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They Might Be Giants: Wake up! It's They Might Be Giants! | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

accordion

n. a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound

synonym : squeezebox, concertina

(1) **accordion** music, (2) an **accordion** pleat

He played a beautiful melody on his **accordion**, charming everyone in the audience.

gore

v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death;
(noun) coagulated blood from a wound

synonym : pierce, stab, puncture

(1) **gore** him with a weapon, (2) **gore** scene

The hunter **gored** the deer with an arrow.

hummingbird

n. a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction

(1) **hummingbird** feeder, (2) **hummingbird** nest

Watching a **hummingbird** at a flower is like observing a miniature ballet of nature.

moth

n. an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

(1) **moth** larva, (2) **moth** attracted to the light
The **moth** is a serious threat to the farm's output.

imitate

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

synonym: mimic, emulate, replicate

(1) **imitate** painting styles, (2) **imitate** animal sounds
He **imitated** the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.

dread

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

synonym: fear, cringe, apprehend

(1) **dread** failure, (2) **dread** getting old
We all **dread** to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.

hypnotic

adj. inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion

synonym: soothing, soporific, slumberous

(1) mild **hypnotic**, (2) **hypnotic** effect
His voice had a **hypnotic** quality for me.

ramble

v. to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction

synonym: wander, meander, stroll

(1) **ramble** down the road, (2) **ramble** through the woods
I like to **ramble** through the park, exploring its hidden paths and natural beauty.

scramble

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

synonym: jumble, disarrange

(1) **scramble** my mind, (2) **scramble** for support
Local business owners **scrambled** to find skilled workers.

catbird

n. a type of passerine bird known for its cat-like vocalizations and distinctive black and grey plumage

(1) **catbird** seat, (2) black **catbird**

The **catbird's** beautiful song filled the air with melody.

tangerine

n. a sweet, juicy citrus fruit that is smaller and sweeter than an orange, usually with a reddish-orange peel

synonym: mandarin, citrus, clementine

(1) **tangerine** peel, (2) **tangerine** flavor

I love the taste of fresh **tangerine** juice in the morning.

headlight

n. a bright forward-facing light on a vehicle, typically used at night to illuminate the road ahead

synonym: headlamp, beam, lamp

(1) **headlight** adjustment, (2) **headlight** switch

My car's **headlight** must be replaced before I drive again at night.

louse

n. a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person

synonym: bug, insect, parasite

(1) pubic **louse**, (2) **louse** egg

The child was sent home from school because of a lice infestation caused by one **louse**.

deform

v. to change or distort the shape or appearance of something; to become misshapen or distorted

synonym: distort, contort, mangle

(1) **deform** the shape, (2) **deform** his way of life

The heat from the fire **deformed** the plastic parts of the appliance.

swarm

n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground

synonym: horde, hive, throng

(1) a **swarm** of mosquitoes, (2) locust **swarm**

A **swarm** of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.

protozoa

n. a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals

synonym: microorganism, unicellular organism, amoeba

(1) free-living **protozoa**, (2) **protozoa** species

The water in the lake was contaminated with high levels of **protozoa**, making it unsafe for swimming or drinking.

enlist

v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization

synonym: join, sign up, appoint

(1) **enlist** in a cause, (2) **enlist** for a soldier

He decided to **enlist** in the military after graduating from high school.

uptick

n. a slight increase or upward trend in something, such as a stock price or a particular statistic or trend

synonym: increase, rise, surge

(1) **uptick** in crime, (2) a dramatic **uptick** in sales

There was a noticeable **uptick** in customer complaints after implementing the new policy.

backstage

adj. relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life

synonym: behind-the-scenes, offstage, private

(1) **backstage** access, (2) **backstage** crew

The **backstage** preparations for the concert took hours to complete.

wreck

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

synonym: collapse, destruction, devastation

(1) the house was a **wreck**, (2) a worthless **wreck**

The divers accidentally discovered a **wreck** on the ocean floor.

ahold

adv. to take hold of something, to grasp firmly

synonym: totally, completely, firmly

(1) grab **ahold** of the rope, (2) take **ahold** of the situation

I was able to get **ahold** of the concert tickets before they sold out.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym: murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves

He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

solicit

v. to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty

synonym: request, seek, ask

(1) **solicit** advice, (2) **solicit** patronage

The company **solicited** donations from its employees for the charity event.

wan

adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy

synonym: pale, pallid, ashen

(1) **wan** light, (2) a **wan** smile

His **wan** complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.

lamine

n. a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring

synonym: veneer, coating, layer

(1) **lamine** flooring, (2) **lamine** table

The countertop in my kitchen is made of durable **lamine** material.

anthem

n. a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause

synonym: hymn, song, pae

(1) a national **anthem**, (2) **anthem** singer

The **anthem** of the country was played during the ceremony.

tread

v. to step or walk on something

synonym: step, walk, pace

(1) **tread** water, (2) **tread** a similar path

He **treads** carefully on the slippery ice.

xylophone

n. a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars of different lengths that are struck with mallets to produce musical tones; a percussion instrument that is commonly used in orchestras, bands, and music ensembles

(1) **xylophone** music, (2) tune the **xylophone**

The **xylophone** player gave an impressive performance in the school orchestra.

