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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

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

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

elf

n. a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers

synonym: sprite, pixie, faerie

(1) mischievous **elf**, (2) helpful **elf**

I dressed up as an **elf** for the Christmas party.

goblin

n. a creature in folklore, typically depicted as small and mischievous, characterized by its pointed ears, small size, and supernatural abilities

synonym: hobgoblin, imp

(1) **goblin** folklore, (2) wicked **goblin**

The **goblin** in the story is mischievous and causes trouble for the main character.

joust

n. a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument

synonym: contest, tournament, competition

(1) **joust** tournament, (2) saber **joust**

The medieval **joust** was a popular form of entertainment and spectacle during the Middle Ages.

meddle

- v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own

synonym: interfere, intrude, tamper

(1) **meddle** in relationships, (2) **meddle** with the evidence
She always tries to **meddle** in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.

enchantment

- n.* a feeling of great pleasure or delight; a magical spell or charm

synonym: charm, magic, spell

(1) sense of **enchantment**, (2) poetic **enchantment**
The **enchantment** of the forest made it feel like a fairy tale.

inaugurate

- v.* to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony

synonym: initiate, launch, commence

(1) **inaugurate** an enterprise, (2) **inaugurate** a new policy
The president will **inaugurate** the new embassy building next week.

chuckle

- n.* a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way

synonym: laugh, giggle, snicker

(1) **chuckle** at my cat's silly antics, (2) stifled **chuckle**
I couldn't help but let out a little **chuckle** when I saw the silly photo my friend had sent me.

anyhow

adv. anyway; regardless of what has happened or been said

synonym: anyway, nonetheless

(1) **anyhow** possible, (2) **anyhow** it turns out
Anyhow, let's change the subject because I don't want to talk about this anymore.

riddle

n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

synonym: mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

tally

n. a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers

synonym: count, record, score

(1) keep a **tally**, (2) **tally** sheet

Let's keep a **tally** of the votes to see who won the election.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

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| 1. ch____e at my cat's silly antics | <i>n.</i> a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way |
| 2. de___e the meaning of a word | <i>v.</i> to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning |
| 3. solve the ri___e | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |
| 4. ina_____te a new policy | <i>v.</i> to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony |
| 5. ta__y sheet | <i>n.</i> a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers |
| 6. mischievous e_f | <i>n.</i> a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers |
| 7. keep a ta__y | <i>n.</i> a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers |
| 8. helpful e_f | <i>n.</i> a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers |
| 9. an___w it turns out | <i>adv.</i> anyway; regardless of what has happened or been said |

ANSWERS: 1. chuckle, 2. deduce, 3. riddle, 4. inaugurate, 5. tally, 6. elf, 7. tally, 8. elf, 9. anyhow

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| 10. me___e in relationships | <i>v.</i> to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own |
| 11. de___e facts from the evidence | <i>v.</i> to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning |
| 12. saber jo__t | <i>n.</i> a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument |
| 13. an___w possible | <i>adv.</i> anyway; regardless of what has happened or been said |
| 14. stifled ch____e | <i>n.</i> a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way |
| 15. ina_____te an enterprise | <i>v.</i> to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony |
| 16. sense of enc_____nt | <i>n.</i> a feeling of great pleasure or delight; a magical spell or charm |
| 17. poetic enc_____nt | <i>n.</i> a feeling of great pleasure or delight; a magical spell or charm |
| 18. me___e with the evidence | <i>v.</i> to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own |

ANSWERS: 10. meddle, 11. deduce, 12. joust, 13. anyhow, 14. chuckle, 15. inaugurate, 16. enchantment, 17. enchantment, 18. meddle

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| 19. ri___e me a riddle | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |
| 20. jo__t tournament | <i>n.</i> a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument |
| 21. go___n folklore | <i>n.</i> a creature in folklore, typically depicted as small and mischievous, characterized by its pointed ears, small size, and supernatural abilities |
| 22. wicked go___n | <i>n.</i> a creature in folklore, typically depicted as small and mischievous, characterized by its pointed ears, small size, and supernatural abilities |

ANSWERS: 19. riddle, 20. joust, 21. goblin, 22. goblin

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ of the forest made it feel like a fairy tale.
n. a feeling of great pleasure or delight; a magical spell or charm
2. _____ let's change the subject because I don't want to talk about this anymore.
adv. anyway; regardless of what has happened or been said
3. The _____ remains mysterious to us.
n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
4. She always tries to _____ in other people's affairs, and it's starting to get annoying.
v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
5. The medieval _____ was a popular form of entertainment and spectacle during the Middle Ages.
n. a medieval sport in which two knights on horseback charge at each other with lances, trying to knock each other off their horses; a heated competition or argument
6. The president will _____ the new embassy building next week.
v. to formally begin or initiate something, particularly a new project, organization, government, or system, often through an official ceremony
7. I couldn't help but let out a little _____ when I saw the silly photo my friend had sent me.
n. a soft, partly suppressed laugh; an act of laughing quietly; (verb) to laugh quietly or softly, often in a suppressed or restrained way

ANSWERS: 1. enchantment, 2. Anyhow, 3. riddle, 4. meddle, 5. joust, 6. inaugurate, 7. chuckle

8. Let's keep a _____ of the votes to see who won the election.
- n.* a record or count of a particular thing often used to keep track of scores, votes, or numbers
9. The researcher _____ the momentum of the particles from meteoritic velocities.
- v.* to arrive at an answer, a conclusion, or a decision by reasoning
10. The _____ in the story is mischievous and causes trouble for the main character.
- n.* a creature in folklore, typically depicted as small and mischievous, characterized by its pointed ears, small size, and supernatural abilities
11. I dressed up as an ____ for the Christmas party.
- n.* a mythical creature typically depicted as a small, mischievous being with pointed ears and magical powers

ANSWERS: 8. tally, 9. deduced, 10. goblin, 11. elf