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Thandiwe Newton: Embracing otherness, embracing myself | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/thandiwe_newton_embracing_otherness_embracing_myself

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

infancy

n. the state or period of being a baby or very young child
synonym: childhood, babyhood, juvenescence

(1) **infancy** stage, (2) in early **infancy**

The technology is still in its **infancy** and has much room for improvement.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym: despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

retrospect

n. a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

synonym : review, hindsight, contemplation

(1) **retrospect** review, (2) with hindsight **retrospect**

In **retrospect**, I wish I had made a different decision.

atheist

n. a person who denies or disbelieves the existence of a deity or deities

synonym : nonbeliever, unbeliever, secularist

(1) **atheist** community, (2) **atheist** belief

She was an **atheist** without any belief in a higher power.

Catholic

adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader

(1) **catholic** in his tastes, (2) the **Catholic** Church

Sociologists are now interested in **catholic** world peace.

nun

n. a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community

synonym : sister, religious, monastic

(1) **nun** habit, (2) meditating **nun**

The cloistered **nun** devoted her life to serving the poor and marginalized.

anomaly

n. something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand

synonym : abnormality, irregularity, deviation

(1) **anomaly** detection, (2) global temperature **anomaly**

The sudden drop in the stock market was an **anomaly** that puzzled many investors.

hatch

v. to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage

synonym : incubate, breed, produce

(1) **hatch** a plan, (2) **hatch** a baby chick

The eggs began to **hatch**, and the small chicks emerged.

stairway

n. a set of stairs that connects two floors or levels of a building, often with a handrail or banister for safety

synonym : staircase, steps

(1) **stairway** railing, (2) narrow **stairway**

The grand entrance hall had a magnificent marble **stairway** that curved gracefully upwards.

nag

v. to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse

synonym : hassle, bother, badger

(1) **nag** about the minor thing, (2) **nag** political leaders

She couldn't stop **nagging** her husband to take out the trash.

dread

v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

synonym : fear, cringe, apprehend

(1) **dread** failure, (2) **dread** getting old

We all **dread** to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

stumble

v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

synonym : bumble, struggle, misstep

(1) **stumble** financially, (2) **stumble** through life

She **stumbled** over the tree root.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

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.

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.

fledged

adj. fully developed or matured; having acquired the feathers necessary for flight, as in the case of a young bird; fully trained or qualified to do something

synonym: fully developed, mature, grown

(1) **fledged** artist, (2) fully- **fledged** adult

The **fledged** bird bravely took its first flight from the nest.

anthropology

n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species

(1) social **anthropology**, (2) **anthropology** of religion

The areas of **anthropology** and psychology are significantly related to one another.

mitochondria

n. (singular: mitochondrion) an organelle (= a specialized part of a cell) found in large numbers in most cells that produce energy for the cell by breaking down food

(1) a membrane of a **mitochondria**, (2) healthy

mitochondria

Mitochondria DNA is used to trace human lineage and migration footprints.

illegitimate

adj. not legally valid or recognized

synonym: unlawful, misbegotten, felonious

(1) an **illegitimate** occupation, (2) **illegitimate** claim

He had an **illegitimate** child that he never acknowledged.

bulimia

n. an eating disorder characterized by repeated episodes of binge eating, followed by behaviors such as purging or fasting, often as a means of controlling weight or anxiety

synonym : binge-eating disorder, ednos, overeating

(1) **bulimia** treatment, (2) **bulimia** nervosa

She struggled with **bulimia** for years before seeking treatment.

industrious

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

synonym : diligent, hardworking, assiduous

(1) **industrious** worker, (2) **industrious** student

He was known to be very **industrious** and would often work late into the night.

inhabit

v. to live in a specific location; to reside

synonym : settle, occupy, populate

(1) **inhabit** a cave, (2) **inhabit** the stomach

I have no idea what sort of folks **inhabit** the neighborhood.

divisiveness

n. the quality or state of causing separation or division, typically by promoting conflict or disagreement between groups of people

synonym : discord, disunity, division

(1) political **divisiveness**, (2) ethnic **divisiveness**

The **divisiveness** in the community was apparent during the town hall meeting.

vengeful

adj. feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive

synonym : retaliatory, revengeful, vindictive

(1) feel **vengeful** toward him, (2) **vengeful** actions

She was **vengeful** and always sought revenge on those who wronged her.