Session 2: Spelling

1. im____e animal sounds
v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something
2. mild hy____ic
adj. inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion
3. take ah__d of the situation
adv. to take hold of something, to grasp firmly
4. g__e him with a weapon
v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound
5. an____m singer
n. a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause
6. pr____oa species
n. a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals
7. pubic lo__e
n. a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person
8. tr__d water
v. to step or walk on something
9. dr__d failure
v. to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

ANSWERS: 1. imitate, 2. hypnotic, 3. ahold, 4. gore, 5. anthem, 6. protozoa, 7. louse, 8. tread, 9. dread

10. ba_____ge crew *adj.* relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life
11. de___m his way of life *v.* to change or distort the shape or appearance of something; to become misshapen or distorted
12. m__h attracted to the light *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
13. tr__d a similar path *v.* to step or walk on something
14. a national an___m *n.* a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause
15. ra___e through the woods *v.* to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction
16. grab ah__d of the rope *adv.* to take hold of something, to grasp firmly
17. he_____ht adjustment *n.* a bright forward-facing light on a vehicle, typically used at night to illuminate the road ahead
18. locust sw__m *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
19. answer in a wh____r *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

ANSWERS: 10. backstage, 11. deform, 12. moth, 13. tread, 14. anthem, 15. ramble, 16. ahold, 17. headlight, 18. swarm, 19. whisper

20. a w_n smile *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
21. w_n light *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
22. en__t for a soldier *v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
23. black ca____d *n.* a type of passerine bird known for its cat-like vocalizations and distinctive black and grey plumage
24. de___m the shape *v.* to change or distort the shape or appearance of something; to become misshapen or distorted
25. ca____d seat *n.* a type of passerine bird known for its cat-like vocalizations and distinctive black and grey plumage
26. so____t advice *v.* to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty
27. sc____le my mind *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
28. en__t in a cause *v.* to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization
29. up___k in crime *n.* a slight increase or upward trend in something, such as a stock price or a particular statistic or trend
30. g__e scene *v.* to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound

ANSWERS: 20. wan, 21. wan, 22. enlist, 23. catbird, 24. deform, 25. catbird, 26. solicit, 27. scramble, 28. enlist, 29. uptick, 30. gore

31. a worthless wr__k *n.* a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
32. ta_____ne peel *n.* a sweet, juicy citrus fruit that is smaller and sweeter than an orange, usually with a reddish-orange peel
33. sc_____le for support *v.* to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you
34. la_____te table *n.* a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring
35. a sw__m of mosquitoes *n.* a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
36. ra___e down the road *v.* to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction
37. free-living pr_____oa *n.* a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals
38. m__h larva *n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light

ANSWERS: 31. wreck, 32. tangerine, 33. scramble, 34. laminate, 35. swarm, 36. ramble, 37. protozoa, 38. moth

39. an ac_____on pleat *n.* a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound
40. ac_____on music *n.* a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound
41. ta_____ne flavor *n.* a sweet, juicy citrus fruit that is smaller and sweeter than an orange, usually with a reddish-orange peel
42. ba_____ge access *adj.* relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life
43. lo__e egg *n.* a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person
44. hum_____rd nest *n.* a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction
45. he_____ht switch *n.* a bright forward-facing light on a vehicle, typically used at night to illuminate the road ahead
46. la_____te flooring *n.* a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring

ANSWERS: 39. accordion, 40. accordion, 41. tangerine, 42. backstage, 43. louse, 44. hummingbird, 45. headlight, 46. laminate

47. xy_____ne music *n.* a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars of different lengths that are struck with mallets to produce musical tones; a percussion instrument that is commonly used in orchestras, bands, and music ensembles
48. a dramatic up___k in sales *n.* a slight increase or upward trend in something, such as a stock price or a particular statistic or trend
49. tune the xy_____ne *n.* a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars of different lengths that are struck with mallets to produce musical tones; a percussion instrument that is commonly used in orchestras, bands, and music ensembles
50. the wh_____r of the leaves *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
51. dr__d getting old *v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen
52. hum_____rd feeder *n.* a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction
53. so_____t patronage *v.* to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty

ANSWERS: 47. xylophone, 48. uptick, 49. xylophone, 50. whisper, 51. dread, 52. hummingbird, 53. solicit

