

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Judd A. Schorr: Can you solve the airplane riddle? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

professorship

n. a university lecturer of the highest rank, or the position of it

synonym: chair, fellowship

(1) land a **professorship** at the university, (2) visiting **professorship**

His next goal is a full **professorship**.

eccentric

adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

synonym: bizarre, abnormal, curious

(1) display **eccentric** behavior, (2) **eccentric** characters

He was **eccentric**, but he was also a genius.

adventurer

n. a person who enjoys or seeks dangerous and exciting experiences

synonym: explorer, entrepreneur, daredevil

(1) daredevil **adventurer**, (2) outdoor **adventurers**

The ocean **adventurer** holds the record for the oldest solo Pacific Ocean crossing by a sailboat.

embark

v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

synonym: enter, undertake, commence

(1) **embark** on a trip, (2) **embark** on a foolish adventure

We **embarked** on a new project.

nonstop

adj. without intermediate stops between source and destination

synonym: continuous, ceaseless, endless

(1) a **nonstop** run, (2) **nonstop** talk

We tend to choose **nonstop** flights when we travel.

equator

n. an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)

(1) south of the **equator**, (2) above the **equator**

Ecuador is on the **equator**.

devise

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

synonym: create, concoct, invent

(1) **devise** a plan, (2) **devise** a literary plot

They had to **devise** a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

dime

n. an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar

(1) **dime** store, (2) behind a **dime**

He never received a **dime**, even from the company of a close friend.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

takeoff

n. a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne

synonym: leaving, departure, liftoff

(1) vertical **takeoff**, (2) **takeoff** run

Our aircraft is now ready for **takeoff**.

refuel

v. to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.

(1) **refuel** air-to-air, (2) **refuel** bombers in flight

Our plane stopped in the country to **refuel**.

symmetrical

adj. having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts

synonym: harmonious, balanced, proportional

(1) **symmetrical** triangle, (2) **symmetrical** pattern

This figure is **symmetrical** about the x-axis.

unsupported

adj. not given financial or other aid; not having any proof or evidence

synonym: baseless, unfounded, unwarranted

(1) **unsupported** rumor, (2) fight **unsupported**

Removal of the central poll left the roof **unsupported**.

inflight

adj. happening or available during an aircraft flight

(1) **inflight** collision, (2) **inflight** meal

This aircraft offers free **inflight** Internet service.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. d__e store | <i>n.</i> an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar |
| 2. fight uns_____ed | <i>adj.</i> not given financial or other aid; not having any proof or evidence |
| 3. a no_____p run | <i>adj.</i> without intermediate stops between source and destination |
| 4. no_____p talk | <i>adj.</i> without intermediate stops between source and destination |
| 5. re___l bombers in flight | <i>v.</i> to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc. |
| 6. behind a d__e | <i>n.</i> an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar |
| 7. vertical ta_____f | <i>n.</i> a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne |
| 8. display ec_____ic behavior | <i>adj.</i> weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way |
| 9. em___k on a trip | <i>v.</i> to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something |
| 10. de___e a literary plot | <i>v.</i> to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination |
| 11. thrown out into mi___r | <i>n.</i> some point in the air; above ground level |
| 12. south of the eq_____r | <i>n.</i> an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles) |

ANSWERS: 1. dime, 2. unsupported, 3. nonstop, 4. nonstop, 5. refuel, 6. dime, 7. takeoff, 8. eccentric, 9. embark, 10. devise, 11. midair, 12. equator

13. re___l air-to-air *v.* to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.
14. in___ht collision *adj.* happening or available during an aircraft flight
15. above the eq____r *n.* an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)
16. de___e a plan *v.* to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination
17. in___ht meal *adj.* happening or available during an aircraft flight
18. sym____al triangle *adj.* having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts
19. daredevil adv____er *n.* a person who enjoys or seeks dangerous and exciting experiences
20. ta___f run *n.* a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne
21. uns____ed rumor *adj.* not given financial or other aid; not having any proof or evidence
22. visiting pro____hip *n.* a university lecturer of the highest rank, or the position of it
23. outdoor adv____ers *n.* a person who enjoys or seeks dangerous and exciting experiences
24. a mi___r collision *n.* some point in the air; above ground level

ANSWERS: 13. refuel, 14. inflight, 15. equator, 16. devise, 17. inflight, 18. symmetrical, 19. adventurer, 20. takeoff, 21. unsupported, 22. professorship, 23. adventurer, 24. midair

25. sym_____al pattern *adj.* having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts
26. em___k on a foolish adventure *v.* to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something
27. land a pro_____hip at the university *n.* a university lecturer of the highest rank, or the position of it
28. ec_____ic characters *adj.* weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way

ANSWERS: 25. symmetrical, 26. embark, 27. professorship, 28. eccentric

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.
n. some point in the air; above ground level
2. Our plane stopped in the country to _____.
v. to put additional fuel into a plane, ship, car, etc.
3. We tend to choose _____ flights when we travel.
adj. without intermediate stops between source and destination
4. His next goal is a full _____.
n. a university lecturer of the highest rank, or the position of it
5. This aircraft offers free _____ Internet service.
adj. happening or available during an aircraft flight
6. Ecuador is on the _____.
n. an line of latitude that separates Earth's northern and southern hemispheres and has a radius of around 40,075 kilometers (24,901 miles)
7. He was _____ but he was also a genius.
adj. weird or unusual, sometimes in a funny way
8. He never received a _____ even from the company of a close friend.
n. an American or Canadian coin worth one-tenth of a dollar
9. We _____ on a new project.
v. to go on board a ship or plane; to set out on an enterprise or subject of study; to start something

ANSWERS: 1. midair, 2. refuel, 3. nonstop, 4. professorship, 5. inflight, 6. equator, 7. eccentric, 8. dime, 9. embarked

10. This figure is _____ about the x-axis.

adj. having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts

11. The ocean _____ holds the record for the oldest solo Pacific Ocean crossing by a sailboat.

n. a person who enjoys or seeks dangerous and exciting experiences

12. Removal of the central poll left the roof _____.

adj. not given financial or other aid; not having any proof or evidence

13. They had to _____ a system that did not depend on fossil fuels.

v. to come up with an idea, plan, theory, etc., using your intelligence or imagination

14. Our aircraft is now ready for _____.

n. a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne

ANSWERS: 10. symmetrical, 11. adventurer, 12. unsupported, 13. devise, 14. takeoff