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Alwar Balasubramaniam: Art of substance and absence | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

puja

n. a ritualistic act of worship commonly practiced in Hinduism, typically involving the offering of food, flowers, and prayers to a deity or divine entity

synonym: ritual, worship, ceremony

(1) daily **puja**, (2) morning **puja**

During the **puja** ceremony, the devotees offered prayers and flowers to the deity.

broth

n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

synonym: bouillon, consomme, soup

(1) chicken **broth**, (2) remains of **broth**

I always add a bit of **broth** to my soup to give it more flavor.

transistor

n. a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics

synonym: semiconductor, microchip, circuit

(1) **transistor** radio, (2) **transistor** circuit

The invention of the **transistor** revolutionized the field of electronics.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

revolve

v. to rotate around a central point

synonym: rotate, spin, orbit

(1) **revolve** at high speed, (2) **revolve** around a central axis

The Earth **revolves** around the Sun in an elliptical orbit.

writ

n. a written legal order or command

synonym: legal document, order, legal process

(1) a **writ** of summons, (2) issue a **writ**

He was served with a **writ** of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym: captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

mold

n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long

synonym: cavity, cast, mildew

(1) a casting **mold**, (2) **mold** allergy

Mushrooms and **mold** are fungi.

plaster

n. a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements

synonym : cement, adhesive, mortar

(1) daub the ceiling with **plaster**, (2) cracks in the **plaster**
Patience is the **plaster** of all sores.

unknowingly

adv. without intention or being aware of what is happening

synonym : inadvertently, unwittingly

(1) **unknowingly** commit a crime, (2) **unknowingly** avoid him

She became ill after **unknowingly** taking rotten food.

footprint

n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface

synonym : footmark, imprint, impression

(1) **footprints** in the snow, (2) the **footprints** of an earlier civilization

We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon **footprint**.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

etch

v. to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern

synonym : engrave, inscribe, carve

(1) **etch** a metal plate, (2) **etch** a design into wood

He used a sharp tool to **etch** his initials onto the metal.

shalt

v. an archaic form of "shall," which is used to indicate a command, a requirement, or a prediction

synonym : must, should, ought

(1) full of thou **shalt** nots, (2) list of thou **shalts**

Thou **shalt** not steal.

rejoicing

n. the expression of joy or happiness; a feeling or state of great joy or delight

synonym: celebration, merriment, festivity

(1) sound of **rejoicing**, (2) **rejoicing** family

There was much **rejoicing** among the fans when their team won the championship.

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**.

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**.

conceive

v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

synonym: imagine, envision, concoct

(1) **conceive** of an idea, (2) **conceive** a child

I can't **conceive** he'd want to harm us.

inward

adj. directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

synonym: internal, introspective, interior

(1) **inward** peace, (2) **inward** cargo

The **inward** motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.

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.

depreciate

v. to decrease in value or worth over time; to become less valuable or less esteemed over time

synonym: devalue, diminish, decrease

(1) **depreciate** asset, (2) **depreciate** against foreign currency

The car's value **depreciated** soon after being driven off the lot.

evaporate

v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually

synonym: vaporize, disappear, vanish

(1) **evaporate** the water, (2) **evaporate** almost overnight

The sun will **evaporate** the mist.

preconceived

adj. (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness

(1) a **preconceived** notion, (2) **preconceived** opinions

We should start a discussion from scratch with no **preconceived** ideas.

inhale

v. to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke

synonym: breathe in, take in, draw in

(1) **inhale** the smoke, (2) **inhale** the aroma

He **inhaled** deeply, trying to calm down.

tuck

v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable

synonym: insert, wrap, pinch

(1) **tuck** a baby in the blanket, (2) **tuck** into another cigarette

You should **tuck** your shirt into your trousers.

sculptor

n. an artist who creates sculptures, three-dimensional objects, or forms

synonym: carver, modeler, artist

(1) **sculptor** studio, (2) renowned **sculptor**

The famous **sculptor** used various tools to carve the marble into the desired shape.

slit

n. a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors

synonym: slash, incision, cut

(1) **slit** pocket, (2) **slit** the fabric

He made a small **slit** in the paper to fit it in the envelope.

foreshadow

v. to give a hint or indication of something that will happen or develop in the future

synonym: predict, hint at, suggest

(1) **foreshadow** future events, (2) **foreshadow** the recession

The dark clouds **foreshadowed** a storm.

electrify

v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something

synonym: wire, amaze, astonish

(1) **electrify** the audience, (2) **electrify** a manufacturing process

The product developed through years of research continues to **electrify** the market.

sculpt

v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques

synonym: carve, mold, shape

(1) **sculpt** an image, (2) **sculpt** prototype

He spent hours every day **sculpting** figures out of clay.

