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David R. Dow: Lessons from death row inmates |

TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

recollection

n. the act of remembering or the state of being remembered

synonym: memory, reminiscence, remembrance

(1) a vague **recollection**, (2) **recollection** of a traumatic event

The older man's **recollections** of his youth were filled with stories of adventure and romance.

destine

v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome

synonym: ordain, doom, predestine

(1) **destine** us to meet again, (2) be **destined** to become a great artist

Some people believe that we are all **destined** for greatness.

paranoid

adj. unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you

(1) **paranoid** about issues, (2) **paranoid** disorder

A **paranoid** person may have delusions that people want to harm.

schizophrenia

n. a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior

synonym : psychosis, disorder, mental illness

(1) **schizophrenia** spectrum disorder, (2) **schizophrenia** treatment

The **schizophrenia** patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.

butcher

n. a person who prepares and sells meat, especially at a retail shop; a person who kills or slaughters animals, especially for food; a person who engages in the relentless or brutal treatment of others

synonym : butcherer, meat cutter, slaughterer

(1) **butcher** knife, (2) local **butcher**

He's a vegetarian and was shocked to see so much meat in the **butcher** shop.

ardent

adj. having or showing a strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

synonym : passionate, fervent, eager

(1) **ardent** supporter, (2) **ardent** love

His **ardent** desire to succeed motivated him to work harder.

vociferous

adj. characterized by loud, insistent, or attention-grabbing verbal expression

synonym : loud, noisy, clamorous

(1) **vociferous** protest, (2) **vociferous** criticism

The **vociferous** fans cheered loudly for their team during the game.

abolitionist

n. a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust

synonym : antislavery activist, emancipator, liberator

(1) slavery **abolitionist**, (2) women's rights **abolitionist**

Harriet Tubman was a well-known **abolitionist** who fought for the freedom of enslaved people.

unfold

v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

synonym: open, spread out, expose

(1) **unfold** the story, (2) **unfold** the stroller

The mystery **unfolded** as the detectives gathered more clues.

convict

v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime;
(noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison

synonym: condemn, sentence, judge

(1) **convict** him of manslaughter, (2) **convict** in a jail

He was **convicted** on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.

uphold

v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.

synonym: defend, maintain, sustain

(1) **uphold** the law, (2) **uphold** tradition

The judge may **uphold** the decision of the lower court.

appellate

adj. relating to or having the power to hear appeals from lower courts or tribunals; referring to a court that primarily hears appeals

(1) **appellate** procedure, (2) **appellate** jurisdiction

The **appellate** court reviews cases that have already been tried in lower courts.

clemency

n. mercy or leniency shown to someone who has committed a crime or is being punished; forgiveness or pardoning of an offense or wrongdoing

synonym: leniency, mercy, compassion

(1) **clemency** plea, (2) **clemency** decision

The judge showed **clemency** towards the defendant and

gave a more lenient sentence than expected.

inmate

n. a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility

synonym: prisoner, convict, detainee

(1) **inmate** population, (2) **inmate** rights

The prison implemented a new educational program for **inmates** to learn skills and prepare for life after release.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap

There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

dissolution

n. the act of breaking up or dissolving something, often referring to a contract, a relationship, or a substance; the process of disintegrating or decomposing over time; the ending or termination of a group or organization

synonym: disintegration, decay, breakup

(1) **dissolution** of a company, (2) **dissolution** of the sugar

The **dissolution** of the partnership was a difficult and emotional process.

solace

n. comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering

synonym: comfort, condolence, peace

(1) **solace** in music, (2) offer **solace**

The grieving widow found **solace** in reading her late husband's letters.

cusp

n. a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved

synonym: point, apex, tip

(1) **cusp** of change, (2) a single **cusp**

The project was on the **cusp** of success and needed a little more funding.

gnarl

n. a rough knotted swelling on a tree, knot in wood; a contorted or twisted shape or feature

synonym: knot, twist, bump

(1) **gnarl** bark, (2) **gnarl-edged** branch

The **gnarl** of the tree trunk provided a natural seat for the weary traveler.

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.

legislator

n. a member of a group of people who has the power to make or enact laws

synonym: lawmaker, lawgiver, administrator

(1) a **legislator** appointed by the party, (2) incumbent **legislator**

Corporate executives and **legislators** are still overwhelmingly men.

policymaker

n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.

synonym: lawmaker, legislator

(1) education **policymaker**, (2) regional **policymaker**

Policymakers struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.

