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Shravan S K: Can you cheat death by solving this riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

bard

n. a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song

synonym : poet, minstrel, troubadour

(1) medieval **bard**, (2) a famous **bard**

The **bard's** performance at the festival was the highlight of the event.

cavern

n. a large, natural underground space

synonym : grotto, cave, cavity

(1) a yawning **cavern**, (2) **cavern** tour

The explorer discovered a large **cavern** deep underground.

connoisseur

n. a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions

synonym : expert, specialist, aficionado

(1) **connoisseur** of art, (2) **connoisseur** of wine

He's a **connoisseur** of fine wine and can tell you all about the various regions and vintages.

passageway

n. a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions

synonym : corridor, hallway, passage

(1) **passageway** lighting, (2) an enclosed **passageway**

The narrow **passageway** was the only route to the hidden chamber.

inaccessible

adj. unable to travel to or reach; not available

synonym : inapproachable, unreachable, remote

(1) **inaccessible** to an unauthorized user, (2) **inaccessible** areas

Heavy snow made it **inaccessible** to go to the mountain village.

pesky

adj. causing annoyance, irritation, or trouble; persistent in a vexing or troublesome manner

synonym : annoying, irritating, bothersome

(1) dealing with **pesky**, (2) **pesky** problem

The **pesky** fly kept buzzing around my head.

counterintuitive

adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

synonym : unreasonable, paradoxical, nonsensical

(1) **counterintuitive** results, (2) **counterintuitive** behavior

The **counterintuitive** nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym : judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

impede

v. to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress

synonym: hinder, obstruct, block

(1) **impede** a close relationship, (2) **impede** development

The traffic jam **impeded** our progress to reach the destination on time.

midpoint

n. the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points

synonym: center point, halfway point

(1) **midpoint** formula, (2) **midpoint** theorem

The **midpoint** between New York City and Los Angeles is located in Kansas.

seize

v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

synonym: grab, grasp, capture

(1) **seize** a person's property, (2) **seize** the day

He has the superpower to **seize** a business opportunity.

Session 2: Spelling

1. pe__y problem *adj.* causing annoyance, irritation, or trouble; persistent in a vexing or troublesome manner
2. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
3. mi_____nt formula *n.* the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points
4. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
5. ina_____ble areas *adj.* unable to travel to or reach; not available
6. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
7. pas_____ay lighting *n.* a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions
8. ca____n tour *n.* a large, natural underground space
9. a famous b__d *n.* a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song
10. se__e the day *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something

ANSWERS: 1. pesky, 2. doom, 3. midpoint, 4. opportune, 5. inaccessible, 6. doom, 7. passageway, 8. cavern, 9. bard, 10. seize

11. cou_____ive behavior *adj.* contrary to what common sense would suggest
12. con_____ur of art *n.* a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions
13. mi_____nt theorem *n.* the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points
14. medieval b__d *n.* a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song
15. ina_____ble to an unauthorized user *adj.* unable to travel to or reach; not available
16. im_____e a close relationship *v.* to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress
17. se__e a person's property *v.* to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
18. an enclosed pas_____ay *n.* a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions
19. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
20. cou_____ive results *adj.* contrary to what common sense would suggest

ANSWERS: 11. counterintuitive, 12. connoisseur, 13. midpoint, 14. bard, 15. inaccessible, 16. impede, 17. seize, 18. passageway, 19. opportune, 20. counterintuitive

21. a yawning ca___n *n.* a large, natural underground space
22. im___e development *v.* to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress
23. con_____ur of wine *n.* a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions
24. dealing with pe__y *adj.* causing annoyance, irritation, or trouble; persistent in a vexing or troublesome manner

ANSWERS: 21. cavern, 22. impede, 23. connoisseur, 24. pesky

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ nature of quantum physics has been a source of confusion for scientists for decades.
adj. contrary to what common sense would suggest

2. The _____ performance at the festival was the highlight of the event.
n. a poet, especially one who composes poems in a traditional oral style; a singer or minstrel who tells stories through song

3. The narrow _____ was the only route to the hidden chamber.
n. a narrow pathway or corridor, especially one that allows movement between different areas or regions

4. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

5. The _____ fly kept buzzing around my head.
adj. causing annoyance, irritation, or trouble; persistent in a vexing or troublesome manner

6. He's a _____ of fine wine and can tell you all about the various regions and vintages.
n. a person who is knowledgeable and discerning about a particular subject, particularly the arts, food, or drink; an expert with refined tastes and opinions

7. The traffic jam _____ our progress to reach the destination on time.
v. to obstruct or block someone or something to slow down or prevent progress

ANSWERS: 1. counterintuitive, 2. bard's, 3. passageway, 4. doom, 5. pesky, 6. connoisseur, 7. impeded

8. The explorer discovered a large _____ deep underground.
n. a large, natural underground space
9. Heavy snow made it _____ to go to the mountain village.
adj. unable to travel to or reach; not available
10. The _____ between New York City and Los Angeles is located in Kansas.
n. the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points
11. He has the superpower to _____ a business opportunity.
v. to catch or take hold of someone or something suddenly and forcibly; to capture the attention or imagination of something
12. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 8. cavern, 9. inaccessible, 10. midpoint, 11. seize, 12. opportune