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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dennis Shasha: Can you solve the Trojan War riddle?

| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

tread

v. to step or walk on something

synonym : step, walk, pace

(1) **tread** water, (2) **tread** a similar path

He **treads** carefully on the slippery ice.

omen

n. a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence

synonym : portent, sign, prediction

(1) bad **omen**, (2) prophetic **omen**

The alignment of the planets was considered an **omen** of major changes in people's lives.

truce

n. a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement

synonym : ceasefire, armistice, peace

(1) temporary **truce**, (2) break a **truce**

The two sides agreed to a **truce** and set down their weapons.

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.

ensue

v. to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something

synonym: follow, occur, result

(1) **ensue** within a few years, (2) predict what will **ensue**
A power outage **ensued** after the storm knocked out the electricity.

loom

v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way

synonym: appear, come on, overshadow

(1) **loom** over the global economy, (2) **loom** on the horizon
The issue of divorce **loomed** large in his mind.

encampment

n. a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes

synonym: campsite, bivouac, settlement

(1) military **encampment**, (2) temporary **encampment**
The **encampment** of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.

clump

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

synonym: cluster, bunch, bundle

(1) **clump** of bacteria, (2) a **clump** of trees
I heard the **clump** of his boots in the hallway.

thorny

adj. full of or covered with thorns; prickly; (of a problem) difficult to deal with

synonym: prickly, spiky, bristly

(1) the **thorny** path of life, (2) **thorny** problem
The rose bush had **thorny** branches.

inward

adj. directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking

synonym : internal, introspective, interior

(1) **inward** peace, (2) **inward** cargo

The **inward** motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.

maneuver

n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage

synonym : gimmick, trick, action

(1) political **maneuvers**, (2) made a great **maneuver**

In this class, we learn the basic **maneuver** of the plane.

bloodshed

n. the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict

synonym : carnage, violence, killing

(1) bloody **bloodshed**, (2) massive **bloodshed**

The negotiations failed, leading to threats of **bloodshed** between the two countries.

prophecy

n. a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader

synonym : prediction, foretelling, divination

(1) **prophecy** fulfillment, (2) **prophecy** of doom

The fortune teller's **prophecy** that I would meet my soulmate next year has yet to come true.

prophecy

v. to predict or foretell a future event or outcome, often through divine or supernatural means; to make a prediction or forecast based on present trends or patterns

synonym : predict, foretell, prophesize

(1) **prophecy** doom, (2) **prophecy** success

The famous author was able to **prophecy** technological advancements that were beyond the imagination of his time.

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.

thwart

v. to prevent something from happening or succeeding

synonym: hinder, block, obstruct

(1) **thwart** enemy plans, (2) **thwart** attempts

He **thwarted** the thief's attempt to steal the painting.

troublesome

adj. causing difficulty or annoyance for someone

synonym: disconcerting, unsettling, upsetting

(1) undertake a **troublesome** task, (2) **troublesome** behavior

He had to resolve a **troublesome** event that happened unexpectedly

Session 2: Spelling

1. me___e in relationships
v. to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
2. th___y problem
adj. full of or covered with thorns; prickly; (of a problem) difficult to deal with
3. predict what will en__e
v. to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something
4. pr____sy success
v. to predict or foretell a future event or outcome, often through divine or supernatural means; to make a prediction or forecast based on present trends or patterns
5. tro____me behavior
adj. causing difficulty or annoyance for someone
6. an op____ne remark
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
7. bloody bl____ed
n. the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict
8. th___t attempts
v. to prevent something from happening or succeeding
9. a cl__p of trees
n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
10. op____ne occasion
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 1. meddle, 2. thorny, 3. ensue, 4. prophesy, 5. troublesome, 6. opportune, 7. bloodshed, 8. thwart, 9. clump, 10. opportune

