overrun

(1) **invade** other tissues, (2) **invade** his privacy

I have no intention to **invade** your privacy.

inferno

n. a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs

synonym : hell, fiery pit, furnace

(1) a raging **inferno**, (2) devastating **inferno**

The building was consumed by an **inferno**, reducing it to ashes.

troop

n. a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.

synonym : group, unit, band

(1) the members of a military **troop**, (2) a **troop** of deer
The **troop** of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.

scourge

n. a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely

synonym: plague, disaster, curse

(1) **scourge** of AIDS, (2) bring a **scourge** under control
The plague was a **scourge** that killed millions of people.

starve

v. to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

synonym: famish, hunger

(1) **starve** for a victory, (2) **starve** to death
If you don't eat soon, you're going to **starve**.

cannibalism

n. the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species

synonym: anthropophagy, man-eating

(1) **cannibalism** practice, (2) incidence of **cannibalism**
The tribe's religious rituals involved **cannibalism** of their enemies.

cannon

n. a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting

synonym: artillery, gun, ordnance

(1) **cannon** salute, (2) **cannon** ball

The heavy **cannon** fired a loud shot that echoed across the battlefield.

bombardment

n. a continuous attack with bombs or other missiles
synonym: attack, shelling, strafing

(1) aerial **bombardment**, (2) **bombardment** raid

The city was subjected to heavy **bombardment** during the

war.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

throe

n. a severe or intense spasm of pain, such as a pang of childbirth or the spasms of a dying person; a period of intense stress or difficulty

synonym: spasm, pang, throb

(1) the **throes** of a financial crisis, (2) **throes** of death

She writhed in the **throes** of pain during labor.

formidable

adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration

synonym: daunting, intimidating, fearful

(1) **formidable** challenge, (2) **formidable** competitor

The mountain range was a **formidable** obstacle for the hikers.

rubble

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

synonym: debris, ruins, wreckage

(1) clear away **rubble**, (2) **rubble-strewn** road

After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of **rubble**.

cannonball

n. a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon

synonym: projectile, ammunition, bullet

(1) a 4 kg **cannonball**, (2) human **cannonball**

The castle collapsed as multiple **cannonballs** hit the walls.

onrush

n. a strong forward rush or flow; an offensive against an enemy

synonym: rush, surge, attack

(1) **onrush** of the sea, (2) **onrush** of sadness

The explosion interrupted the wild **onrush** of the enemy's invasion.

horde

n. a large group of people or animals, especially one that is chaotic or uncontrolled

synonym: crowd, swarm, mass

(1) **horde** of attackers, (2) the **horde** of shoppers

The **horde** of zombies was approaching quickly.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym: judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

reintroduce

v. to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued

synonym: bring back, restore, reestablish

(1) **reintroduce** species, (2) **reintroduce** capital punishment

The government is planning to **reintroduce** wolves to the national park to restore the balance of the ecosystem.

Renaissance

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

synonym: rebirth, golden age

(1) artistic **renaissance**, (2) industrial **renaissance**

Folk music is now experiencing a **renaissance**.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. ig___e passion | <i>v.</i> to set on fire; to cause to start burning |
| 2. ext_____sh the street lamp | <i>v.</i> to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining |
| 3. hunting sp__r | <i>n.</i> a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past |
| 4. incidence of can_____sm | <i>n.</i> the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species |
| 5. old ra_____t | <i>n.</i> a defensive wall or embankment built around a castle, city, or fortification; a protective barrier or structure that serves as a defense against attacks or encroachment |
| 6. so___d sponge | <i>adj.</i> completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid |
| 7. th__es of death | <i>n.</i> a severe or intense spasm of pain, such as a pang of childbirth or the spasms of a dying person; a period of intense stress or difficulty |
| 8. na___m explosion | <i>n.</i> a highly flammable substance consisting of a petroleum jelly thickened with a chemical compound, used in warfare to create a highly incendiary weapon capable of causing extensive fire damage |

ANSWERS: 1. ignite, 2. extinguish, 3. spear, 4. cannibalism, 5. rampart, 6. soaked, 7. throe, 8. napalm

9. in___e his privacy *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
10. major cr_____ad *n.* a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences
11. ca___n salute *n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
12. on___h of sadness *n.* a strong forward rush or flow; an offensive against an enemy
13. the members of a military tr__p *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
14. in___e other tissues *v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
15. ar___r's bow *n.* a person who shoots with a bow and arrow; a soldier equipped with a bow and arrows
16. fo_____y a building *v.* to make something stronger or more resistant to attack or damage; to give someone or something more strength or support
17. co_____d for a championship *v.* to struggle to win or surmount something
18. st___e for a victory *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance

ANSWERS: 9. invade, 10. crossroad, 11. cannon, 12. onrush, 13. troop, 14. invade, 15. archer, 16. fortify, 17. contend, 18. starve

