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Molly Crockett: Beware neuro-bunk | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

neuroscience

n. the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system

(1) the branch of **neuroscience**, (2) a theoretical concept in **neuroscience**

Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral **neuroscience**.

serotonin

n. a neurotransmitter (= a chemical that carries nerve impulses) involved in, e.g., sleep, emotion, and memory

(1) **serotonin** drug, (2) **serotonin** levels

The medicine works by boosting **serotonin** levels in the brain.

situ

adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

synonym: situational, contextual, circumstantial

(1) ex- **situ** conservation, (2) in- **situ** control

Melanoma in **situ** is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.

disgust

n. a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

synonym: nauseate, hate, dislike

(1) public **disgust**, (2) show **disgust** at his actions
He was filled with **disgust** and fear for the threat of war.

tryptophan

n. an essential amino acid commonly found in dietary proteins, playing a crucial role in the synthesis of various biomolecules in living organisms

synonym: essential amino acid

(1) essential **tryptophan**, (2) low **tryptophan** levels
Eating foods rich in **tryptophan**, like bananas, can promote a sense of relaxation.

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**.

grumpy

adj. easily annoyed or irritable; inclined to complain or show dissatisfaction, often in an ill-tempered way

synonym: crabby, grouchy, irritable

(1) **grumpy** cat, (2) **grumpy** mood
The **grumpy** older man snapped at the children for playing too loudly.

oversimplify

v. to describe or explain something in a way that is too simple and no longer holds true

(1) **oversimplify** the problem, (2) **oversimplify** a complex reality

People may **oversimplify** natural phenomena due to the improved accessibility of knowledge.

neurology

n. the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system

synonym: brain science, nervous system, neuropathology

(1) cognitive **neurology**, (2) **neurology** department
She is studying clinical **neurology** to become a brain

surgeon.

bliss

n. extreme happiness or joy

synonym: delight, euphoria, happiness

(1) ignorance is **bliss**, (2) ultimate **bliss**

The first two years of her marriage were sheer **bliss**.

overblow

v. to blow or be blown with excessive force or intensity, often resulting in a distorted or overly loud sound; to exaggerate the importance or impact of something

synonym: exaggerate, inflate, magnify

(1) **overblow** trumpet, (2) **overblow** a rumor

The media tends to **overblow** certain events to create sensational headlines.

unproven

adj. not tested or proved

(1) **unproven** efficacy, (2) scientifically **unproven**

The new treatment's long-term advantages are still **unproven**.

giveaway

n. a gift, prize, or item distributed for free, often as part of a promotional or marketing campaign; a revelation or clue that tends to reveal or give away something previously unknown or secret

synonym: freebie, gift, promotion

(1) charity **giveaway**, (2) **giveaway** price

The company's **giveaway** promotion brought in a lot of new customers.

bunk

n. a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting

synonym: nonsense, rubbish, bunkum

(1) bunch of **bunk**, (2) military **bunk**

The crowded dorm room had **bunk** beds to accommodate all the students.

smartphone

n. a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet

(1) **smartphone** app developer, (2) **smartphone** addict
Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of **smartphones**.

insula

n. a small island, particularly one situated off the coast of a larger landmass; (of anatomy) a region of the brain that plays a role in processing emotions and integrating sensory information

synonym: island, islet, atoll

(1) **insula** region, (2) posterior **insula**

The brain's **insula** regulates emotions, empathy, and self-awareness.

chant

n. a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation

synonym: hymn, mantra, (verb) recite

(1) **chant** melodies, (2) **chant** in the chapel

The soccer game crowd broke into a **chant** of "Go, team, go!"

oxytocin

n. a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk

(1) **oxytocin-degrading** enzyme, (2) **oxytocin** receptor

Women may increase **oxytocin** production through romantic love.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

scientifically

adv. in a way that relates to science or is connected with science

(1) investigate **scientifically**, (2) **scientifically** explainable
The hypothesis is not yet **scientifically** proven.

replicate

v. to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results

synonym: duplicate, imitate, reproduce

(1) **replicate** the cell, (2) **replicate** data

The experiment was **replicated** several times to ensure accuracy.