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|----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 11. tr__d a similar path | <i>v.</i> | to step or walk on something |
| 12. l__m on the horizon | <i>v.</i> | to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way |
| 13. temporary enc_____nt | <i>n.</i> | a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes |
| 14. military enc_____nt | <i>n.</i> | a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes |
| 15. pr_____cy of doom | <i>n.</i> | a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader |
| 16. made a great ma_____er | <i>n.</i> | a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage |
| 17. tr__d water | <i>v.</i> | to step or walk on something |
| 18. in___d peace | <i>adj.</i> | directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking |
| 19. prophetic o__n | <i>n.</i> | a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence |
| 20. l__m over the global economy | <i>v.</i> | to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way |
| 21. massive bl_____ed | <i>n.</i> | the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict |

ANSWERS: 11. tread, 12. loom, 13. encampment, 14. encampment, 15. prophecy, 16. maneuver, 17. tread, 18. inward, 19. omen, 20. loom, 21. bloodshed

22. me___e with the evidence *v.* to interfere in someone else's affairs without permission or invitation; to become involved in an activity that is not one's own
23. political ma_____ers *n.* a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
24. cl__p of bacteria *n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
25. pr_____cy fulfillment *n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader
26. bad o__n *n.* a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence
27. in___d cargo *adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
28. the th___y path of life *adj.* full of or covered with thorns; prickly; (of a problem) difficult to deal with
29. en__e within a few years *v.* to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something
30. th___t enemy plans *v.* to prevent something from happening or succeeding
31. undertake a tro_____me task *adj.* causing difficulty or annoyance for someone
32. temporary tr__e *n.* a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement

ANSWERS: 22. meddle, 23. maneuver, 24. clump, 25. prophecy, 26. omen, 27. inward, 28. thorny, 29. ensue, 30. thwart, 31. troublesome, 32. truce

33. break a tr__e

n. a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement

34. pr____sy doom

v. to predict or foretell a future event or outcome, often through divine or supernatural means; to make a prediction or forecast based on present trends or patterns

ANSWERS: 33. truce, 34. prophesy

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. The two sides agreed to a _____ and set down their weapons.
n. a cessation or suspension of hostilities between warring parties, usually for a specified period, as a treaty, armistice, or other agreement
3. In this class, we learn the basic _____ of the plane.
n. a motion or combination of moves that requires skill and care; a clever strategy, activity, or movement intended to give someone an advantage
4. The _____ of soldiers in the field was a temporary arrangement.
n. a temporary or semi-permanent settlement, especially a group of tents or other shelters used for lodging or military purposes
5. He had to resolve a _____ event that happened unexpectedly
adj. causing difficulty or annoyance for someone
6. The issue of divorce _____ large in his mind.
v. to appear or take shape as a large, especially in a frightening way
7. He _____ carefully on the slippery ice.
v. to step or walk on something
8. 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

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. truce, 3. maneuver, 4. encampment, 5. troublesome, 6. loomed, 7. treads, 8. meddle

9. The alignment of the planets was considered an _____ of major changes in people's lives.
- n.* a sign or warning of a future event, often seen as either positive or negative and believed to be an indication of divine power or influence
10. The rose bush had _____ branches.
- adj.* full of or covered with thorns; prickly; (of a problem) difficult to deal with
11. The _____ motion of the tide was gradually slowing down.
- adj.* directed or facing towards the inside; inside or inward-looking
12. The negotiations failed, leading to threats of _____ between the two countries.
- n.* the act of shedding blood, often used to describe violence or war; injury or death caused by violence or conflict
13. I heard the _____ of his boots in the hallway.
- n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
14. He _____ the thief's attempt to steal the painting.
- v.* to prevent something from happening or succeeding
15. The fortune teller's _____ that I would meet my soulmate next year has yet to come true.
- n.* a statement or prediction that something will happen in the future, typically one made by a religious leader
16. The famous author was able to _____ technological advancements that were beyond the imagination of his time.
- v.* to predict or foretell a future event or outcome, often through divine or supernatural means; to make a prediction or forecast based on present trends or patterns

ANSWERS: 9. omen, 10. thorny, 11. inward, 12. bloodshed, 13. clump, 14. thwarted, 15. prophecy, 16. prophesy

17. A power outage _____ after the storm knocked out the electricity.

v. to happen or follow as a result or consequence of something

ANSWERS: 17. ensued