19. pr_____ss opportunity *adj.* extremely valuable or important
20. sharp-pointed sp__r *n.* a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past
21. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
22. ruined ra_____t *n.* a defensive wall or embankment built around a castle, city, or fortification; a protective barrier or structure that serves as a defense against attacks or encroachment
23. former em_____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
24. ru___e-strewn road *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed
25. na___m attack *n.* a highly flammable substance consisting of a petroleum jelly thickened with a chemical compound, used in warfare to create a highly incendiary weapon capable of causing extensive fire damage
26. te_____y people *v.* to frighten someone very much
27. rei_____ce capital punishment *v.* to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued
28. critical cr_____ad *n.* a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences

ANSWERS: 19. priceless, 20. spear, 21. doom, 22. rampart, 23. emperor, 24. rubble, 25. napalm, 26. terrify, 27. reintroduce, 28. crossroad

29. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
30. the threats te_____y him *v.* to frighten someone very much
31. the th__es of a financial crisis *n.* a severe or intense spasm of pain, such as a pang of childbirth or the spasms of a dying person; a period of intense stress or difficulty
32. ca___n ball *n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
33. sc_____e of AIDS *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
34. bring a sc_____e under control *n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
35. artistic ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
36. aerial bom_____nt *n.* a continuous attack with bombs or other missiles
37. si___n off political funds *n.* a tube or conduit used to transfer liquids, usually from a higher to a lower level, by means of atmospheric pressure, gravity, or vacuum; a device used to extract a liquid from a container

ANSWERS: 29. sect, 30. terrify, 31. throe, 32. cannon, 33. scourge, 34. scourge, 35. Renaissance, 36. bombardment, 37. siphon

38. devastating in____o *n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs
39. fo____y an immune system *v.* to make something stronger or more resistant to attack or damage; to give someone or something more strength or support
40. st___e to death *v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
41. a raging in____o *n.* a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs
42. for_____le competitor *adj.* causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
43. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
44. industrial ren_____ce *n.* a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music
45. human can_____ll *n.* a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon
46. fill in a m__t *n.* a deep, wide ditch, typically filled with water, surrounding a castle, fort, or town, primarily as a defense

ANSWERS: 38. inferno, 39. fortify, 40. starve, 41. inferno, 42. formidable, 43. doom, 44. Renaissance, 45. cannonball, 46. moat

47. si___n jet *n.* a tube or conduit used to transfer liquids, usually from a higher to a lower level, by means of atmospheric pressure, gravity, or vacuum; a device used to extract a liquid from a container
48. began to cr_____e under financial pressure *v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
49. on___h of the sea *n.* a strong forward rush or flow; an offensive against an enemy
50. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
51. ho__e of attackers *n.* a large group of people or animals, especially one that is chaotic or uncontrolled
52. cr_____e to dust *v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
53. the m__t around the castle *n.* a deep, wide ditch, typically filled with water, surrounding a castle, fort, or town, primarily as a defense
54. ca_____lt mechanism *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance
55. ext_____sh a cigarette *v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining
56. co_____d that tobacco is nonaddictive *v.* to struggle to win or surmount something

ANSWERS: 47. siphon, 48. crumble, 49. onrush, 50. sect, 51. horde, 52. crumble, 53. moat, 54. catapult, 55. extinguish, 56. contend

57. the ho__e of shoppers *n.* a large group of people or animals, especially one that is chaotic or uncontrolled
58. pr_____ss work of art *adj.* extremely valuable or important
59. em_____r of Rome *n.* the male ruler of an empire
60. can_____sm practice *n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
61. for_____le challenge *adj.* causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration
62. so____d clothes *adj.* completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid
63. bom_____nt raid *n.* a continuous attack with bombs or other missiles
64. a tr__p of deer *n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
65. a 4 kg can_____ll *n.* a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon
66. rei_____ce species *v.* to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued
67. clear away ru____e *n.* fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

ANSWERS: 57. horde, 58. priceless, 59. emperor, 60. cannibalism, 61. formidable, 62. soaked, 63. bombardment, 64. troop, 65. cannonball, 66. reintroduce, 67. rubble

68. skilled ar___r *n.* a person who shoots with a bow and arrow; a soldier equipped with a bow and arrows
69. ig___e a boom *v.* to set on fire; to cause to start burning
70. powerful ca_____lt *n.* a device used to hurl an object a long distance

ANSWERS: 68. archer, 69. ignite, 70. catapult

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He drank a protein shake to _____ his muscles before the marathon.
v. to make something stronger or more resistant to attack or damage; to give someone or something more strength or support

2. Ancient people made _____ with wood entirely.
n. a weapon with a long shaft and a sharp metal point used for battle, hunting, and fishing in the past

3. The _____ pipe in my aquarium helps to keep the water clean and clear by removing debris and waste.
n. a tube or conduit used to transfer liquids, usually from a higher to a lower level, by means of atmospheric pressure, gravity, or vacuum; a device used to extract a liquid from a container