54. im____e painting styles

v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

55. hy____ic effect

adj. inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion

56. the house was a wr__k

n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident

ANSWERS: 54. imitate, 55. hypnotic, 56. wreck

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He _____ the modus operandi of the famous phantom thief.
 - v. to copy the speech, behavior, appearance, etc. of someone or something

2. Watching a _____ at a flower is like observing a miniature ballet of nature.
 - n. a small bird with a highly specialized beak and wings that allow it to hover in place, known for its rapid wingbeats and ability to fly in any direction

3. He played a beautiful melody on his _____ charming everyone in the audience.
 - n. a musical instrument that is played by pressing buttons or keys, causing bellows to expand and compress air over metal reeds, producing sound

4. The hunter _____ the deer with an arrow.
 - v. to pierce with a sharp object, causing injury or death; (noun) coagulated blood from a wound

5. The _____ player gave an impressive performance in the school orchestra.
 - n. a musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars of different lengths that are struck with mallets to produce musical tones; a percussion instrument that is commonly used in orchestras, bands, and music ensembles

6. His ___ complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.
 - adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy

7. There was a noticeable _____ in customer complaints after implementing the new policy.
 - n. a slight increase or upward trend in something, such as a stock price or a particular statistic or trend

ANSWERS: 1. imitated, 2. hummingbird, 3. accordion, 4. gored, 5. xylophone, 6. wan, 7. uptick

8. His voice had a _____ quality for me.

adj. inducing sleep; causing sleepiness, mainly as a result of a repetitive noise or motion

9. The heat from the fire _____ the plastic parts of the appliance.

v. to change or distort the shape or appearance of something; to become misshapen or distorted

10. The _____ of the country was played during the ceremony.

n. a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause

11. Local business owners _____ to find skilled workers.

v. to move or climb quickly and awkwardly, often using your hands to help you

12. He decided to _____ in the military after graduating from high school.

v. to sign up to serve in the military or a particular organization

13. The _____ beautiful song filled the air with melody.

n. a type of passerine bird known for its cat-like vocalizations and distinctive black and grey plumage

14. He _____ carefully on the slippery ice.

v. to step or walk on something

15. The water in the lake was contaminated with high levels of _____ making it unsafe for swimming or drinking.

n. a diverse group of single-celled microorganisms that are classified as eukaryotic, meaning they have a distinct nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles found in a wide range of environments, from soil to water to the bodies of humans and animals

ANSWERS: 8. hypnotic, 9. deformed, 10. anthem, 11. scrambled, 12. enlist, 13. catbird's, 14. treads, 15. protozoa,

16. I love the taste of fresh _____ juice in the morning.
- n.* a sweet, juicy citrus fruit that is smaller and sweeter than an orange, usually with a reddish-orange peel
17. The child was sent home from school because of a lice infestation caused by one _____.
- n.* a small, wingless insect that lives on the bodies of mammals and birds, often considered a parasite; a contemptible or despicable person
18. I was able to get _____ of the concert tickets before they sold out.
- adv.* to take hold of something, to grasp firmly
19. My car's _____ must be replaced before I drive again at night.
- n.* a bright forward-facing light on a vehicle, typically used at night to illuminate the road ahead
20. The _____ is a serious threat to the farm's output.
- n.* an insect with wings similar to a butterfly that travels at night and is attracted to light
21. The _____ preparations for the concert took hours to complete.
- adj.* relating to or situated in the area behind the stage of a theater, concert, or other performance venues; relating to the private or hidden aspects of something, such as politics, business, or personal life
22. The countertop in my kitchen is made of durable _____ material.
- n.* a material made by bonding together two or more layers of different materials, often used in furniture or flooring
23. We all _____ to think about what will happen if the company goes bankrupt.
- v.* to be very afraid of or worried about something that is going to happen or that might happen

ANSWERS: 16. tangerine, 17. louse, 18. ahold, 19. headlight, 20. moth, 21. backstage, 22. laminate, 23. dread

24. I like to _____ through the park, exploring its hidden paths and natural beauty.
- v. to walk, travel or talk in a seemingly random or aimless manner, often digressing from topic to topic without any clear purpose or direction
25. The divers accidentally discovered a _____ on the ocean floor.
- n. a ship that has sunk or has been destroyed; a vehicle that has been badly damaged in an accident
26. A _____ of angry bees attacked because we had approached the hive.
- n. a group of many things, such as insects, fishes, etc., in the air or water or on the ground
27. The company _____ donations from its employees for the charity event.
- v. to ask for something, especially in an urgent or pleading manner; to seek something through entreaty
28. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.
- v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

ANSWERS: 24. ramble, 25. wreck, 26. swarm, 27. solicited, 28. whispered