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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Marie Brodsky: Can you solve the birthday cake riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

timeless

adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

synonym: dateless, everlasting, imperishable

(1) **timeless** masterpiece, (2) **timeless** topic

There is a **timeless** aspect to his most remarkable work.

meticulously

adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully

synonym: carefully, attentively, scrupulously

(1) **meticulously** crafted product, (2) **meticulously** executed

She **meticulously** planned every detail of her wedding.

sculpt

v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques

synonym: carve, mold, shape

(1) **sculpt** an image, (2) **sculpt** prototype

He spent hours every day **sculpting** figures out of clay.

centerpiece

n. the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table

synonym: highlight, focal point, heart

(1) the **centerpiece** of the meal, (2) **centerpiece** proposal

His writing activities are the **centerpiece** of his life.

sneak

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

synonym : creep, tiptoe, smuggle

(1) **sneak** a cigarette, (2) **sneak** out of danger

The children tried to **sneak** out and eat the candy.

undetected

adj. not perceived or discovered

synonym : undiscovered, hidden, concealed

(1) **undetected** cancer, (2) leave the house **undetected**

Doctors made mistakes, and diseases remained **undetected**.

bodysuit

n. a tight-fitting one-piece garment that covers the torso and sometimes the arms and legs, often used in sports or as a fashion accessory

synonym : leotard, jumpsuit, unitard

(1) **bodysuit** costume, (2) lycra **bodysuit**

The winter sports enthusiasts wore insulated **bodysuits** to stay warm in the snow.

brace

n. a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast

synonym : support, clamp, (verb) strengthen

(1) **brace** for impact, (2) **brace** my energies

She wore a **brace** on her leg to support her injured ankle.

discernible

adj. able to be perceived or recognized; clear or distinguishable

synonym : apparent, noticeable, distinguishable

(1) **discernible** pattern, (2) lack of **discernible** progress

There was a **discernible** change in the atmosphere when the boss walked into the room.

backtrack

v. to retrace one's steps; to return along a path that one has already traveled, often to correct a mistake or find lost items

synonym : retrace, turn back, reverse

(1) **backtrack** statement, (2) **backtrack** on promise

We need to **backtrack** and figure out where we went wrong in our calculations.

sunrise

n. the time in the morning when the sun first appears in the sky

synonym : daybreak, morning, dawn

(1) beautiful **sunrise**, (2) high-technology **sunrise** industries

I got up early to watch the **sunrise** at the summit.

unlit

adj. not having been lit or ignited; without any source of light

synonym : dark, dim, unilluminated

(1) **unlit** candle, (2) **unlit** cigarette

The **unlit** alleyway made her feel nervous walking alone.

extinguish

v. to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining

synonym : quench, smother, blow out

(1) **extinguish** a cigarette, (2) **extinguish** the street lamp

Firefighters made every effort to **extinguish** the blaze immediately.

round-trip

n. a journey or travel route that starts at one point, goes to another point, and then returns to the starting point, covering a full circle or loop

synonym : return trip, two-way trip, excursion

(1) **round-trip** ticket, (2) **round-trip** commute

I booked a **round-trip** flight to Paris for my summer vacation.

inconspicuous

adj. not noticeable or prominent; not attracting attention or standing out; subtle or hidden in appearance or behavior

synonym : unobtrusive, unnoticeable, subtle

(1) **inconspicuous** location, (2) **inconspicuous** behavior

The **inconspicuous** spy blended in perfectly with the crowd.

chisel

n. a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior

synonym : gouge, bevel, plane

(1) sharpen **chisel**, (2) **chisel** some money

The archaeologist used a small **chisel** to excavate the ancient artifact.

downwind

adv. in the direction that the wind is blowing, particularly about the adverse effects that the wind may carry

synonym : downstream, windward, leeward

(1) sweep away **downwind**, (2) move **downwind**

The smoke from the fire was blowing **downwind** towards the nearby town.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ch___l some money *n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
2. und_____ed cancer *adj.* not perceived or discovered
3. sweep away do_____nd *adv.* in the direction that the wind is blowing, particularly about the adverse effects that the wind may carry
4. ext_____sh a cigarette *v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining
5. ba_____ck on promise *v.* to retrace one's steps; to return along a path that one has already traveled, often to correct a mistake or find lost items
6. sn__k a cigarette *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
7. ext_____sh the street lamp *v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining
8. cen_____ce proposal *n.* the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table
9. rou_____ip commute *n.* a journey or travel route that starts at one point, goes to another point, and then returns to the starting point, covering a full circle or loop

ANSWERS: 1. chisel, 2. undetected, 3. downwind, 4. extinguish, 5. backtrack, 6. sneak, 7. extinguish, 8. centerpiece, 9. round-trip

