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Charlie Todd: The shared experience of absurdity |
TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

improvisation

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

synonym: spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

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

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

weirdo

n. a person who looks strange and behaves strangely

synonym: freak, oddball, geek

(1) treated as a **weirdo**, (2) a total **weirdo**

The CEO was once a **weirdo**, wandering barefoot around the university.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

duffel

n. a large cylindrical bag, usually made of cloth or canvas, used for carrying personal belongings, especially during travel or sports activities

synonym: gym bag, satchel, knapsack

(1) canvas **duffel**, (2) waterproof **duffel**

He packed all his clothes and gear into his **duffel** bag for the camping trip.

rev

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

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

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

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

videotape

n. a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape

synonym : videocassette, tape, recording

(1) **videotape** evidence, (2) rewind **videotape**

We watched a **videotape** of our family vacation from years ago.

prank

n. a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others

synonym : hoax, trick, stunt

(1) **prank** caller, (2) harmless **prank**

The group of teenagers played an innocent **prank** on their teacher, but it backfired, and they got in trouble.

brigade

n. a military unit typically consisting of several battalions, usually commanded by a brigadier general; a group of people organized for a particular purpose or activity

synonym : squad, group, unit

(1) **brigade** commander, (2) rescue **brigade**

The culinary **brigade** prepared a delicious meal for the guests at the banquet.

amass

v. to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference

synonym : gather, collect, accumulate

(1) **amass** a patent portfolio, (2) **amass** followers

She had **amassed** a fortune through wise investments and shrewd business decisions.

backlit

adj. with light shining from behind; (noun) light from behind

(1) **backlit** by a window, (2) **backlit** photo

I like to code in dark rooms, so a **backlit** keyboard is convenient.

efflorescent

adj. relating to the process of flowering or blooming; characterized by the formation of a powdery or crystalline deposit on the surface of a material due to the evaporation of water or other solvents

synonym : blooming, blossoming, flowering

(1) **efflorescent** crystals, (2) **efflorescent** growth

The artist's **efflorescent** paintings were featured in the gallery's exhibition.

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.

aft

adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

(1) **aft** cabin, (2) **aft** view

The **aft** section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.

facade

n. the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant

synonym : front, camouflage, masquerade

(1) the outside **facade** of a castle, (2) **facade** of wealth
A gentle **facade** concealed his powerfulness.

soloist

n. a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer

synonym: solo performer, solo artist

(1) a vocal **soloist**, (2) **soloist** musician

The **soloist's** performance was the highlight of the concert.

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.

polo

n. a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets

(1) **polo** shirt, (2) **polo** championship

I watched a thrilling **polo** match at the club over the weekend.

khaki

n. a light brownish-yellow color, often associated with military or safari-style clothing made from a durable, dust-resistant fabric of the same name

synonym: tan, beige, sand

(1) **khaki** jacket, (2) **khaki** shorts

The safari guide wore a **khaki** hat to protect himself from the sun.

pretended

adj. feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated

synonym: feigned, assumed, simulated

(1) **pretended** illness, (2) make a **pretended** purchase

His **pretended** interest soon caught everyone's attention.

escalator

n. a moving staircase or conveyor device that carries people between floors or levels of a building or structure

synonym: moving stairway, elevator, lift

(1) **escalator** ride, (2) **escalator** malfunction

Please be careful getting on and off the **escalator**.

depress

v. to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active

synonym: sadden, discourage, deflate

(1) **depress** their spirits, (2) **depress** crop prices

The economic recession **depressed** the housing market.

afterward

adv. after the time mentioned

synonym: later, thereafter, following

(1) a few years **afterward**, (2) go there **afterward**

We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem **afterward**.

buster

n. a person or thing that breaks or causes something to be broken

synonym: breaker, destroyer, crusher

(1) crime- **buster**, (2) bug **buster**

The stress- **buster** meditation helped me relax and calm my nerves.

attire

n. clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose

synonym: clothing, dress, garb

(1) businesslike **attire**, (2) casual **attire**

The formal **attire** for the wedding was a black tie.

Session 2: Spelling

1. casual at___e *n.* clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose
2. pr_____ed illness *adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
3. es_____or malfunction *n.* a moving staircase or conveyor device that carries people between floors or levels of a building or structure
4. pr__k caller *n.* a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
5. rescue br_____e *n.* a military unit typically consisting of several battalions, usually commanded by a brigadier general; a group of people organized for a particular purpose or activity
6. am__s a patent portfolio *v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference
7. vi_____pe evidence *n.* a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape
8. make a pr_____ed purchase *adj.* feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
9. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 1. attire, 2. pretended, 3. escalator, 4. prank, 5. brigade, 6. amass, 7. videotape, 8. pretended, 9. rev

10. kh__i jacket *n.* a light brownish-yellow color, often associated with military or safari-style clothing made from a durable, dust-resistant fabric of the same name
11. br____e commander *n.* a military unit typically consisting of several battalions, usually commanded by a brigadier general; a group of people organized for a particular purpose or activity
12. co____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
13. de____s their spirits *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
14. bug bu____r *n.* a person or thing that breaks or causes something to be broken
15. a few years af____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
16. p__o shirt *n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
17. ba____t by a window *adj.* with light shining from behind; (noun) light from behind
18. so____t musician *n.* a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer
19. eff____ent growth *adj.* relating to the process of flowering or blooming; characterized by the formation of a powdery or crystalline deposit on the surface of a material due to the evaporation of water or other solvents

ANSWERS: 10. khaki, 11. brigade, 12. confuse, 13. depress, 14. buster, 15. afterward, 16. polo, 17. backlit, 18. soloist, 19. efflorescent