envy

v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

synonym: covet, resent, grudge

(1) **envy** his success, (2) feeling **envy** toward him

I can't help but **envy** my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.

gloat

v. to express or feel great pleasure or satisfaction in one's success or good fortune, often at the expense of others; to rub in or show off in a boastful or taunting manner

synonym: boast, brag, crow

(1) **gloat** over my success, (2) **gloat** with satisfaction

After winning the championship, he couldn't help but **gloat** about his victory to his opponents.

immoral

adj. not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality

synonym: unethical, wicked, corrupt

(1) **immoral** behavior, (2) politically **immoral**

It is **immoral** to cheat on a test.

tracer

n. a substance or device that makes something visible or distinguishable by leaving a visible mark or path behind

it; a person or thing that traces, tracks, or follows; (of graphics) a tool or technique used to produce a precise outline of an image

synonym: detector, tracker

(1) radioactive **tracer**, (2) biological **tracer**

The **tracer** gun fired a bright light that helped the hunters find their prey in the dark.

Alzheimer

n. a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

synonym: dementia, memory loss, cognitive decline

(1) **Alzheimer's** brain, (2) **Alzheimer's** risk factors

My grandmother has **Alzheimer's** disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.

exposition

n. a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display

synonym: explanation, description, account

(1) an international **exposition**, (2) rational **exposition**

The **exposition** in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

detract

v. to diminish the value or worth of a quality or performance

synonym: take away, draw away, diminish

(1) **detract** from quality of life, (2) **detract** from his fame

His terrible manners **detract** from his good character.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. ne_____gy department | <i>n.</i> the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system |
| 2. ov_____ow trumpet | <i>v.</i> to blow or be blown with excessive force or intensity, often resulting in a distorted or overly loud sound; to exaggerate the importance or impact of something |
| 3. low try_____an levels | <i>n.</i> an essential amino acid commonly found in dietary proteins, playing a crucial role in the synthesis of various biomolecules in living organisms |
| 4. radioactive tr____r | <i>n.</i> a substance or device that makes something visible or distinguishable by leaving a visible mark or path behind it; a person or thing that traces, tracks, or follows; (of graphics) a tool or technique used to produce a precise outline of an image |
| 5. ox_____in-degrading enzyme | <i>n.</i> a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk |
| 6. an international exp_____on | <i>n.</i> a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display |

ANSWERS: 1. neurology, 2. overblow, 3. tryptophan, 4. tracer, 5. oxytocin, 6. exposition

7. bunch of b__k *n.* a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting
8. ox_____in receptor *n.* a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk
9. ignorance is bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy
10. re_____te data *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
11. show di_____t at his actions *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
12. sci_____lly explainable *adv.* in a way that relates to science or is connected with science
13. ultimate bl__s *n.* extreme happiness or joy
14. in-s__u control *adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
15. ove_____ify the problem *v.* to describe or explain something in a way that is too simple and no longer holds true
16. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

ANSWERS: 7. bunk, 8. oxytocin, 9. bliss, 10. replicate, 11. disgust, 12. scientifically, 13. bliss, 14. situ, 15. oversimplify, 16. empathy

17. rational exp_____on *n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
18. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
19. re_____te the cell *v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
20. ch__t in the chapel *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
21. charity gi_____ay *n.* a gift, prize, or item distributed for free, often as part of a promotional or marketing campaign; a revelation or clue that tends to reveal or give away something previously unknown or secret
22. sma_____ne addict *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
23. e__y his success *v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success

ANSWERS: 17. exposition, 18. empathy, 19. replicate, 20. chant, 21. giveaway, 22. smartphone, 23. envy

24. gl__t over my success *v.* to express or feel great pleasure or satisfaction in one's success or good fortune, often at the expense of others; to rub in or show off in a boastful or taunting manner
25. cognitive ne_____gy *n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system
26. in___a region *n.* a small island, particularly one situated off the coast of a larger landmass; (of anatomy) a region of the brain that plays a role in processing emotions and integrating sensory information
27. Al_____er's brain *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
28. military b__k *n.* a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting
29. Al_____er's risk factors *n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults

ANSWERS: 24. gloat, 25. neurology, 26. insula, 27. Alzheimer, 28. bunk, 29. Alzheimer

30. posterior in ___a *n.* a small island, particularly one situated off the coast of a larger landmass; (of anatomy) a region of the brain that plays a role in processing emotions and integrating sensory information
31. un___en efficacy *adj.* not tested or proved
32. feeling e__y toward him *v.* to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
33. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
34. ch__t melodies *n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
35. scientifically un___en *adj.* not tested or proved
36. de___t from his fame *v.* to diminish the value or worth of a quality or performance
37. investigate sci_____lly *adv.* in a way that relates to science or is connected with science
38. biological tr___r *n.* a substance or device that makes something visible or distinguishable by leaving a visible mark or path behind it; a person or thing that traces, tracks, or follows; (of graphics) a tool or technique used to produce a precise outline of an image

ANSWERS: 30. insula, 31. unproven, 32. envy, 33. excite, 34. chant, 35. unproven, 36. detract, 37. scientifically, 38. tracer

39. im____l behavior *adj.* not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality
40. gl__t with satisfaction *v.* to express or feel great pleasure or satisfaction in one's success or good fortune, often at the expense of others; to rub in or show off in a boastful or taunting manner
41. the branch of neu____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
42. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
43. essential try____an *n.* an essential amino acid commonly found in dietary proteins, playing a crucial role in the synthesis of various biomolecules in living organisms
44. gr___y cat *adj.* easily annoyed or irritable; inclined to complain or show dissatisfaction, often in an ill-tempered way
45. se_____in drug *n.* a neurotransmitter (= a chemical that carries nerve impulses) involved in, e.g., sleep, emotion, and memory
46. a theoretical concept in neu____nce *n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
47. de____t from quality of life *v.* to diminish the value or worth of a quality or performance
48. politically im____l *adj.* not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality

ANSWERS: 39. immoral, 40. gloat, 41. neuroscience, 42. excite, 43. tryptophan, 44. grumpy, 45. serotonin, 46. neuroscience, 47. detract, 48. immoral

49. go there af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
50. sma_____ne app developer *n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
51. ove_____ify a complex reality *v.* to describe or explain something in a way that is too simple and no longer holds true
52. ex-s__u conservation *adj.* short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance
53. gi_____ay price *n.* a gift, prize, or item distributed for free, often as part of a promotional or marketing campaign; a revelation or clue that tends to reveal or give away something previously unknown or secret
54. gr_____y mood *adj.* easily annoyed or irritable; inclined to complain or show dissatisfaction, often in an ill-tempered way
55. a few years af_____rd *adv.* after the time mentioned
56. se_____in levels *n.* a neurotransmitter (= a chemical that carries nerve impulses) involved in, e.g., sleep, emotion, and memory
57. public di_____t *n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
58. ov_____ow a rumor *v.* to blow or be blown with excessive force or intensity, often resulting in a distorted or overly loud sound; to exaggerate the importance or impact of something

ANSWERS: 49. afterward, 50. smartphone, 51. oversimplify, 52. situ, 53. giveaway, 54. grumpy, 55. afterward, 56. serotonin, 57. disgust, 58. overblow

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
2. The _____ older man snapped at the children for playing too loudly.
adj. easily annoyed or irritable; inclined to complain or show dissatisfaction, often in an ill-tempered way
3. People may _____ natural phenomena due to the improved accessibility of knowledge.
v. to describe or explain something in a way that is too simple and no longer holds true
4. We will explain the countermeasure concerning this problem _____.
adv. after the time mentioned
5. The hypothesis is not yet _____ proven.
adv. in a way that relates to science or is connected with science
6. I can't help but _____ my friend's ability to stay calm in stressful situations.
v. to experience a feeling of jealousy or resentment towards someone because of their possessions, qualities, or achievements; to desire to have something that someone else has; (noun) a feeling of resentment or jealousy towards someone else's perceived advantage or success
7. The brain's _____ regulates emotions, empathy, and self-awareness.
n. a small island, particularly one situated off the coast of a larger landmass; (of anatomy) a region of the brain that plays a role in processing emotions and integrating sensory information