insecure

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

synonym : uncertain, unsure, unconfident

(1) an **insecure** future, (2) **insecure** attachment
Children in an unstructured environment often feel **insecure**.

enlightenment

n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge

synonym: civilization, awareness, sophistication

(1) spiritual **enlightenment**, (2) **enlightenment** activity

He finally brought his **enlightenment** to perfection.

unthinkable

adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

synonym: impossible, inconceivable, outlandish

(1) an **unthinkable** coincidence, (2) in **unthinkable** trouble

That accident was something **unthinkable** with my long experience.

psychopathic

adj. relating to or suffering from a serious, and often undiagnosed, mental disorder with extreme or violent social behavior

synonym: psychotic, crazy, insane

(1) high levels of **psychopathic** traits, (2) **psychopathic** issues

He is going to play a **psychopathic** killer in this movie.

bling

n. a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials

synonym: jewelry, accessories, ornaments

(1) flashy **bling**, (2) **bling** jewelry

She loves to accessorize with lots of **bling**, but I prefer a different style.

devalue

v. to reduce the value or worth of something

synonym: diminish, depreciate, reduce

(1) **devalue** the pound, (2) **devalue** a brand

Her negative comments about the project only **devalued** the team's efforts.

sensitize

v. to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation

synonym : acclimate, sensitize, alert

(1) **sensitize** the immune system, (2) **sensitize** cells to radiation

We need to **sensitize** our staff to the needs of customers with disabilities.

perpetuate

v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time

synonym : eternalize, preserve, maintain

(1) **perpetuate** a myth, (2) **perpetuate** chronic pain

That work **perpetuates** his fame.

torch

n. a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle

synonym : flashlight, lantern, flare

(1) the **torch** of learning, (2) **torch** song

She used an electric **torch** to light her way through the dark cave.

bountiful

adj. abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources

synonym : abundant, plentiful, generous

(1) **bountiful** compliments, (2) **bountiful** blessings

The farmer's land was **bountiful** and produced a large harvest.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym : wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ill_____ate claim *adj.* not legally valid or recognized
2. bu_____a treatment *n.* an eating disorder characterized by repeated episodes of binge eating, followed by behaviors such as purging or fasting, often as a means of controlling weight or anxiety
3. n_g political leaders *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
4. st_____ay railing *n.* a set of stairs that connects two floors or levels of a building, often with a handrail or banister for safety
5. spiritual enl_____ent *n.* education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
6. ind_____us student *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
7. se_____ze the immune system *v.* to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation
8. dr__d failure *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
9. 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

ANSWERS: 1. illegitimate, 2. bulimia, 3. nag, 4. stairway, 5. enlightenment, 6. industrious, 7. sensitize, 8. dread, 9. steer

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 10. feel ve____ul toward him | <i>adj.</i> feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive |
| 11. in____re attachment | <i>adj.</i> not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety |
| 12. high levels of psy____hic traits | <i>adj.</i> relating to or suffering from a serious, and often undiagnosed, mental disorder with extreme or violent social behavior |
| 13. st____e through life | <i>v.</i> to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily |
| 14. de____e a brand | <i>v.</i> to reduce the value or worth of something |
| 15. ve____ul actions | <i>adj.</i> feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive |
| 16. in____t the stomach | <i>v.</i> to live in a specific location; to reside |
| 17. meditating n_n | <i>n.</i> a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community |
| 18. op____ne occasion | <i>adj.</i> suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose |
| 19. ha__h a plan | <i>v.</i> to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage |
| 20. at____t community | <i>n.</i> a person who denies or disbelieves the existence of a deity or deities |
| 21. enl____ent activity | <i>n.</i> education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge |

ANSWERS: 10. vengeful, 11. insecure, 12. psychopathic, 13. stumble, 14. devalue, 15. vengeful, 16. inhabit, 17. nun, 18. opportune, 19. hatch, 20. atheist, 21. enlightenment

22. technical ma___l *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
23. ret_____ct review *n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished
24. per_____te a myth *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
25. with hindsight ret_____ct *n.* a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished
26. narrow st_____ay *n.* a set of stairs that connects two floors or levels of a building, often with a handrail or banister for safety
27. turn out to be all s__m *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
28. a s__m battle *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
29. global temperature an_____y *n.* something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand
30. flashy bl__g *n.* a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials

ANSWERS: 22. marvel, 23. retrospect, 24. perpetuate, 25. retrospect, 26. stairway, 27. sham, 28. sham, 29. anomaly, 30. bling

31. bo_____ul compliments *adj.* abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources
32. healthy mit_____ria *n.* (singular: mitochondrion) an organelle (= a specialized part of a cell) found in large numbers in most cells that produce energy for the cell by breaking down food
33. the to__h of learning *n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
34. se_____ze cells to radiation *v.* to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation
35. fl_____d artist *adj.* fully developed or matured; having acquired the feathers necessary for flight, as in the case of a young bird; fully trained or qualified to do something
36. 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
37. n_g about the minor thing *v.* to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
38. fully-fl_____d adult *adj.* fully developed or matured; having acquired the feathers necessary for flight, as in the case of a young bird; fully trained or qualified to do something

ANSWERS: 31. bountiful, 32. mitochondria, 33. torch, 34. sensitize, 35. fledged, 36. steer, 37. nag, 38. fledged

39. st____e financially *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
40. in____t a cave *v.* to live in a specific location; to reside
41. in early in____y *n.* the state or period of being a baby or very young child
42. bl__g jewelry *n.* a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials
43. social ant____ogy *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
44. an ill____ate occupation *adj.* not legally valid or recognized
45. to__h song *n.* a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
46. ethnic div____ess *n.* the quality or state of causing separation or division, typically by promoting conflict or disagreement between groups of people
47. psy____hic issues *adj.* relating to or suffering from a serious, and often undiagnosed, mental disorder with extreme or violent social behavior
48. at____t belief *n.* a person who denies or disbelieves the existence of a deity or deities
49. gn__l-edged branch *n.* a rough knotted swelling on a tree, knot in wood; a contorted or twisted shape or feature

ANSWERS: 39. stumble, 40. inhabit, 41. infancy, 42. bling, 43. anthropology, 44. illegitimate, 45. torch, 46. divisiveness, 47. psychopathic, 48. atheist, 49. gnarl

50. ho____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
51. an in____re future *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
52. the Ca____ic Church *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
53. de____e the pound *v.* to reduce the value or worth of something
54. per____te chronic pain *v.* to make something continue or prevail for a long time
55. ant____ogy of religion *n.* the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
56. gn__l bark *n.* a rough knotted swelling on a tree, knot in wood; a contorted or twisted shape or feature
57. a ma____l of beauty *n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
58. ha__h a baby chick *v.* to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
59. an op____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 50. hopeless, 51. insecure, 52. Catholic, 53. devalue, 54. perpetuate, 55. anthropology, 56. gnarl, 57. marvel, 58. hatch, 59. opportune

60. in unt_____le trouble *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
61. n_n habit *n.* a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
62. dr__d getting old *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
63. bo_____ul blessings *adj.* abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources
64. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
65. an unt_____le coincidence *adj.* too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept
66. bu_____a nervosa *n.* an eating disorder characterized by repeated episodes of binge eating, followed by behaviors such as purging or fasting, often as a means of controlling weight or anxiety
67. an_____y detection *n.* something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand
68. a membrane of a mit_____ria *n.* (singular: mitochondrion) an organelle (= a specialized part of a cell) found in large numbers in most cells that produce energy for the cell by breaking down food

ANSWERS: 60. unthinkable, 61. nun, 62. dread, 63. bountiful, 64. hopeless, 65. unthinkable, 66. bulimia, 67. anomaly, 68. mitochondria

69. in____y stage *n.* the state or period of being a baby or very young child
70. ca____ic in his tastes *adj.* universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
71. ind____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
72. political div____ess *n.* the quality or state of causing separation or division, typically by promoting conflict or disagreement between groups of people