20. treated as a we___o *n.* a person who looks strange and behaves strangely
21. am__s followers *v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference
22. appeared on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience
23. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
24. a_t cabin *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
25. st_____e through life *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
26. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
27. st_____e financially *v.* to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily
28. es_____or ride *n.* a moving staircase or conveyor device that carries people between floors or levels of a building or structure
29. eff_____ent crystals *adj.* relating to the process of flowering or blooming; characterized by the formation of a powdery or crystalline deposit on the surface of a material due to the evaporation of water or other solvents
30. walk on_____e *adv.* onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

ANSWERS: 20. weirdo, 21. amass, 22. onstage, 23. afterward, 24. aft, 25. stumble, 26. confuse, 27. stumble, 28. escalator, 29. efflorescent, 30. onstage

31. the outside fa___e of a castle *n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
32. canvas du___l *n.* a large cylindrical bag, usually made of cloth or canvas, used for carrying personal belongings, especially during travel or sports activities
33. fa___e of wealth *n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
34. de_____s crop prices *v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
35. kh__i shorts *n.* a light brownish-yellow color, often associated with military or safari-style clothing made from a durable, dust-resistant fabric of the same name
36. p__o championship *n.* a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets
37. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
38. a_t view *adj.* (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle

ANSWERS: 31. facade, 32. duffel, 33. facade, 34. depress, 35. khaki, 36. polo, 37. rev, 38. aft

39. businesslike at___e *n.* clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose
40. crime-bu___r *n.* a person or thing that breaks or causes something to be broken
41. a total we___o *n.* a person who looks strange and behaves strangely
42. imp_____ion on stage *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
43. harmless pr__k *n.* a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others
44. ba_____t photo *adj.* with light shining from behind; (noun) light from behind
45. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
46. a vocal so_____t *n.* a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer
47. rewind vi_____pe *n.* a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape
48. waterproof du___l *n.* a large cylindrical bag, usually made of cloth or canvas, used for carrying personal belongings, especially during travel or sports activities

ANSWERS: 39. attire, 40. buster, 41. weirdo, 42. improvisation, 43. prank, 44. backlit, 45. improvisation, 46. soloist, 47. videotape, 48. duffel

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I watched a thrilling _____ match at the club over the weekend.
n. a sport played on horseback in which two teams try to hit a ball through a goal using long-handled mallets

2. The group of teenagers played an innocent _____ on their teacher, but it backfired, and they got in trouble.
n. a playful or mischievous trick, practical joke, or act of mischief performed with the intention of amusing or surprising others

3. The artist's _____ paintings were featured in the gallery's exhibition.
adj. relating to the process of flowering or blooming; characterized by the formation of a powdery or crystalline deposit on the surface of a material due to the evaporation of water or other solvents

4. She _____ over the tree root.
v. to miss a step and fall or nearly fall; to walk unsteadily

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

6. The CEO was once a _____ wandering barefoot around the university.
n. a person who looks strange and behaves strangely

7. I like to code in dark rooms, so a _____ keyboard is convenient.
adj. with light shining from behind; (noun) light from behind

ANSWERS: 1. polo, 2. prank, 3. efflorescent, 4. stumbled, 5. rev, 6. weirdo, 7. backlit

8. The safari guide wore a _____ hat to protect himself from the sun.
- n.* a light brownish-yellow color, often associated with military or safari-style clothing made from a durable, dust-resistant fabric of the same name
9. She had _____ a fortune through wise investments and shrewd business decisions.
- v.* to accumulate or gather a large quantity of something over time; to collect or assemble for future use or reference
10. Please be careful getting on and off the _____.
- n.* a moving staircase or conveyor device that carries people between floors or levels of a building or structure
11. The economic recession _____ the housing market.
- v.* to make someone feel sad, low in spirits, or without hope; to make markets, businesses, etc., less active
12. A gentle _____ concealed his powerfulness.
- n.* the face or front of a building, especially a large one; superficial or false appearance intended to conceal something unpleasant
13. Her remarks _____ the debate.
- v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
14. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
- adv.* after the time mentioned
15. He packed all his clothes and gear into his _____ bag for the camping trip.
- n.* a large cylindrical bag, usually made of cloth or canvas, used for carrying personal belongings, especially during travel or sports activities

ANSWERS: 8. khaki, 9. amassed, 10. escalator, 11. depressed, 12. facade, 13. confused, 14. afterward, 15. duffel

16. The culinary _____ prepared a delicious meal for the guests at the banquet.
n. a military unit typically consisting of several battalions, usually commanded by a brigadier general; a group of people organized for a particular purpose or activity
17. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
18. The stress-_____ meditation helped me relax and calm my nerves.
n. a person or thing that breaks or causes something to be broken
19. His _____ interest soon caught everyone's attention.
adj. feigned or not genuine; assumed or simulated
20. The _____ performance was the highlight of the concert.
n. a person who performs a solo, especially a solo musician or singer
21. The ___ section of the ship suffered significant damage after the collision with the reef.
adj. (the opposite of "forward") located at or towards the rear or back of a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
22. We watched a _____ of our family vacation from years ago.
n. a type of magnetic tape used for recording and storing video images and sound; a recording made on such tape
23. He performed his magic trick _____ leaving the audience in awe.
adv. onto or on a stage in a theater; in front of an audience

ANSWERS: 16. brigade, 17. improvisation, 18. buster, 19. pretended, 20. soloist's, 21. aft, 22. videotape, 23. onstage,

24. The formal _____ for the wedding was a black tie.

n. clothing, especially for a particular occasion or purpose

ANSWERS: 24. attire