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Alex Gendler: Can you solve the bridge riddle? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

intern

- v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria

synonym : apprentice, trainee, student

(1) **intern** civilians, (2) medical **intern**

The navy **interned** ships of defeated nations.

lab

- n. a workplace for the conduct of scientific research; a laboratory

synonym : workshop, laboratory, research chamber

(1) **lab** instrument, (2) medical **lab**

The Prime Minister will pay a courtesy visit to the Nobel laureate's **lab**.

lever

- n. a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily

synonym : lifter, crowbar, bar

(1) a gear change **lever**, (2) **lever** for reform

This initiative will be a **lever** for increasing company sales.

- skull** *n.* a bone framework that surrounds the brain and gives the head its shape
synonym: cranium, scalp, brain
(1) **skull** fracture, (2) have a thick **skull**
Archaeologists found a Neanderthal **skull** at that historic site.
- symbol** *n.* something visible that is used to represent something else
synonym: mark, character, insignia
(1) **symbol** color, (2) **symbol** for happiness
The dragon is considered a **symbol** of bravery.
- regret** *v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
synonym: apologize, deplore, lament
(1) **regret** a decision, (2) **regret** being so careless
I **regret** to say that you did not gain admission to the university.
- mutant** *n.* an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)
(1) **mutant** Omicron strain, (2) **mutant** animal
The biologist thinks this **mutant** gene links to cancer.
- zombie** *n.* a dead body that has been brought back to life by a supernatural force; someone who acts or responds in a mechanical or apathetic way
synonym: living dead, ghost, machine
(1) **zombie** bank, (2) **zombie** movie
If you don't get a good night's sleep, you will become a **zombie** at work.
- janitor** *n.* a person whose job is to clean and maintain a large building, such as a school or a block of flats
synonym: keeper, guardian, custodian

(1) part-time **janitor**, (2) duty of the **janitor**

The school **janitor** was laid off.

assistant

n. someone who helps or supports someone else to do a job

synonym: aide, helper, associate

(1) an unwilling **assistant**, (2) **assistant** professor

An executive **assistant** director administers each branch.

headstart

n. an advantage granted or gained at the beginning of something, such as a competition or race

synonym: advantage

(1) have a good **headstart**, (2) **headstart** in that market

The horse was able to get a **headstart**.

span

n. the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers

synonym: interval, period, length

(1) the **span** of a bird's wings, (2) the average life **span**

He slightly modified the **span** of training because it was just before a match.

massive

adj. enormous amount; very heavy and solid

synonym: enormous, giant, immense

(1) **massive** amounts, (2) **massive** stars

The recent economic downturn has resulted in **massive** layoffs.

gorge

n. a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it

synonym: canyon, gully, ravine

(1) cast the **gorge**, (2) the **gorges** of the Yangtse River

We must pass through the narrow **gorge** with a stream running through it.

calculation

n. the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something

synonym : analysis, computation, estimate

(1) make a **calculation**, (2) **calculation** of loss and gain

The error in the **calculation** was attributable to rounding.

unfortunately

adv. by bad luck; unluckily

synonym : regrettably, unluckily, alas

(1) **unfortunately** caught in a shower, (2) even more **unfortunately**

The treatments were done but, **unfortunately**, were unsuccessful.

lantern

n. a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source

synonym : lamp, beacon, flashlight

(1) candle **lantern**, (2) a **lantern** in the dark

The paper-covered **lantern** glowed softly in the darkness.

grab

v. to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way

synonym : clutch, snatch, grasp

(1) **grab** an audience, (2) **grab** an opportunity

Shall we **grab** a bite to eat?

illuminate

v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

synonym : brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding

That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

raft

n. a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer

synonym : flatboat, boat, barge

(1) a **raft** for carrying horses, (2) a life **raft**

The rubber **raft** was swept out to sea.

befriend

v. to become a friend of someone, especially when in need
synonym : support, advise, patronize

(1) **befriend** a young boy, (2) **befriend** other members
I'm willing to **befriend** the weak and the poor.

pause

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

synonym : halt, break, intermit

(1) **pause** a moment, (2) **pause** for a reaction
The man **paused** before opening the door.

minimize

v. to make something, especially something bad, small or less serious

synonym : diminish, mitigate, belittle

(1) **minimize** a loss, (2) way to **minimize** conflict
I bought a gadget before my trip to help **minimize** stress during the flight.

pace

n. the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes

synonym : gait, rate, speed

(1) at your own **pace**, (2) the runner's **pace**
The economy is growing at a supercharged **pace**.

