

【Week1】

Thank you. I'm ( ) to be with you today for your commencement from one of the ( ) universities in the world. Truth be told, I never graduated from college, and this is the closest I've ever ( ) to a college graduation. Today, I want to tell you three stories from my life. That's it. No big ( ). Just three stories.

The first story is about ( ) the dots.

I dropped out of Reed College after the ( ) six months, but then stayed ( ) as a drop-in for another 18 months or so before I ( ) quit. So why did I drop out?

【Week2】

It started ( ) I was born. My biological mother was a young, ( )  
graduate student and she decided to put me ( ) for adoption. She felt very  
strongly that I should be adopted by college ( ). So everything was  
all set for me to be adopted at birth by a ( ) and his wife except that  
when I popped out, they decided at the last minute that they ( )  
wanted a girl. So my parents, who were on a ( ) list, got a call in the  
middle of the night asking, "We've got an ( ) baby boy. Do you  
want him?" They said, "Of course." My biological mother found ( ) later  
that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had  
( ) graduated from high school. She ( ) to sign the final  
adoption papers. She only ( ) a few months later when my parents  
promised that I ( ) go to college. This was the start in my life.

【Week3】

And 17 years later, I ( ) go to college. But I ( ) chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college ( ). After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure ( ) out. And here I was spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all ( ) out okay. It was pretty scary ( ) the time but looking back, it was one of the ( ) decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out, I could stop taking the required classes that didn't ( ) me and begin dropping in on the ones that looked ( ) more interesting.

【Week4】

It wasn't all ( ). I didn't have a ( ) room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms. I returned Coke ( ) for the five - cent deposits to buy food with and I ( ) walk the seven miles across town every Sunday night to get one good ( ) a Week at the Hare Krishna temple. I loved it. And much of what I stumbled ( ) by following my curiosity and ( ) turned out to be priceless later on. Let me give you one example.

Reed College at that time ( ) perhaps the best calligraphy instruction in the country. Throughout the campus every ( ), every label on every drawer, was beautifully hand - calligraphed. Because I had dropped out and didn't have to take the ( ) classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class to learn how to do this. I learned about serif and sans serif typefaces, about varying the ( ) of space between different letter combinations, about what makes great ( ) great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically ( ) in a way that science can't capture and I found it ( ).

【Week5】

( ) of this had even a hope of any practical application in my life. But ten years later, when we were designing the ( ) Macintosh computer, it all came back to me. And we designed it ( ) into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful ( ). If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had ( ) typefaces or proportionally - spaced fonts. And since Windows ( ) copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would ( ) them. If I had never dropped out, I would have ( ) dropped in on this calligraphy class and personal computers might not have the wonderful typography that they do. Of course, it was impossible to ( ) the dots looking ( ) when I was in college but it was very, very clear looking ( ) ten years later.

Again, you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can ( ) connect them looking backwards. So, you have to trust that the dots will ( ) connect in your future. You have to trust in something: your ( ), destiny, life, karma, ( ) because believing that the dots will connect down the ( ) will give you the confidence to follow your heart, even when it ( ) you off the well-worn path. And that will make ( ) the difference.

【Week6】

My second story is about love and ( ).

I was lucky; I found what I loved to do ( ) in life. Woz and I started Apple in my parents' ( ) when I was 20. We worked hard and in 10 years Apple had grown from just the two of us in a garage into a 2 ( )-dollar company with over 4,000 employees. We had just released our ( ) creation, the Macintosh, a year earlier and I just ( ) 30. And then I got ( ). "How can you get fired from a company you started?" Well as Apple grew, we hired someone who I thought was very ( ) to run the company with me and for the first year or so, things ( ) well. But then our visions of the future began to ( ) and eventually, we had a ( )-out. When we did, our board of directors ( ) with him. And so at 30, I was out and very ( ) out. What had been the focus of my ( ) adult life was gone and it was devastating.

【Week7】

I really didn't know what to do for a ( ) months. I felt that I had let the previous generation of ( ) down, that I had dropped the ( ) as it was being passed to me. I met with David Packard and Bob Noyce and tried to apologize for ( ) up so badly. I was a very public ( ) and I even thought about running ( ) from the Valley. But something slowly began to ( ) on me. I still loved what I did. The turn of ( ) at Apple had not changed that one bit. I had been ( ) but I was still in love, and so I decided to ( ) over.