corrugated

adj. having ridges, grooves, or folds that run parallel to one another, often used to describe materials like cardboard or metal

synonym : ridged, grooved, wrinkled

(1) **corrugated** panel, (2) **corrugated** metal roofing

The **corrugated** cardboard was sturdy enough to support the weight of the heavy items being shipped.

illogical

adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

synonym : irrational, senseless, nonsensical

(1) **illogical** argument, (2) **illogical** reasoning

His argument made no sense and was completely **illogical**.

passee

adj. no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

synonym : outdated, old-fashioned, antique

(1) **passee** entertainment, (2) **passee** trend

Bell-bottom jeans, once considered **passee** fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. e__h a metal plate | <i>v.</i> to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern |
| 2. a w__t of summons | <i>n.</i> a written legal order or command |
| 3. sc____or studio | <i>n.</i> an artist who creates sculptures, three-dimensional objects, or forms |
| 4. s__t pocket | <i>n.</i> a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors |
| 5. dep____te against foreign currency | <i>v.</i> to decrease in value or worth over time; to become less valuable or less esteemed over time |
| 6. ind____us student | <i>adj.</i> hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort |
| 7. unk____ly commit a crime | <i>adv.</i> without intention or being aware of what is happening |
| 8. t__k a baby in the blanket | <i>v.</i> to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable |
| 9. fo____nts in the snow | <i>n.</i> a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface |

ANSWERS: 1. etch, 2. writ, 3. sculptor, 4. slit, 5. depreciate, 6. industrious, 7. unknowingly, 8. tuck, 9. footprint

10. sc___t an image *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
11. in___e the smoke *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
12. daub the ceiling with pl____r *n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
13. a casting m__d *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
14. tra____or radio *n.* a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics
15. list of thou sh__ts *v.* an archaic form of "shall," which is used to indicate a command, a requirement, or a prediction
16. e__h a design into wood *v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
17. tra____or circuit *n.* a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics

ANSWERS: 10. sculpt, 11. inhale, 12. plaster, 13. mold, 14. transistor, 15. shalt, 16. etch, 17. transistor

18. co____ve of an idea *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
19. il_____al argument *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
20. ev_____te almost overnight *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
21. full of thou sh__t nots *v.* an archaic form of "shall," which is used to indicate a command, a requirement, or a prediction
22. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
23. el_____fy a manufacturing process *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
24. dep_____te asset *v.* to decrease in value or worth over time; to become less valuable or less esteemed over time
25. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
26. cor_____ed panel *adj.* having ridges, grooves, or folds that run parallel to one another, often used to describe materials like cardboard or metal
27. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
28. for_____ow future events *v.* to give a hint or indication of something that will happen or develop in the future

ANSWERS: 18. conceive, 19. illogical, 20. evaporate, 21. shalt, 22. passe, 23. electrify, 24. depreciate, 25. passe, 26. corrugated, 27. fascinate, 28. foreshadow

29. sc___t prototype *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
30. m__d allergy *n.* a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
31. re_____e around a central axis *v.* to rotate around a central point
32. fo_____ow the recession *v.* to give a hint or indication of something that will happen or develop in the future
33. hu_____g bird *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
34. daily p__a *n.* a ritualistic act of worship commonly practiced in Hinduism, typically involving the offering of food, flowers, and prayers to a deity or divine entity
35. in___e the aroma *v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
36. in___d peace *adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
37. the fo_____nts of an earlier civilization *n.* a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
38. ind_____us worker *adj.* hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort
39. 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: 29. sculpt, 30. mold, 31. revolve, 32. foreshadow, 33. humming, 34. puja, 35. inhale, 36. inward, 37. footprint, 38. industrious, 39. rev

40. re____e at high speed *v.* to rotate around a central point
41. s__t the fabric *n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
42. morning p__a *n.* a ritualistic act of worship commonly practiced in Hinduism, typically involving the offering of food, flowers, and prayers to a deity or divine entity
43. in____d cargo *adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
44. re_____ng family *n.* the expression of joy or happiness; a feeling or state of great joy or delight
45. chicken br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
46. remains of br__h *n.* a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews
47. ev_____te the water *v.* to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
48. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
49. hu_____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
50. a pre_____ved notion *adj.* (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness

ANSWERS: 40. revolve, 41. slit, 42. puja, 43. inward, 44. rejoicing, 45. broth, 46. broth, 47. evaporate, 48. writ, 49. humming, 50. preconceived

51. pre_____ved opinions *adj.* (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness
52. t__k into another cigarette *v.* to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable
53. unk_____ly avoid him *adv.* without intention or being aware of what is happening
54. renowned sc_____or *n.* an artist who creates sculptures, three-dimensional objects, or forms
55. sound of re_____ng *n.* the expression of joy or happiness; a feeling or state of great joy or delight
56. in_____re attachment *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
57. 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
58. il_____al reasoning *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
59. an in_____re future *adj.* not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
60. serial qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
61. cracks in the pl_____r *n.* a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements