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.

daunting

adj. looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something

synonym : intimidating, stunning, disheartening

(1) face the **daunting** reality, (2) seem like a **daunting** task

My homework was **daunting** and complex, but it was also intriguing.

disrespect

n. an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something

synonym : impoliteness, rudeness, insult

(1) mean no **disrespect**, (2) **disrespect** for a customer

His **disrespectful** behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.

holler

v. to shout or call out loudly and forcefully, often to get someone's attention or convey a message

synonym : shout, yell, bellow

(1) **holler** out his frustration, (2) **holler** for help

The kids love to **holler** at the echoing mountains during our summer trips.

homicide

n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

synonym : murder, killing, manslaughter

(1) mass **homicide**, (2) serial **homicide**

The detective was called to investigate a **homicide** in the city.

devote

v. to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

synonym : commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life
He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

Session 2: Spelling

1. un___d the stroller
v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
2. ho___r for help
v. to shout or call out loudly and forcefully, often to get someone's attention or convey a message
3. c__p of change
n. a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
4. de_____e us to meet again
v. to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
5. so___e in music
n. comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
6. ho___r out his frustration
v. to shout or call out loudly and forcefully, often to get someone's attention or convey a message
7. voc_____us criticism
adj. characterized by loud, insistent, or attention-grabbing verbal expression
8. cl_____cy plea
n. mercy or leniency shown to someone who has committed a crime or is being punished; forgiveness or pardoning of an offense or wrongdoing

ANSWERS: 1. unfold, 2. holler, 3. cusp, 4. destine, 5. solace, 6. holler, 7. vociferous, 8. clemency

18. ap_____te jurisdiction *adj.* relating to or having the power to hear appeals from lower courts or tribunals; referring to a court that primarily hears appeals
19. gn__l bark *n.* a rough knotted swelling on a tree, knot in wood; a contorted or twisted shape or feature
20. dis_____on of a company *n.* the act of breaking up or dissolving something, often referring to a contract, a relationship, or a substance; the process of disintegrating or decomposing over time; the ending or termination of a group or organization
21. dis_____ct for a customer *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
22. local bu_____r *n.* a person who prepares and sells meat, especially at a retail shop; a person who kills or slaughters animals, especially for food; a person who engages in the relentless or brutal treatment of others
23. in___e rights *n.* a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility
24. sch_____nia treatment *n.* a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
25. mean no dis_____ct *n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something

ANSWERS: 18. appellate, 19. gnarl, 20. dissolution, 21. disrespect, 22. butcher, 23. inmate, 24. schizophrenia, 25. disrespect

26. ap_____te procedure *adj.* relating to or having the power to hear appeals from lower courts or tribunals; referring to a court that primarily hears appeals
27. a single c__p *n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
28. in___e population *n.* a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility
29. silly 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
30. a vague rec_____ion *n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered
31. co_____t in a jail *v.* to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
32. pa_____id disorder *adj.* unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
33. offer so___e *n.* comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
34. rec_____ion of a traumatic event *n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered
35. dis_____on of the sugar *n.* the act of breaking up or dissolving something, often referring to a contract, a relationship, or a substance; the process of disintegrating or decomposing over time; the ending or termination of a group or organization

ANSWERS: 26. appellate, 27. cusp, 28. inmate, 29. pun, 30. recollection, 31. convict, 32. paranoid, 33. solace, 34. recollection, 35. dissolution

36. face the da_____ng reality *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
37. voc_____us protest *adj.* characterized by loud, insistent, or attention-grabbing verbal expression
38. be de_____ed to become a great artist *v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
39. seem like a da_____ng task *adj.* looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
40. incumbent leg_____or *n.* a member of a group of people who has the power to make or enact laws
41. 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
42. 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
43. women's rights abo_____ist *n.* a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust

ANSWERS: 36. daunting, 37. vociferous, 38. destine, 39. daunting, 40. legislator, 41. pun, 42. nudge, 43. abolitionist

44. pa____id about issues *adj.* unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
45. un____d the story *v.* to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown
46. up____d tradition *v.* to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
47. a leg_____or appointed by the party *n.* a member of a group of people who has the power to make or enact laws
48. the pa_____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
49. gn__l-edged branch *n.* a rough knotted swelling on a tree, knot in wood; a contorted or twisted shape or feature
50. ar____t love *adj.* having or showing a strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate
51. slavery abo_____ist *n.* a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust
52. education pol_____er *n.* a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
53. 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

ANSWERS: 44. paranoid, 45. unfold, 46. uphold, 47. legislator, 48. paradox, 49. gnarl, 50. ardent, 51. abolitionist, 52. policymaker, 53. nudge

54. regional pol_____er

n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.