mutter

v. to speak or say something quietly and in a low voice; to make complaining remarks or noises under one's breath

synonym : grumble, mumble, complain

(1) **mutter** in a low voice, (2) **mutter** to myself
He **muttered** under his breath about the job relocation.

vision

n. the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see

synonym : sight, image, concept

(1) a prodigious **vision**, (2) telescopic **vision**

Driving is difficult for me because of my poor **vision**.

stick

v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

synonym: pierce, adhere, stay

(1) **stick** a key in a lock, (2) fire **stick**

You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

collapse

v. to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart

synonym: tumble, spill, bankruptcy

(1) the stock market **collapsed**, (2) ready to **collapse**

The roof finally **collapsed** after three days and three nights of heavy snowfall.

nick

n. a small cut, notch, or indentation in a surface or an edge

synonym: incision, dent, indentation

(1) a **nick** on the fender of a car, (2) **nick** on my hand

The interviewer arrived in a **nick** of time.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. a gear change le__r | <i>n.</i> a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily |
| 2. as____nt professor | <i>n.</i> someone who helps or supports someone else to do a job |
| 3. g__b an audience | <i>v.</i> to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way |
| 4. a life r__t | <i>n.</i> a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer |
| 5. l_b instrument | <i>n.</i> a workplace for the conduct of scientific research; a laboratory |
| 6. be____nd other members | <i>v.</i> to become a friend of someone, especially when in need |
| 7. way to mi____ze conflict | <i>v.</i> to make something, especially something bad, small or less serious |
| 8. the average life s__n | <i>n.</i> the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers |
| 9. part-time ja____r | <i>n.</i> a person whose job is to clean and maintain a large building, such as a school or a block of flats |
| 10. in___n civilians | <i>v.</i> to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria |

ANSWERS: 1. lever, 2. assistant, 3. grab, 4. raft, 5. lab, 6. befriend, 7. minimize, 8. span, 9. janitor, 10. intern

11. zo___e movie *n.* a dead body that has been brought back to life by a supernatural force; someone who acts or responds in a mechanical or apathetic way
12. medical l_b *n.* a workplace for the conduct of scientific research; a laboratory
13. unf_____ely caught in a shower *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
14. a n__k on the fender of a car *n.* a small cut, notch, or indentation in a surface or an edge
15. ma_____e stars *adj.* enormous amount; very heavy and solid
16. fire st__k *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
17. ill_____te a dark hall *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
18. a la_____n in the dark *n.* a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source
19. re___t a decision *v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
20. g__b an opportunity *v.* to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way
21. mu___r to myself *v.* to speak or say something quietly and in a low voice; to make complaining remarks or noises under one's breath

ANSWERS: 11. zombie, 12. lab, 13. unfortunately, 14. nick, 15. massive, 16. stick, 17. illuminate, 18. lantern, 19. regret, 20. grab, 21. mutter

22. n__k on my hand *n.* a small cut, notch, or indentation in a surface or an edge
23. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
24. mu___t Omicron strain *n.* an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)
25. duty of the ja____r *n.* a person whose job is to clean and maintain a large building, such as a school or a block of flats
26. the s__n of a bird's wings *n.* the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers
27. medical in___n *v.* to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
28. candle la____n *n.* a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source
29. cal_____on of loss and gain *n.* the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something
30. ready to co____se *v.* to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart
31. st__k a key in a lock *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

ANSWERS: 22. nick, 23. pause, 24. mutant, 25. janitor, 26. span, 27. intern, 28. lantern, 29. calculation, 30. collapse, 31. stick

32. mu___r in a low voice *v.* to speak or say something quietly and in a low voice; to make complaining remarks or noises under one's breath
33. make a cal_____on *n.* the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something
34. cast the go___e *n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
35. ill_____te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
36. re___t being so careless *v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
37. mi_____ze a loss *v.* to make something, especially something bad, small or less serious
38. sy___l color *n.* something visible that is used to represent something else
39. the go___es of the Yangtse River *n.* a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
40. telescopic vi___n *n.* the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see
41. mu___t animal *n.* an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)
42. zo___e bank *n.* a dead body that has been brought back to life by a supernatural force; someone who acts or responds in a mechanical or apathetic way

ANSWERS: 32. mutter, 33. calculation, 34. gorge, 35. illuminate, 36. regret, 37. minimize, 38. symbol, 39. gorge, 40. vision, 41. mutant, 42. zombie