ANSWERS: 51. preconceived, 52. tuck, 53. unknowingly, 54. sculptor, 55. rejoicing, 56. insecure, 57. rev, 58. illogical, 59. insecure, 60. quitter, 61. plaster

62. co____ve a child *v.* to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant
63. easy qu____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
64. fa____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
65. el____fy the audience *v.* to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
66. cor____ed metal roofing *adj.* having ridges, grooves, or folds that run parallel to one another, often used to describe materials like cardboard or metal

ANSWERS: 62. conceive, 63. quitter, 64. fascinate, 65. electrify, 66. corrugated

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Thou _____ not steal.
 - v. an archaic form of "shall," which is used to indicate a command, a requirement, or a prediction

2. The magic tricks _____ the children.
 - v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

3. I always add a bit of _____ to my soup to give it more flavor.
 - n. a liquid in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been cooked, used as a base for soups and stews

4. He spent hours every day _____ figures out of clay.
 - v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques

5. I can't _____ he'd want to harm us.
 - v. to have or develop an idea, a plan, etc. in mind; to become pregnant

6. The car's value _____ soon after being driven off the lot.
 - v. to decrease in value or worth over time; to become less valuable or less esteemed over time

7. You should _____ your shirt into your trousers.
 - v. to push a stray piece of clothing or material into a particular area or position, especially to make it more orderly or comfortable

8. The Earth _____ around the Sun in an elliptical orbit.
 - v. to rotate around a central point

ANSWERS: 1. shalt, 2. fascinated, 3. broth, 4. sculpting, 5. conceive, 6. depreciated, 7. tuck, 8. revolves

9. During the _____ ceremony, the devotees offered prayers and flowers to the deity.
- n.* a ritualistic act of worship commonly practiced in Hinduism, typically involving the offering of food, flowers, and prayers to a deity or divine entity
10. He used a sharp tool to _____ his initials onto the metal.
- v.* to carve, cut, or engrave (a design or text) into a hard surface; to corrode, erode or eat away at a metal surface using acid or another chemical substance to create a design or pattern
11. Bell-bottom jeans, once considered _____ fashion, have made a surprising comeback in recent years.
- adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
12. The _____ cardboard was sturdy enough to support the weight of the heavy items being shipped.
- adj.* having ridges, grooves, or folds that run parallel to one another, often used to describe materials like cardboard or metal
13. He _____ deeply, trying to calm down.
- v.* to breathe in air or a different substance, such as smoke
14. He made a small _____ in the paper to fit it in the envelope.
- n.* a narrow cut or opening, often made by a sharp instrument or tool; (verb) to cut or make a long, narrow opening or incision in something, typically with a sharp instrument such as a knife or scissors
15. The _____ motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.
- adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

ANSWERS: 9. puja, 10. etch, 11. passe, 12. corrugated, 13. inhaled, 14. slit, 15. inward

16. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.
adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
17. Mushrooms and _____ are fungi.
n. a hollow container used to give shape to liquid or soft substance, which then becomes solid in the same shape as the container; a soft, green, or gray growth that forms on stale food or objects exposed to warm, moist air for too long
18. There was much _____ among the fans when their team won the championship.
n. the expression of joy or happiness; a feeling or state of great joy or delight
19. The dark clouds _____ a storm.
v. to give a hint or indication of something that will happen or develop in the future
20. 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
21. Patience is the _____ of all sores.
n. a substance made of lime that becomes hard as it dries and is used for the protective or decorative coating of walls and ceilings and for molding and casting decorative elements
22. We choose transportation that has a smaller carbon _____.
n. a mark of a foot, shoe, or animal's foot left on a surface
23. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

ANSWERS: 16. humming, 17. mold, 18. rejoicing, 19. foreshadowed, 20. rev, 21. plaster, 22. footprint, 23. quitter

24. The famous _____ used various tools to carve the marble into the desired shape.
n. an artist who creates sculptures, three-dimensional objects, or forms
25. Children in an unstructured environment often feel _____.
adj. not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way, or not assured of safety
26. The invention of the _____ revolutionized the field of electronics.
n. a semiconductor device that can be used to amplify or switch electronic signals and power which is an essential component in modern electronics
27. The sun will _____ the mist.
v. to turn a liquid into a gas; to become less intense and disappear gradually
28. The product developed through years of research continues to _____ the market.
v. to make a machine or system work by using electricity; to make someone extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something
29. She became ill after _____ taking rotten food.
adv. without intention or being aware of what is happening
30. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command
31. We should start a discussion from scratch with no _____ ideas.
adj. (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness

ANSWERS: 24. sculptor, 25. insecure, 26. transistor, 27. evaporate, 28. electrify, 29. unknowingly, 30. writ, 31. preconceived

32. He was known to be very _____ and would often work late into the night.

adj. hardworking, diligent, and persistent in effort

33. His argument made no sense and was completely _____.

adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

ANSWERS: 32. industrious, 33. illogical