4. A sturdy _____ surrounded the old castle to protect it from invaders.
n. a defensive wall or embankment built around a castle, city, or fortification; a protective barrier or structure that serves as a defense against attacks or encroachment

5. The hiker's boots were _____ from walking through the stream.
adj. completely wet; saturated or drenched with a liquid

6. The government is planning to _____ wolves to the national park to restore the balance of the ecosystem.
v. to bring back something that has been previously abolished or discontinued

7. He _____ the fireworks with a single spark.
v. to set on fire; to cause to start burning

ANSWERS: 1. fortify, 2. spears, 3. siphon, 4. rampart, 5. soaked, 6. reintroduce, 7. ignited

8. The _____ of soldiers marched through the city in a parade.
- n.* a group of soldiers, especially a large one; a group of people, animals, or things considered as a unit.
9. It would be best not to _____ your associates into doing complex tasks.
- v.* to frighten someone very much
10. The old building was starting to _____ due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance.
- v.* to break or fall apart into small pieces or fragments, especially due to age, decay, or lack of support
11. The _____ aim was so accurate he could hit a moving target without fail.
- n.* a person who shoots with a bow and arrow; a soldier equipped with a bow and arrows
12. If you don't eat soon, you're going to _____.
- v.* to suffer or die from lack of food; to cause someone or something to suffer or die from lack of food; to deprive something of necessary nourishment or sustenance
13. The city was subjected to heavy _____ during the war.
- n.* a continuous attack with bombs or other missiles
14. The castle had a deep _____ around it to protect it from attackers.
- n.* a deep, wide ditch, typically filled with water, surrounding a castle, fort, or town, primarily as a defense
15. Tobacco companies have long _____ that their product is not addictive.
- v.* to struggle to win or surmount something

ANSWERS: 8. troop, 9. terrify, 10. crumble, 11. archer's, 12. starve, 13. bombardment, 14. moat, 15. contended

16. The mountain range was a _____ obstacle for the hikers.

adj. causing fear, apprehension, or awe; difficult to deal with or overcome; capable of inspiring respect or admiration

17. The building was consumed by an _____ reducing it to ashes.

n. a place or condition of intense suffering, especially Hell, in traditional Christian beliefs

18. Folk music is now experiencing a _____.

n. a new growth in activity or enthusiasm in anything, particularly art, literature, or music

19. Firefighters made every effort to _____ the blaze immediately.

v. to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining

20. She writhed in the _____ of pain during labor.

n. a severe or intense spasm of pain, such as a pang of childbirth or the spasms of a dying person; a period of intense stress or difficulty

21. I'm at a career _____ and unsure which path to take.

n. a place where two or more roads or paths cross or intersect; a point of decision or choice, often involving significant consequences

22. After the earthquake, the city was left in a pile of _____.

n. fragments of rock, stone, or other materials that remain after a building or other structure has been destroyed or demolished; the remains of something that has been broken down or destroyed

23. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.

n. the male ruler of an empire

ANSWERS: 16. formidable, 17. inferno, 18. renaissance, 19. extinguish, 20. throes, 21. crossroads, 22. rubble, 23. Emperor

24. The plague was a _____ that killed millions of people.
- n.* a person or thing that causes great suffering or destruction; (verb) to punish someone severely
25. The war zone was devastated by the use of _____ bombs.
- n.* a highly flammable substance consisting of a petroleum jelly thickened with a chemical compound, used in warfare to create a highly incendiary weapon capable of causing extensive fire damage
26. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
- n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
27. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
- n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
28. The heavy _____ fired a loud shot that echoed across the battlefield.
- n.* a large, heavy gun fired from a fixed position or mounted on a vehicle, used in warfare or hunting
29. The tribe's religious rituals involved _____ of their enemies.
- n.* the practice of eating the flesh of other people or one's species; a behavior seen in certain animals, especially insects and arachnids, in which one individual consumes another of the same species
30. I have no intention to _____ your privacy.
- v.* to enter aggressively into another's territory by military force for conquest and occupation
31. The explosion interrupted the wild _____ of the enemy's invasion.
- n.* a strong forward rush or flow; an offensive against an enemy

ANSWERS: 24. scourge, 25. napalm, 26. sect, 27. doom, 28. cannon, 29. cannibalism, 30. invade, 31. onrush

32. The _____ of zombies was approaching quickly.
n. a large group of people or animals, especially one that is chaotic or uncontrolled
33. The army used a _____ to launch large rocks over the castle walls.
n. a device used to hurl an object a long distance
34. The castle collapsed as multiple _____ hit the walls.
n. a large metal or stone ball shot or fired from a cannon
35. Investigators discovered _____ documents throughout the house.
adj. extremely valuable or important

ANSWERS: 32. horde, 33. catapult, 34. cannonballs, 35. priceless