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Allison Leigh: Why is this black square famous? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

scoff

v. to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

synonym: mock, gibe, jeer

(1) **scoff** at a rumor, (2) **scoff** at the idea

We tend to **scoff** at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.

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.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym: judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

outrage

n. an intense feeling of anger or indignation in response to something that is perceived as unfair, unjust, or offensive; a public display of anger or protest against

such injustices

synonym : indignation, fury, anger

(1) public **outrage**, (2) **outrage** over injustice

There was widespread **outrage** over the government's handling of the situation.

kilter

n. a state of proper balance or adjustment, a state of good order or organization

synonym : balance, alignment, equilibrium

(1) off- **kilter**, (2) in good **kilter**

The door was out of **kilter** and wouldn't close properly.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger

During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

craquelure

n. a network of fine cracks that appear on the surface of paintings or other artworks, typically as a result of aging or deterioration of the paint or varnish layer

synonym : cracking, crackling, webbing

(1) artwork **craquelure**, (2) ceramic **craquelure**

The art restoration expert noticed extensive **craquelure** on the surface of the old painting, indicating age and damage.

dusty

adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air

synonym : stale, filthy, grimy

(1) **dusty** road, (2) **dusty** bookshelf

The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of **dusty** debris.

emerald

adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

synonym :

green, verdant, jade

(1) an **emerald** gem, (2) **emerald** ring

The **emerald** green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

brushstroke

n. the mark or stroke made by a painter's brush on a canvas or surface; a single movement or action toward a larger project or goal

synonym: stroke, line, mark

(1) artistic **brushstroke**, (2) a **brushstroke** of genius

The artist made a beautiful **brushstroke** on the canvas.

fingerprint

n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person

synonym: print, mark, impression

(1) **fingerprint** at a crime scene, (2) **fingerprint**

identification

The police used a **fingerprint** scanner to identify the suspect.

ingrained

adj. deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time

synonym: inborn, embedded, deep-seated

(1) **ingrained** habit, (2) **ingrained** prejudice

Her fear of dogs was **ingrained** after a traumatic experience in childhood.

plunge

v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

synonym: dive, drop, thrust

(1) **plunge** into the water, (2) **plunge** a dagger through his heart

The company's profits **plunged** after the recall of their new product.

avant-garde

adj. relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions

synonym: innovative, experimental, unconventional

(1) **avant-garde** art, (2) **avant-garde** music

The artist's **avant-garde** approach to sculpture challenged conventional ideas of art.

swirl

v. to move in a circular or spiral pattern

synonym: spin, whirl, turn

(1) **swirl** the wine, (2) **swirl** up dirt and dust

The chef expertly **swirled** the sauce onto the plate.

impressionism

n. a style of art and literature that seeks to capture the fleeting momentary sensations and impressions of perception rather than objective reality or formal structure

(1) **impressionism** movement, (2) **impressionism** style

The famous French painters Monet and Renoir were considered pioneers of **impressionism**.

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.

futurist

n. a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold

synonym: foreseer, prophet, fortune-teller

(1) **futurist** architecture, (2) **futurist** ideas

The radical **futurist** predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.

cubism

n. a 20th-century art movement that emphasizes the formal structure of objects, often breaking them down into geometric shapes and planes and depicting them from multiple angles at once

synonym : abstractionism, geometric art

(1) geometric **cubism**, (2) abstract **cubism**

Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque are two of the most famous **cubism** artists.

verge

n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

synonym : brink, edge, margin

(1) **verge** of bankruptcy, (2) on the **verge** of tears

He stood on the **verge** of a major discovery.

irresistible

adj. impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling

synonym : resistless, overpowering, compelling

(1) **irresistible** charm, (2) **irresistible** force

The aroma of freshly baked cookies was **irresistible** to her.

meaningless

adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

synonym : pointless, absurd, senseless

(1) a **meaningless** endeavor, (2) do a **meaningless** task

This experiment's results are **meaningless** because the other conditions are not identical.

depict

v. to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

synonym : illustrate, describe, express

(1) **depict** a scene, (2) **depict** a feeling of isolation

His son had accurately **depicted** the bloom.

deem

v. to consider or decide something in a particular way

synonym : believe, consider, suppose

(1) **deem** socially responsible, (2) **deem** wrong or inappropriate

Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were **deemed** unsafe.

unproductive

adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results

synonym : fruitless, ineffective, idle

(1) in an **unproductive** manner, (2) **unproductive** industries

The negotiations between labor and management were **unproductive**.