ANSWERS: 69. infancy, 70. Catholic, 71. industrious, 72. divisiveness

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. She _____ over the tree root.
v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
3. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.
n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
4. She loves to accessorize with lots of _____ but I prefer a different style.
n. a slang term that refers to flashy, showy, or ostentatious jewelry, often characterized by its high cost or precious materials
5. The farmer's land was _____ and produced a large harvest.
adj. abundant or plentiful, often used to describe a source of food, wealth, or other resources
6. The areas of _____ and psychology are significantly related to one another.
n. the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in both the present and past, including past human species
7. The _____ in the community was apparent during the town hall meeting.
n. the quality or state of causing separation or division, typically by promoting conflict or disagreement between groups of people

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. stumbled, 3. marvel, 4. bling, 5. bountiful, 6. anthropology, 7. divisiveness

8. He finally brought his _____ to perfection.
n. education that results in understanding and the spread of knowledge
9. We need to _____ our staff to the needs of customers with disabilities.
v. to make someone or something more responsive to a particular stimulus or condition; to increase awareness or understanding of an issue, problem, or situation
10. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.
adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
11. I have no idea what sort of folks _____ the neighborhood.
v. to live in a specific location; to reside
12. The cloistered ____ devoted her life to serving the poor and marginalized.
n. a woman who has taken religious vows and is a member of a monastic community
13. That work _____ his fame.
v. to make something continue or prevail for a long time
14. The technology is still in its _____ and has much room for improvement.
n. the state or period of being a baby or very young child
15. She used an electric _____ to light her way through the dark cave.
n. a portable device that produces a flame, typically one that is used to light a fire or a candle
16. That accident was something _____ with my long experience.
adj. too unlikely or shocking to imagine or accept

ANSWERS: 8. enlightenment, 9. sensitize, 10. industrious, 11. inhabit, 12. nun, 13. perpetuates, 14. infancy, 15. torch, 16. unthinkable

17. The grand entrance hall had a magnificent marble _____ that curved gracefully upwards.
n. a set of stairs that connects two floors or levels of a building, often with a handrail or banister for safety
18. 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
19. Sociologists are now interested in _____ world peace.
adj. universal and including many different types of things; related to or associated with the part of the Christian Church that has the Pope as its leader
20. Her negative comments about the project only _____ the team's efforts.
v. to reduce the value or worth of something
21. She was _____ and always sought revenge on those who wronged her.
adj. feeling or showing a strong desire for revenge; vindictive
22. The sudden drop in the stock market was an _____ that puzzled many investors.
n. something or someone that deviates from what is expected or normal, often in a way that is difficult to explain or understand
23. The _____ bird bravely took its first flight from the nest.
adj. fully developed or matured; having acquired the feathers necessary for flight, as in the case of a young bird; fully trained or qualified to do something
24. 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: 17. stairway, 18. gnarl, 19. catholic, 20. devalued, 21. vengeful, 22. anomaly, 23. fledged, 24. steer

25. She couldn't stop _____ her husband to take out the trash.
v. to annoy or irritate someone persistently with repeated complaints, requests, or criticism; (noun) an old or over-worked horse
26. He had an _____ child that he never acknowledged.
adj. not legally valid or recognized
27. He is going to play a _____ killer in this movie.
adj. relating to or suffering from a serious, and often undiagnosed, mental disorder with extreme or violent social behavior
28. She was an _____ without any belief in a higher power.
n. a person who denies or disbelieves the existence of a deity or deities
29. She struggled with _____ for years before seeking treatment.
n. an eating disorder characterized by repeated episodes of binge eating, followed by behaviors such as purging or fasting, often as a means of controlling weight or anxiety
30. _____ DNA is used to trace human lineage and migration footprints.
n. (singular: mitochondrion) an organelle (= a specialized part of a cell) found in large numbers in most cells that produce energy for the cell by breaking down food
31. The eggs began to _____ and the small chicks emerged.
v. to cause an egg to break to allow a young animal to come out; to produce and expand something that is in an early stage
32. In _____ I wish I had made a different decision.
n. a review or analysis of past events, particularly to gain insight or understanding; a consideration of something that has already occurred or been accomplished

ANSWERS: 25. nagging, 26. illegitimate, 27. psychopathic, 28. atheist, 29. bulimia, 30. Mitochondria, 31. hatch, 32. retrospect,

33. Children in an unstructured environment often feel _____.

adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety

34. The data he prepared was completely _____.

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

35. We all _____ to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

36. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

ANSWERS: 33. insecure, 34. sham, 35. dread, 36. hopeless