10. the cen_____ce of the meal *n.* the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table
11. ba_____ck statement *v.* to retrace one's steps; to return along a path that one has already traveled, often to correct a mistake or find lost items
12. sharpen ch____l *n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
13. high-technology su_____e industries *n.* the time in the morning when the sun first appears in the sky
14. br__e my energies *n.* a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast
15. bo_____it costume *n.* a tight-fitting one-piece garment that covers the torso and sometimes the arms and legs, often used in sports or as a fashion accessory
16. move do_____nd *adv.* in the direction that the wind is blowing, particularly about the adverse effects that the wind may carry
17. inc_____ous behavior *adj.* not noticeable or prominent; not attracting attention or standing out; subtle or hidden in appearance or behavior
18. un__t candle *adj.* not having been lit or ignited; without any source of light

ANSWERS: 10. centerpiece, 11. backtrack, 12. chisel, 13. sunrise, 14. brace, 15. bodysuit, 16. downwind, 17. inconspicuous, 18. unlit

19. met_____sly executed *adv.* with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
20. lack of dis_____le progress *adj.* able to be perceived or recognized; clear or distinguishable
21. met_____sly crafted product *adv.* with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
22. lycra bo_____it *n.* a tight-fitting one-piece garment that covers the torso and sometimes the arms and legs, often used in sports or as a fashion accessory
23. sn__k out of danger *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
24. un__t cigarette *adj.* not having been lit or ignited; without any source of light
25. dis_____le pattern *adj.* able to be perceived or recognized; clear or distinguishable
26. br__e for impact *n.* a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast
27. rou_____ip ticket *n.* a journey or travel route that starts at one point, goes to another point, and then returns to the starting point, covering a full circle or loop
28. ti_____ss masterpiece *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

ANSWERS: 19. meticulously, 20. discernible, 21. meticulously, 22. bodysuit, 23. sneak, 24. unlit, 25. discernible, 26. brace, 27. round-trip, 28. timeless

29. sc___t prototype *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
30. ti_____ss topic *adj.* not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion
31. beautiful su_____e *n.* the time in the morning when the sun first appears in the sky
32. sc___t an image *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
33. inc_____ous location *adj.* not noticeable or prominent; not attracting attention or standing out; subtle or hidden in appearance or behavior
34. leave the house und_____ed *adj.* not perceived or discovered

ANSWERS: 29. sculpt, 30. timeless, 31. sunrise, 32. sculpt, 33. inconspicuous, 34. undetected

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She wore a _____ on her leg to support her injured ankle.
n. a device, typically one of a pair, for holding something in position or for strengthening an object; (verb) to support or hold steady and make steadfast
2. The _____ alleyway made her feel nervous walking alone.
adj. not having been lit or ignited; without any source of light
3. She _____ planned every detail of her wedding.
adv. with great attention to detail; thoroughly and carefully
4. The winter sports enthusiasts wore insulated _____ to stay warm in the snow.
n. a tight-fitting one-piece garment that covers the torso and sometimes the arms and legs, often used in sports or as a fashion accessory
5. Doctors made mistakes, and diseases remained _____.
adj. not perceived or discovered
6. There was a _____ change in the atmosphere when the boss walked into the room.
adj. able to be perceived or recognized; clear or distinguishable
7. The _____ spy blended in perfectly with the crowd.
adj. not noticeable or prominent; not attracting attention or standing out; subtle or hidden in appearance or behavior
8. The children tried to _____ out and eat the candy.
v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

ANSWERS: 1. brace, 2. unlit, 3. meticulously, 4. bodysuits, 5. undetected, 6. discernible, 7. inconspicuous, 8. sneak

9. We need to _____ and figure out where we went wrong in our calculations.
- v.* to retrace one's steps; to return along a path that one has already traveled, often to correct a mistake or find lost items
10. Firefighters made every effort to _____ the blaze immediately.
- v.* to cause a fire to stop burning or light to stop shining
11. His writing activities are the _____ of his life.
- n.* the most important or attractive part of something; something placed at the center of something, as on a table
12. The archaeologist used a small _____ to excavate the ancient artifact.
- n.* a tool with a sharpened edge at one end used for shaping wood, stone, or metal; (verb) to engage in deceitful behavior
13. The smoke from the fire was blowing _____ towards the nearby town.
- adv.* in the direction that the wind is blowing, particularly about the adverse effects that the wind may carry
14. He spent hours every day _____ figures out of clay.
- v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
15. I booked a _____ flight to Paris for my summer vacation.
- n.* a journey or travel route that starts at one point, goes to another point, and then returns to the starting point, covering a full circle or loop
16. I got up early to watch the _____ at the summit.
- n.* the time in the morning when the sun first appears in the sky

ANSWERS: 9. backtrack, 10. extinguish, 11. centerpiece, 12. chisel, 13. downwind, 14. sculpting, 15. round-trip, 16. sunrise

17. There is a _____ aspect to his most remarkable work.

adj. not seeming to be altered by the passage of time or changes in fashion

ANSWERS: 17. timeless