heroic

adj. courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring

synonym : brave, courageous, daring

(1) a **heroic** poem, (2) **heroic** explorers

The **heroic** actions of individuals are now easily spread worldwide by SNS.

subversive

adj. intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

synonym : incendiary, dissident, (noun) rebel

(1) **subversive** elements, (2) **subversive** literature

The artwork was criticized for its **subversive** theme that undermined religious beliefs.

peasant

n. a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

synonym : farmer, laborer, rustic

(1) **peasant** class, (2) exploited **peasant**

Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a **peasant**, but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.

robotic

adj. of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots

synonym : automated, mechanical, laborsaving

(1) **robotic** arm, (2) **robotic** guide operation

The surgeon removed the tumor using **robotic** video assistance.

barren

adj. unable to produce or sustain growth; lacking fertility; unproductive; lacking interest, excitement, or creativity; empty or desolate

synonym : sterile, infertile, unproductive

(1) **barren** wasteland, (2) **barren** desert

The desert is known for its **barren** terrain with no sign of vegetation.

glimmer

n. a flash of light especially unsteady or reflected light; a slight sign of something

synonym : gleam, dazzle, hint

(1) without a **glimmer** of truth, (2) give a **glimmer** of light

There is however a **glimmer** of hope.

disintegrate

v. break or cause to break into small fragments

synonym : shatter, crumble, break down

(1) **disintegrate** in an explosion, (2) **disintegrate** over time

The vase **disintegrated** into pieces when it fell to the ground.

mechanize

v. to equip with machinery or automatic equipment; to replace human labor with machines or automation in industry or other processes; to make a job or a procedure more systematic or efficient by the use of tools or technology

synonym : automate, motorize, robotize

(1) **mechanize** operations, (2) **mechanize** agriculture

The factory **mechanized** its production line to increase efficiency and reduce labor costs.

quadrilateral

n. a flat shape or figure that has four sides and four angles

synonym: quadrangle, tetragon, four-sided figure

(1) convex **quadrilateral**, (2) irregular **quadrilateral**

The park has a **quadrilateral** layout that includes four distinct areas for recreation.

Session 2: Spelling

1. exploited pe____t
n. a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
2. ve__e of bankruptcy
n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
3. a he____c poem
adj. courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
4. unp____ive industries
adj. not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
5. artwork cra____re
n. a network of fine cracks that appear on the surface of paintings or other artworks, typically as a result of aging or deterioration of the paint or varnish layer
6. public ou____e
n. an intense feeling of anger or indignation in response to something that is perceived as unfair, unjust, or offensive; a public display of anger or protest against such injustices
7. ava____de art
adj. relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions

ANSWERS: 1. peasant, 2. verge, 3. heroic, 4. unproductive, 5. craquelure, 6. outrage, 7. avant-garde

8. in_____ed prejudice *adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
9. abstract cu___m *n.* a 20th-century art movement that emphasizes the formal structure of objects, often breaking them down into geometric shapes and planes and depicting them from multiple angles at once
10. a w__t of summons *n.* a written legal order or command
11. vi_____e at a regular frequency *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
12. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
13. sub_____ve literature *adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution
14. pa__e trend *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date
15. pl___e a dagger through his heart *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall

ANSWERS: 8. ingrained, 9. cubism, 10. writ, 11. vibrate, 12. doom, 13. subversive, 14. passe, 15. plunge

16. sc__f at the idea *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly
17. imp_____ism movement *n.* a style of art and literature that seeks to capture the fleeting momentary sensations and impressions of perception rather than objective reality or formal structure
18. irr_____ble charm *adj.* impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
19. du__y bookshelf *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
20. an em_____d gem *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
21. irr_____ble force *adj.* impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
22. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
23. irregular qua_____ral *n.* a flat shape or figure that has four sides and four angles
24. in an unp_____ive manner *adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
25. geometric cu___m *n.* a 20th-century art movement that emphasizes the formal structure of objects, often breaking them down into geometric shapes and planes and depicting them from multiple angles at once

ANSWERS: 16. scoff, 17. impressionism, 18. irresistible, 19. dusty, 20. emerald, 21. irresistible, 22. doom, 23. quadrilateral, 24. unproductive, 25. cubism