I didn't see it then but it ( ) out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could ( ) ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was ( ) by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It ( ) me to enter one of the most creative ( ) of my life.

【Week8】

During the ( ) five years, I started a company named NeXT, another company named Pixar, and ( ) in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife. Pixar ( ) on to create the world's first computer - animated feature film "Toy Story" and is now the most ( ) animation studio in the world. In a remarkable ( ) of events, Apple bought NeXT and I returned to Apple, and the technology we ( ) at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's ( ) renaissance. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

I'm pretty sure ( ) of this would have happened if I hadn't been fired from Apple. It was awful - tasting ( ) but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life is gonna hit you in the ( ) with a brick. Don't lose ( ). I'm convinced that the only thing that ( ) me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for ( ) as it is for your ( ). Your work is gonna ( ) a large part of your life and the only way to be ( ) satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to ( ) what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep ( ) and don't settle. As with all ( ) of the heart, you'll know when you find it and ( ) any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years ( ) on. So, keep looking. Don't settle.

【Week9】

My third story is about ( ).

When I was 17, I read a quote that ( ) something like, "If you live each day as if it was ( ) last, someday you'll most ( ) be right." It made an impression on me and since then for the ( ) 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and ( ) myself, "If today ( ) the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am ( ) to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a ( ), I know I need to change something.

Remembering that I'll be ( ) soon is the most important tool I've ever ( ) to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything: all ( ) expectations, all pride, all fear of ( ) or failure; these things just ( ) away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the ( ) way I know to avoid the ( ) of thinking you have something to lose. You are already ( ); there is no reason not to ( ) your heart.

【Week10】

About a year ago, I was diagnosed with ( ). I had a scan at 7:30 in the morning, and it ( ) showed a tumor on my pancreas. I didn't even know what a pancreas was. The doctors told me this was almost certainly a type of cancer that is ( ), and that I should expect to live no longer than three to six months. My doctor advised me to go home and get my ( ) in order, which is doctors' code for "prepare to die". It means to try and tell your kids everything you ( ) you'd have the next ten years to tell them, in just a few months. It means to make sure everything is ( ) up so that it will be as ( ) as possible for your family. It means to say your goodbyes.

I lived with that ( ) all day. Later that evening, I had a biopsy where they ( ) an endoscope down my ( ), through my stomach, into my intestines; put a ( ) into my pancreas and got a few ( ) from the tumor. I was sedated but my wife who was there told me that when they viewed the cells under a microscope, the doctors started crying because it turned out to be a very ( ) form of pancreatic cancer that is curable with surgery. I had the surgery and ( ), I'm fine now.

【Week11】

This was the ( ) I've been to facing death and I hope it's the closest I get for a few more ( ). Having lived through it, I can now say this to you with a ( ) more certainty than when death was a useful but purely intellectual ( ): no one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And ( ) death is the destination we all share. No one has ( ) escaped it. And that is as it should be because death is very likely the ( ) best invention of life. It's life's change ( ): it clears ( ) the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you but someday not too long from now, you will ( ) become the old and be ( ) away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it's ( ) true.

Your time is ( ), so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by ( ) which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions ( ) out your own inner voice. And most important, have the ( ) to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is ( ).

【Week12】

When I was young, there was an ( ) publication called "The Whole Earth Catalog", which was one of the ( ) of my generation. It was created by a ( ) named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park and he brought it to life with his ( ) touch. This was in the late '60s, before personal computers and desktop publishing so it was all made with ( ), scissors, and Polaroid cameras. It was ( ) of like Google in paperback form, 35 years before Google came ( ). It was idealistic, overflowing with ( ) tools and great notions.

Stewart and his team put out several issues of "The Whole Earth Catalog" and then when it had run its ( ), they put out a final issue. It was the mid - 1970s and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road, the ( ) you might find yourself ( ) on if you were so adventurous. ( ) it were the words, "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish". It was their ( ) message as they signed off, "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish". And I have always wished that for myself. And now as you graduate to begin ( ), I wish that for you.

"Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish".

Thank you all very much.