55. ar___t supporter

adj. having or showing a strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

56. serial ho_____de

n. the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings

ANSWERS: 54. policymaker, 55. ardent, 56. homicide

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ fans cheered loudly for their team during the game.
adj. characterized by loud, insistent, or attention-grabbing verbal expression
2. The _____ court reviews cases that have already been tried in lower courts.
adj. relating to or having the power to hear appeals from lower courts or tribunals; referring to a court that primarily hears appeals
3. 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
4. He was _____ on fraud charges and sentenced to five years in prison.
v. to prove or declare someone to be guilty of a crime; (noun) a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison
5. The grieving widow found _____ in reading her late husband's letters.
n. comfort or consolation in a time of distress, sadness, or disappointment; (verb) to comfort or console someone in a time of distress, loss, or suffering
6. My homework was _____ and complex, but it was also intriguing.
adj. looking challenging to manage in prospect; making someone anxious and less confident about carrying out something
7. Harriet Tubman was a well-known _____ who fought for the freedom of enslaved people.
n. a person who advocates for the abolition (the act of doing away with something) of slavery or some other practice considered unjust

ANSWERS: 1. vociferous, 2. appellate, 3. pun, 4. convicted, 5. solace, 6. daunting, 7. abolitionist

8. His _____ desire to succeed motivated him to work harder.
adj. having or showing a strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate
9. _____ struggle to develop various laws and regulations to address international trade conflicts.
n. a person in charge of or involved in developing action plans for a political party, business, etc.
10. The _____ patient was experiencing severe auditory hallucinations.
n. a severe mental disorder in which a person has a distorted view of reality and may experience hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking and behavior
11. He's a vegetarian and was shocked to see so much meat in the _____ shop.
n. a person who prepares and sells meat, especially at a retail shop; a person who kills or slaughters animals, especially for food; a person who engages in the relentless or brutal treatment of others
12. Corporate executives and _____ are still overwhelmingly men.
n. a member of a group of people who has the power to make or enact laws
13. A _____ person may have delusions that people want to harm.
adj. unreasonably or obsessively believing that other people do not like you or want to harm you
14. The judge may _____ the decision of the lower court.
v. to support or defend something, such as a law, idea, decision, etc.
15. The mystery _____ as the detectives gathered more clues.
v. to open up or spread out something that is folded or rolled up; to reveal or disclose something that was previously hidden or unknown

ANSWERS: 8. ardent, 9. Policymakers, 10. schizophrenia, 11. butcher, 12. legislators, 13. paranoid, 14. uphold, 15. unfolded

16. Some people believe that we are all _____ for greatness.
- v.* to determine or set the course of something in advance, often in a way that seems predetermined or inevitable; to specify or choose someone or something for a particular fate or outcome
17. His _____ behavior towards his elders earned him a stern warning from his parents.
- n.* an expression of lack of regard or contempt for someone or something
18. The detective was called to investigate a _____ in the city.
- n.* the act or instance of killing another person; murder, manslaughter, or other unlawful violent killings
19. The project was on the _____ of success and needed a little more funding.
- n.* a pointed end, especially the pointed end of a crescent moon or the part of a curve that is most curved
20. He _____ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.
- v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
21. The judge showed _____ towards the defendant and gave a more lenient sentence than expected.
- n.* mercy or leniency shown to someone who has committed a crime or is being punished; forgiveness or pardoning of an offense or wrongdoing
22. The _____ of the tree trunk provided a natural seat for the weary traveler.
- n.* a rough knotted swelling on a tree, knot in wood; a contorted or twisted shape or feature

ANSWERS: 16. destined, 17. disrespectful, 18. homicide, 19. cusp, 20. devoted, 21. clemency, 22. gnarl

23. There are many theories to explain this _____.
- n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
24. 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
25. The prison implemented a new educational program for _____ to learn skills and prepare for life after release.
- n.* a person who is confined to an institution such as a prison, hospital, or mental health facility
26. The _____ of the partnership was a difficult and emotional process.
- n.* the act of breaking up or dissolving something, often referring to a contract, a relationship, or a substance; the process of disintegrating or decomposing over time; the ending or termination of a group or organization
27. The older man's _____ of his youth were filled with stories of adventure and romance.
- n.* the act of remembering or the state of being remembered
28. The kids love to _____ at the echoing mountains during our summer trips.
- v.* to shout or call out loudly and forcefully, often to get someone's attention or convey a message

ANSWERS: 23. paradox, 24. nudged, 25. inmates, 26. dissolution, 27. recollections, 28. holler