26. convex qua_____ral *n.* a flat shape or figure that has four sides and four angles
27. ba___n desert *adj.* unable to produce or sustain growth; lacking fertility; unproductive; lacking interest, excitement, or creativity; empty or desolate
28. fin_____nt at a crime scene *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
29. sw___l the wine *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
30. he___c explorers *adj.* courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
31. without a gl_____r of truth *n.* a flash of light especially unsteady or reflected light; a slight sign of something
32. in good ki_____r *n.* a state of proper balance or adjustment, a state of good order or organization
33. artistic bru_____ke *n.* the mark or stroke made by a painter's brush on a canvas or surface; a single movement or action toward a larger project or goal
34. give a gl_____r of light *n.* a flash of light especially unsteady or reflected light; a slight sign of something
35. a mea_____ss endeavor *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
36. sc___f at a rumor *v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

ANSWERS: 26. quadrilateral, 27. barren, 28. fingerprint, 29. swirl, 30. heroic, 31. glimmer, 32. kilter, 33. brushstroke, 34. glimmer, 35. meaningless, 36. scoff

37. in_____ed habit *adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
38. sw__l up dirt and dust *v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
39. pl___e into the water *v.* to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
40. vi_____e with anger *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
41. imp_____ism style *n.* a style of art and literature that seeks to capture the fleeting momentary sensations and impressions of perception rather than objective reality or formal structure
42. ceramic cra_____re *n.* a network of fine cracks that appear on the surface of paintings or other artworks, typically as a result of aging or deterioration of the paint or varnish layer
43. ro_____c guide operation *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
44. ava_____de music *adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions

ANSWERS: 37. ingrained, 38. swirl, 39. plunge, 40. vibrate, 41. impressionism, 42. craquelure, 43. robotic, 44. avant-garde

45. a bru_____ke of genius *n.* the mark or stroke made by a painter's brush on a canvas or surface; a single movement or action toward a larger project or goal
46. ou_____e over injustice *n.* an intense feeling of anger or indignation in response to something that is perceived as unfair, unjust, or offensive; a public display of anger or protest against such injustices
47. dis_____ate in an explosion *v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
48. fu_____st architecture *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
49. du__y road *adj.* covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
50. dis_____ate over time *v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
51. d__m socially responsible *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
52. me_____ze agriculture *v.* to equip with machinery or automatic equipment; to replace human labor with machines or automation in industry or other processes; to make a job or a procedure more systematic or efficient by the use of tools or technology
53. de____t a scene *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph

ANSWERS: 45. brushstroke, 46. outrage, 47. disintegrate, 48. futurist, 49. dusty, 50. disintegrate, 51. deem, 52. mechanize, 53. depict

54. fu____st ideas *n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
55. issue a w__t *n.* a written legal order or command
56. on the ve__e of tears *n.* the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border
57. off-ki____r *n.* a state of proper balance or adjustment, a state of good order or organization
58. ro____c arm *adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
59. em____d ring *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
60. de____t a feeling of isolation *v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
61. sub____ve elements *adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution
62. ba____n wasteland *adj.* unable to produce or sustain growth; lacking fertility; unproductive; lacking interest, excitement, or creativity; empty or desolate

ANSWERS: 54. futurist, 55. writ, 56. verge, 57. kilter, 58. robotic, 59. emerald, 60. depict, 61. subversive, 62. barren

63. me_____ze operations *v.* to equip with machinery or automatic equipment; to replace human labor with machines or automation in industry or other processes; to make a job or a procedure more systematic or efficient by the use of tools or technology
64. d__m wrong or inappropriate *v.* to consider or decide something in a particular way
65. do a mea_____ss task *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
66. fin_____nt identification *n.* a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
67. pe_____t class *n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society
68. pa__e entertainment *adj.* no longer fashionable or current; outdated; considered to be old-fashioned or out of date

ANSWERS: 63. mechanize, 64. deem, 65. meaningless, 66. fingerprint, 67. peasant, 68. passe

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Regarding earthquakes, some commercial buildings were _____ unsafe.
v. to consider or decide something in a particular way
2. The company's profits _____ after the recall of their new product.
v. to dive quickly and steeply downward; to thrust or throw into something; (noun) a steep and rapid fall
3. The abandoned warehouse was covered in a thick layer of _____ debris.
adj. covered with or characterized by dust; having a dry, powdery texture or appearance; having a lot of dust or dirt in the air
4. The desert is known for its _____ terrain with no sign of vegetation.
adj. unable to produce or sustain growth; lacking fertility; unproductive; lacking interest, excitement, or creativity; empty or desolate
5. He was served with a _____ of eviction, giving him the notice to vacate the property.
n. a written legal order or command
6. The park has a _____ layout that includes four distinct areas for recreation.
n. a flat shape or figure that has four sides and four angles
7. There is however a _____ of hope.
n. a flash of light especially unsteady or reflected light; a slight sign of something
8. He stood on the _____ of a major discovery.
n. the point at which something is about to happen or where something begins; the edge or margin of something, particularly a physical boundary or border

