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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Rosenthal: Can you solve the rogue submarine riddle? Difficulty level: Master | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

smuggle

v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally

(1) **smuggle** drugs, (2) **smuggle** herself out of a country
He was able to **smuggle** a gun inside the prison.

rogue

n. a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly

synonym: baddie, con artist, crook

(1) a **rogue** detective, (2) **rogue** state

The president states emphatically that the opponent country is a **rogue** state that supports terrorism.

minion

n. a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization

synonym: lackey, servant, subordinate

(1) a **minion** of the minister, (2) work as a **minion**

The boss treated his employees like **minions**, demanding obedience and respect.

forbid

v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising

synonym: prohibit, ban, outlaw

(1) **forbid** smoking in public areas, (2) **forbid** the use of chemical weapons

God **forbid** you should regret your marriage.

countdown

n. a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline

synonym: timer

(1) **countdown** clock, (2) wedding **countdown**

The **countdown** to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.

conceivable

adj. imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind

synonym: believable, imaginable, probable

(1) **conceivable** way, (2) **conceivable** emergency

It is challenging to defend every **conceivable** target.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

contradict

v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

synonym: conflict, oppose, belie

(1) **contradict** each other, (2) **contradict** the principle

The book contains numerous statements that **contradict** previous reports.

deduce

v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning

synonym : conclude, infer, suppose

(1) **deduce** facts from the evidence, (2) **deduce** the meaning of a word

The researcher **deduced** the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.

ambiguity

n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning

synonym : uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity

(1) free from **ambiguity**, (2) avoid **ambiguity** in writing

The **ambiguity** in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.

torpedo

n. a weapon that is designed to be launched from a ship, submarine, or aircraft and that is propelled through the water by a motor

synonym : missile, explosive, underwater bomb

(1) **torpedo** attack, (2) air-dropped **torpedo**

The submarine launched a **torpedo** at the enemy ship.

Session 2: Spelling

1. co_____wn clock *n.* a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline
2. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
3. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
4. de___e facts from the evidence *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
5. de___e the meaning of a word *v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
6. to_____o attack *n.* a weapon that is designed to be launched from a ship, submarine, or aircraft and that is propelled through the water by a motor
7. free from am_____ty *n.* the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
8. con_____le way *adj.* imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind

ANSWERS: 1. countdown, 2. rev, 3. rev, 4. deduce, 5. deduce, 6. torpedo, 7. ambiguity, 8. conceivable

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| 9. work as a mi___n | <i>n.</i> a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization |
| 10. con_____le emergency | <i>adj.</i> imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind |
| 11. wedding co_____wn | <i>n.</i> a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline |
| 12. fo___d the use of chemical weapons | <i>v.</i> to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising |
| 13. a mi___n of the minister | <i>n.</i> a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization |
| 14. avoid am_____ty in writing | <i>n.</i> the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning |
| 15. air-dropped to_____o | <i>n.</i> a weapon that is designed to be launched from a ship, submarine, or aircraft and that is propelled through the water by a motor |
| 16. a ro___e detective | <i>n.</i> a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly |
| 17. con_____ct each other | <i>v.</i> to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with |
| 18. ro___e state | <i>n.</i> a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly |
| 19. fo___d smoking in public areas | <i>v.</i> to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising |

ANSWERS: 9. minion, 10. conceivable, 11. countdown, 12. forbid, 13. minion, 14. ambiguity, 15. torpedo, 16. rogue, 17. contradict, 18. rogue, 19. forbid

20. sm_____e herself out of a country v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
21. sm_____e drugs v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally
22. con_____ct the principle v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with

ANSWERS: 20. smuggle, 21. smuggle, 22. contradict

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The book contains numerous statements that _____ previous reports.
v. to deny the truth of a statement by stating the opposite; to be in conflict with
2. The researcher _____ the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.
v. to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
3. The boss treated his employees like _____ demanding obedience and respect.
n. a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
4. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
5. The submarine launched a _____ at the enemy ship.
n. a weapon that is designed to be launched from a ship, submarine, or aircraft and that is propelled through the water by a motor
6. The _____ in the instructions made it difficult for her to complete the task.
n. the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; the uncertainty of meaning
7. The _____ to launch began as the astronauts prepared for their mission.
n. a counting sequence leading up to an event, often marked by a series of signals or cues, also used as a term to describe the final stages leading up to a major event or deadline

ANSWERS: 1. contradict, 2. deduced, 3. minions, 4. rev, 5. torpedo, 6. ambiguity, 7. countdown

8. It is challenging to defend every _____ target.

adj. imaginable or possible to understand or believe in the mind

9. He was able to _____ a gun inside the prison.

v. to import or export something or someone without paying appropriate customs duties, often illegally

10. The president states emphatically that the opponent country is a _____ state that supports terrorism.

n. a deceitful and unreliable person; a person who behaves badly

11. God _____ you should regret your marriage.

v. to order somebody not to do something, especially officially; to keep something from happening or arising

ANSWERS: 8. conceivable, 9. smuggle, 10. rogue, 11. forbid