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Alex Gendler: Can you solve the Alice in Wonderland riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

wonderland

n. a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

synonym: fantasyland, dreamland, fairyland

(1) magical **wonderland**, (2) Alice's **wonderland**

The colorful garden was a **wonderland** of various plants and flowers.

temperamental

adj. relating to a person's temperament or disposition; subject to changes in mood or behavior; unpredictable

synonym: moody, unpredictable, volatile

(1) **temperamental** artist, (2) **temperamental** player

The project's success largely depends on the **temperamental** weather in the region.

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**.

overhear

v. to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge

synonym : catch, eavesdrop

(1) happen to **overhear** a conversation, (2) accidentally **overheard** their talk

She was inside at the time and **overheard** the conversation.

interject

v. to say something, especially an opinion or a remark, abruptly while another person is speaking

synonym : throw in, introduce, insert

(1) **interject** his comment, (2) **interject** my feelings

Please do not **interject** personal opinions.

huff

n. a fit of anger, annoyance, or resentment; a state of irritation or sulking; (verb) to exhale forcefully or audibly in a show of annoyance, anger, or frustration

synonym : miff, tantrum, indignation

(1) **huff** and puff upstairs, (2) give a **huff** of relief

She let out a **huff** of frustration after the difficult workout.

rectangle

n. a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length

synonym : oblong, square, quadrangle

(1) orthogonal **rectangle**, (2) **rectangle** box

The living room had a **rectangle-shaped** coffee table in the center of it.

clap

v. to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise

synonym : applaud, spat, acclaim

(1) **clap** my hands, (2) **clap** a book shut

We **clapped** along with the singer's song.

trapezoid

n. a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides

synonym : trapezium, trapeze

(1) the area of a **trapezoid**, (2) isosceles **trapezoid**

The building's windows were arranged in **trapezoid** shapes,

giving it a modern look.

rearrange

v. to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned

synonym: readjust, reorganize, reconstruct

(1) **rearrange** the furniture, (2) **rearrange** his schedule
Please **rearrange** these files as we start a new project tomorrow.

atop

adv. on, to, or at the top

synonym: upon, onto

(1) stand **atop**, (2) sit **atop** a stack of books
The eagle perched **atop** the tallest tree in the forest.

gasp

v. to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

synonym: breathe, pant, heave

(1) **gasp** for air, (2) **gasp** in shock
The audience **gasp**ed when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.

minuscule

adj. extremely small; tiny

synonym: tiny, insignificant, microscopic

(1) **minuscule** amount, (2) **minuscule** letters
This ore emits **minuscule** quantities of radiation

parallelogram

n. a four-sided geometric shape with opposite sides parallel to each other, characterized by its angles, sides, and area

synonym: rectangle, quadrangle, oblong

(1) base of **parallelogram**, (2) opposite angles of a **parallelogram**
In geometry class, we learned how to calculate the area of a **parallelogram**.

converge

v. to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet

synonym: congregate, assemble, concentrate

(1) **converge** of a series, (2) **converge** from different points

The two rivers **converge** into one near this area.

devious

adj. cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky

synonym: cunning, deceitful, tricky

(1) **devious** plot, (2) use **devious** methods

The **devious** plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.

deceptive

adj. tending to mislead or deceive either deliberately or inadvertently; causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true

synonym: misleading, trickery, fraudulent

(1) **deceptive** practices, (2) appearances are **deceptive**

The politician's statements were found to be **deceptive** and not based on fact.

cobble

n. a rounded, irregularly shaped stone used for paving streets or for building walls; (verb) to make or repair something in a rough and hurried way

synonym: pebble, boulder, stone

(1) **cobble** driveway, (2) **cobble** up a policy accord

The town is known for its historic **cobble** streets, which were laid by hand in the 19th century.

conundrum

n. a confusing and difficult problem or question

synonym: puzzle, riddle, enigma

(1) **conundrum** of choice, (2) pose a **conundrum**

The group faced a **conundrum** when they couldn't decide whether to go hiking or to the beach.

Session 2: Spelling

1. de_____ve practices
adj. tending to mislead or deceive either deliberately or inadvertently; causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true
2. tem_____tal artist
adj. relating to a person's temperament or disposition; subject to changes in mood or behavior; unpredictable
3. h__f and puff upstairs
n. a fit of anger, annoyance, or resentment; a state of irritation or sulking; (verb) to exhale forcefully or audibly in a show of annoyance, anger, or frustration
4. magical won_____nd
n. a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
5. de_____s plot
adj. cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
6. opposite angles of a
par_____ram
n. a four-sided geometric shape with opposite sides parallel to each other, characterized by its angles, sides, and area
7. isosceles tr_____id
n. a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides

ANSWERS: 1. deceptive, 2. temperamental, 3. huff, 4. wonderland, 5. devious, 6. parallelogram, 7. trapezoid

8. mi_____le amount *adj.* extremely small; tiny
9. use de_____s methods *adj.* cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
10. re_____ge the furniture *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
11. g__p for air *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise
12. in_____ct his comment *v.* to say something, especially an opinion or a remark, abruptly while another person is speaking
13. give a h__f of relief *n.* a fit of anger, annoyance, or resentment; a state of irritation or sulking; (verb) to exhale forcefully or audibly in a show of annoyance, anger, or frustration
14. re_____le box *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
15. the area of a tr_____id *n.* a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides
16. g__p in shock *v.* to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