ANSWERS: 1. deemed, 2. plunged, 3. dusty, 4. barren, 5. writ, 6. quadrilateral, 7. glimmer, 8. verge

9. The art restoration expert noticed extensive _____ on the surface of the old painting, indicating age and damage.
- n.* a network of fine cracks that appear on the surface of paintings or other artworks, typically as a result of aging or deterioration of the paint or varnish layer
10. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.
- v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
11. The negotiations between labor and management were _____.
- adj.* not producing or able to produce very much or desired results
12. Her fear of dogs was _____ after a traumatic experience in childhood.
- adj.* deeply rooted in someone's mind or behavior; difficult to change due to being established for a long time
13. The chef expertly _____ the sauce onto the plate.
- v.* to move in a circular or spiral pattern
14. The vase _____ into pieces when it fell to the ground.
- v.* break or cause to break into small fragments
15. The factory _____ its production line to increase efficiency and reduce labor costs.
- v.* to equip with machinery or automatic equipment; to replace human labor with machines or automation in industry or other processes; to make a job or a procedure more systematic or efficient by the use of tools or technology
16. The artwork was criticized for its _____ theme that undermined religious beliefs.
- adj.* intended to undermine or overthrow a system, authority, or established order through an intentional effort to cause disruption or to challenge the existing norms or beliefs; (noun) a person or thing intended to undermine the power or authority of an established system or institution

ANSWERS: 9. craquelure, 10. vibrate, 11. unproductive, 12. ingrained, 13. swirled, 14. disintegrated, 15. mechanized, 16. subversive

17. The artist's _____ approach to sculpture challenged conventional ideas of art.
- adj.* relating to or characteristic of experimental or innovative ideas, especially in the arts, culture, or politics; pushing boundaries and challenging established norms and traditions
18. The famous French painters Monet and Renoir were considered pioneers of _____.
- n.* a style of art and literature that seeks to capture the fleeting momentary sensations and impressions of perception rather than objective reality or formal structure
19. His son had accurately _____ the bloom.
- v.* to illustrate someone or something in a photograph
20. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.
- adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
21. The surgeon removed the tumor using _____ video assistance.
- adj.* of or relating to mechanical robots; (robotics) the interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering with the practical use of robots
22. The artist made a beautiful _____ on the canvas.
- n.* the mark or stroke made by a painter's brush on a canvas or surface; a single movement or action toward a larger project or goal
23. We tend to _____ at the education, habits, and tastes of people from very different cultures.
- v.* to laugh and talk about a person or idea in a way that makes it clear that you think they are stupid or silly

ANSWERS: 17. avant-garde, 18. impressionism, 19. depicted, 20. meaningless, 21. robotic, 22. brushstroke, 23. scoff

24. The radical _____ predicted that virtual reality would become a standard in everyday life.
- n.* a person who studies or predicts trends and developments, particularly in science, technology, or social systems, to anticipate what the future may hold
25. There was widespread _____ over the government's handling of the situation.
- n.* an intense feeling of anger or indignation in response to something that is perceived as unfair, unjust, or offensive; a public display of anger or protest against such injustices
26. The _____ green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.
- adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
27. The aroma of freshly baked cookies was _____ to her.
- adj.* impossible to resist or refuse; very attractive, appealing, or compelling
28. Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque are two of the most famous _____ artists.
- n.* a 20th-century art movement that emphasizes the formal structure of objects, often breaking them down into geometric shapes and planes and depicting them from multiple angles at once
29. 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
30. Many people today romanticize the idea of the simple life of a _____ but in reality, it was a difficult and often harsh existence.
- n.* a farmer or agricultural worker who owns or rents a small piece of land and grows crops, especially in a traditional or undeveloped society

ANSWERS: 24. futurist, 25. outrage, 26. emerald, 27. irresistible, 28. cubism, 29. passe, 30. peasant,

31. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
32. The police used a _____ scanner to identify the suspect.
n. a unique pattern of ridges and valleys on the surface of a finger that can be used to identify a person
33. The _____ actions of individuals are now easily spread worldwide by SNS.
adj. courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
34. The door was out of _____ and wouldn't close properly.
n. a state of proper balance or adjustment, a state of good order or organization

ANSWERS: 31. doom, 32. fingerprint, 33. heroic, 34. kilter