43. the runner's p__e *n.* the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes
44. sk__l fracture *n.* a bone framework that surrounds the brain and gives the head its shape
45. a prodigious vi___n *n.* the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see
46. pa__e for a reaction *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
47. even more unf_____ely *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
48. have a good he_____rt *n.* an advantage granted or gained at the beginning of something, such as a competition or race
49. have a thick sk__l *n.* a bone framework that surrounds the brain and gives the head its shape
50. he_____rt in that market *n.* an advantage granted or gained at the beginning of something, such as a competition or race
51. sy__l for happiness *n.* something visible that is used to represent something else
52. le__r for reform *n.* a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily
53. be_____nd a young boy *v.* to become a friend of someone, especially when in need
54. ma_____e amounts *adj.* enormous amount; very heavy and solid

ANSWERS: 43. pace, 44. skull, 45. vision, 46. pause, 47. unfortunately, 48. headstart, 49. skull, 50. headstart, 51. symbol, 52. lever, 53. befriend, 54. massive

55. a r__t for carrying horses *n.* a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer
56. an unwilling as_____nt *n.* someone who helps or supports someone else to do a job
57. the stock market co_____sed *v.* to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart
58. at your own p__e *n.* the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes

ANSWERS: 55. raft, 56. assistant, 57. collapse, 58. pace

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The error in the _____ was attributable to rounding.
n. the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something
2. The biologist thinks this _____ gene links to cancer.
n. an organism that has characteristics resulting from a mutation (= alteration in the nucleic acid sequence of the genome)
3. I bought a gadget before my trip to help _____ stress during the flight.
v. to make something, especially something bad, small or less serious
4. The interviewer arrived in a _____ of time.
n. a small cut, notch, or indentation in a surface or an edge
5. He slightly modified the _____ of training because it was just before a match.
n. the entire length of something, such as time or space from beginning to end; the amount of space that something covers
6. We must pass through the narrow _____ with a stream running through it.
n. a deep narrow valley between hills or mountains, usually with steep sides and a river running through it
7. That biologist _____ the mechanism of heredity.
v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
8. The horse was able to get a _____.
n. an advantage granted or gained at the beginning of something, such as a competition or race

ANSWERS: 1. calculation, 2. mutant, 3. minimize, 4. nick, 5. span, 6. gorge, 7. illuminated, 8. headstart

9. Driving is difficult for me because of my poor _____.
- n.* the ability to think about or see the future with imagination and intelligence; the faculty of being able to see
10. The treatments were done but, _____ were unsuccessful.
- adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
11. You _____ a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.
- v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
12. The dragon is considered a _____ of bravery.
- n.* something visible that is used to represent something else
13. The roof finally _____ after three days and three nights of heavy snowfall.
- v.* to fall down or give way suddenly, often after breaking apart
14. I _____ to say that you did not gain admission to the university.
- v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
15. I'm willing to _____ the weak and the poor.
- v.* to become a friend of someone, especially when in need
16. The rubber _____ was swept out to sea.
- n.* a flat structure, usually made of logs or planks, that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmer

ANSWERS: 9. vision, 10. unfortunately, 11. stick, 12. symbol, 13. collapsed, 14. regret, 15. befriend, 16. raft

17. The economy is growing at a supercharged _____.
n. the speed at which someone or something moves, or the rate at which something happens or changes
18. The navy _____ ships of defeated nations.
v. to put someone in prison, especially for political or military reasons; (noun) a student or trainee who works, sometimes for free, to get work experience or to fulfill qualification criteria
19. He _____ under his breath about the job relocation.
v. to speak or say something quietly and in a low voice; to make complaining remarks or noises under one's breath
20. The man _____ before opening the door.
v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
21. This initiative will be a _____ for increasing company sales.
n. a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily
22. If you don't get a good night's sleep, you will become a _____ at work.
n. a dead body that has been brought back to life by a supernatural force; someone who acts or responds in a mechanical or apathetic way
23. The Prime Minister will pay a courtesy visit to the Nobel laureate's _____.
n. a workplace for the conduct of scientific research; a laboratory
24. Shall we _____ a bite to eat?
v. to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way

ANSWERS: 17. pace, 18. interned, 19. muttered, 20. paused, 21. lever, 22. zombie, 23. lab, 24. grab

25. Archaeologists found a Neanderthal _____ at that historic site.

n. a bone framework that surrounds the brain and gives the head its shape

26. The recent economic downturn has resulted in _____ layoffs.

adj. enormous amount; very heavy and solid

27. The paper-covered _____ glowed softly in the darkness.

n. a portable source of lighting, typically featuring a protective enclosure for the light source

28. An executive _____ director administers each branch.

n. someone who helps or supports someone else to do a job

29. The school _____ was laid off.

n. a person whose job is to clean and maintain a large building, such as a school or a block of flats

ANSWERS: 25. skull, 26. massive, 27. lantern, 28. assistant, 29. janitor