ANSWERS: 8. minuscule, 9. devious, 10. rearrange, 11. gasp, 12. interject, 13. huff, 14. rectangle, 15. trapezoid, 16. gasp

17. base of par_____ram *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with opposite sides parallel to each other, characterized by its angles, sides, and area
18. co_____um of choice *n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question
19. appearances are de_____ve *adj.* tending to mislead or deceive either deliberately or inadvertently; causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true
20. stand a__p *adv.* on, to, or at the top
21. in_____ct my feelings *v.* to say something, especially an opinion or a remark, abruptly while another person is speaking
22. pose a co_____um *n.* a confusing and difficult problem or question
23. co_____ge of a series *v.* to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet
24. c__p my hands *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
25. co_____ge from different points *v.* to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet
26. orthogonal re_____le *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
27. co___e driveway *n.* a rounded, irregularly shaped stone used for paving streets or for building walls; (verb) to make or repair something in a rough and hurried way

ANSWERS: 17. parallelogram, 18. conundrum, 19. deceptive, 20. atop, 21. interject, 22. conundrum, 23. converge, 24. clap, 25. converge, 26. rectangle, 27. cobble

28. co___e up a policy accord *n.* a rounded, irregularly shaped stone used for paving streets or for building walls; (verb) to make or repair something in a rough and hurried way
29. tem_____tal player *adj.* relating to a person's temperament or disposition; subject to changes in mood or behavior; unpredictable
30. accidentally ov____ard their talk *v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
31. happen to ov____ar a conversation *v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
32. c__p a book shut *v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
33. re_____ge his schedule *v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
34. und_____ed cancer *adj.* not perceived or discovered
35. sit a__p a stack of books *adv.* on, to, or at the top
36. leave the house und_____ed *adj.* not perceived or discovered
37. mi_____le letters *adj.* extremely small; tiny
38. Alice's won_____nd *n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

ANSWERS: 28. cobble, 29. temperamental, 30. overhear, 31. overhear, 32. clap, 33. rearrange, 34. undetected, 35. atop, 36. undetected, 37. minuscule, 38. wonderland

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ plan to cheat on the test was foiled by the teacher.
adj. cunning and deceitful; not straightforward; tricky
2. The two rivers _____ into one near this area.
v. to move or draw together at a specific location; (of lines) to move towards the same point where they join or meet
3. The living room had a _____ coffee table in the center of it.
n. a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
4. The town is known for its historic _____ streets, which were laid by hand in the 19th century.
n. a rounded, irregularly shaped stone used for paving streets or for building walls; (verb) to make or repair something in a rough and hurried way
5. The politician's statements were found to be _____ and not based on fact.
adj. tending to mislead or deceive either deliberately or inadvertently; causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true
6. The group faced a _____ when they couldn't decide whether to go hiking or to the beach.
n. a confusing and difficult problem or question
7. The audience _____ when the magician made the rabbit disappear from the hat.
v. to inhale sharply and audibly, often in response to strong emotion or sensation; to catch one's breath suddenly, often due to shock or surprise

ANSWERS: 1. devious, 2. converge, 3. rectangle-shaped, 4. cobble, 5. deceptive, 6. conundrum, 7. gasped

8. In geometry class, we learned how to calculate the area of a _____.
- n.* a four-sided geometric shape with opposite sides parallel to each other, characterized by its angles, sides, and area
9. This ore emits _____ quantities of radiation
- adj.* extremely small; tiny
10. We _____ along with the singer's song.
- v.* to hit your hands together and make a short and loud noise, mainly to show your approval or praise
11. Please _____ these files as we start a new project tomorrow.
- v.* to change the order or position of things already made; to change the time, date, or place of an event already planned
12. She let out a _____ of frustration after the difficult workout.
- n.* a fit of anger, annoyance, or resentment; a state of irritation or sulking; (verb) to exhale forcefully or audibly in a show of annoyance, anger, or frustration
13. She was inside at the time and _____ the conversation.
- v.* to hear what other people are saying without intending to and their knowledge
14. The eagle perched _____ the tallest tree in the forest.
- adv.* on, to, or at the top
15. The colorful garden was a _____ of various plants and flowers.
- n.* a place or situation that is delightful or enchanting, often characterized by a dreamlike or surreal quality; a reference to the fictional world from Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

ANSWERS: 8. parallelogram, 9. minuscule, 10. clapped, 11. rearrange, 12. huff, 13. overheard, 14. atop, 15. wonderland

16. The project's success largely depends on the _____ weather in the region.
adj. relating to a person's temperament or disposition; subject to changes in mood or behavior; unpredictable
17. Please do not _____ personal opinions.
v. to say something, especially an opinion or a remark, abruptly while another person is speaking
18. The building's windows were arranged in _____ shapes, giving it a modern look.
n. a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides
19. Doctors made mistakes, and diseases remained _____.
adj. not perceived or discovered

ANSWERS: 16. temperamental, 17. interject, 18. trapezoid, 19. undetected