ANSWERS: 1. excited, 2. grumpy, 3. oversimplify, 4. afterward, 5. scientifically, 6. envy, 7. insula

8. After winning the championship, he couldn't help but _____ about his victory to his opponents.
- v.* to express or feel great pleasure or satisfaction in one's success or good fortune, often at the expense of others; to rub in or show off in a boastful or taunting manner
9. Our university is famous for its professors, who are well-versed in behavioral _____.
- n.* the scientific study of the function, structure, and disorder of the brain and the nervous system
10. The soccer game crowd broke into a _____ of "Go, team, go!"
- n.* a simple melody or tune, typically one that is repeated or sung in a monotonous way; (verb) recite with musical intonation
11. His terrible manners _____ from his good character.
- v.* to diminish the value or worth of a quality or performance
12. Eating foods rich in _____ like bananas, can promote a sense of relaxation.
- n.* an essential amino acid commonly found in dietary proteins, playing a crucial role in the synthesis of various biomolecules in living organisms
13. Internet traffic volumes have increased significantly with the advent of _____.
- n.* a mobile phone that functions as a computer and connects to the Internet
14. It is _____ to cheat on a test.
- adj.* not conforming to accepted society's standards of honesty or morality

ANSWERS: 8. gloat, 9. neuroscience, 10. chant, 11. detract, 12. tryptophan, 13. smartphones, 14. immoral

15. The company's _____ promotion brought in a lot of new customers.
- n.* a gift, prize, or item distributed for free, often as part of a promotional or marketing campaign; a revelation or clue that tends to reveal or give away something previously unknown or secret
16. The _____ gun fired a bright light that helped the hunters find their prey in the dark.
- n.* a substance or device that makes something visible or distinguishable by leaving a visible mark or path behind it; a person or thing that traces, tracks, or follows; (of graphics) a tool or technique used to produce a precise outline of an image
17. The media tends to _____ certain events to create sensational headlines.
- v.* to blow or be blown with excessive force or intensity, often resulting in a distorted or overly loud sound; to exaggerate the importance or impact of something
18. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
- n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
19. The medicine works by boosting _____ levels in the brain.
- n.* a neurotransmitter (= a chemical that carries nerve impulses) involved in, e.g., sleep, emotion, and memory
20. The crowded dorm room had _____ beds to accommodate all the students.
- n.* a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep, typically a narrow bed frame supported by a solid structure; nonsense or untruthful talk, often intended to deceive or mislead; a type of overnight accommodation, particularly in a military or institutional setting

ANSWERS: 15. giveaway, 16. tracer, 17. overblow, 18. Empathy, 19. serotonin, 20. bunk

21. The _____ in the novel provides background information on the characters and setting.
- n.* a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory; a collection of things, such as goods or works of art, etc., for public display
22. Women may increase _____ production through romantic love.
- n.* a hormone secreted by the pituitary which stimulates contractions of the uterus during labor (= the process of pushing out a baby) and the ejection of milk
23. The experiment was _____ several times to ensure accuracy.
- v.* to make an exact copy of something; to repeat a process or experiment to confirm the results
24. He was filled with _____ and fear for the threat of war.
- n.* a strong feeling of dislike or disapproval
25. My grandmother has _____ disease requires special care and attention from her caregivers.
- n.* a neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral issues; is the most common cause of dementia in older adults
26. She is studying clinical _____ to become a brain surgeon.
- n.* the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system
27. The first two years of her marriage were sheer _____.
- n.* extreme happiness or joy
28. The new treatment's long-term advantages are still _____.
- adj.* not tested or proved

ANSWERS: 21. exposition, 22. oxytocin, 23. replicated, 24. disgust, 25. Alzheimer's, 26. neurology, 27. bliss, 28. unproven

29. Melanoma in _____ is considered the earliest stage of melanoma and has a high cure rate with appropriate treatment.

adj. short for "situated," meaning located or placed in a particular position or circumstance

ANSWERS: 29. situ