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Dan Finkel: Can you solve the riddle and escape Hades? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

clumsy

adj. lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome

synonym: awkward, ungainly, inept

(1) **clumsy** at sports, (2) **clumsy** attempt

The **clumsy** waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.

underworld

n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

synonym: hell, netherworld, underworld

(1) god of the **underworld**, (2) criminal **underworld**

The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the **underworld**, where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.

overcrowded

adj. containing too many people or things in a particular space, making it cramped or uncomfortable

synonym: packed, congested, jammed

(1) **overcrowded** refugee camp, (2) **overcrowded** with passengers

The school district is facing a problem with **overcrowded** classrooms.

spirit

n. the part of a person which is the seat of their mind, feelings, and character rather than their physical body; the general atmosphere of a place or situation and the effect that it has on people

synonym : soul, attitude, enthusiasm

(1) **spirit** and the letter of the law, (2) an indomitable **spirit**

Despite their tragic loss, the family is showing great **spirit**.

arrange

v. to plan, prepare for, and carry out something

synonym : set up, order, organize

(1) **arrange** the meeting, (2) the list was **arranged**

alphabetically

I need to **arrange** plans with him for the celebration.

shuffle

v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

synonym : jumble, muddle, rearrange

(1) **shuffle** deck, (2) **shuffle** from side to side

She **shuffled** the cards before dealing them to the players.

simultaneously

adv. at the same time

synonym : concurrently, coincidentally, together

(1) **simultaneously** affected, (2) take several inputs

simultaneously

Two students answered the teacher's question

simultaneously.

unfortunately

adv. by bad luck; unluckily

synonym : regrettably, unluckily, alas

(1) **unfortunately** caught in a shower, (2) even more

unfortunately

The treatments were done but, **unfortunately**, were unsuccessful.

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.

furious

adj. extremely angry; full of rage

synonym: angry, rageful, livid

(1) **furious** anger, (2) a **furious** sea

The coach was **furious** with the players for their lack of effort during the game.

suddenly

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

synonym: abruptly, unexpectedly, unawares

(1) **suddenly** attacked by an enemy, (2) die **suddenly**

Who answers **suddenly** knows little.

shadow

n. a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner

synonym: shade, silhouette, outline

(1) **shadow** cast, (2) **shadow** puppetry

The tree cast a **shadow** over the picnic area, providing relief from the sun.

instantly

adv. immediately

synonym: immediately, right away, directly

(1) **instantly** cope with, (2) be killed **instantly**

I remembered that person **instantly** and never forgot.

grant

v. to agree to give or allow somebody

synonym: allocate, authorize, give

(1) **grant** a new license, (2) **grant** a land

The chairperson **granted** him the right to speak.

grace

n. a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal

synonym : charm, poise, elegance

(1) say a **grace**, (2) end of the **grace** period

The old oak tree stood with **grace** and majesty in the park's center.

advantage

n. a condition or circumstance that puts one in a favorable or superior position; a beneficial feature or asset that someone or something has

synonym : benefit, edge, asset

(1) score an **advantage**, (2) take **advantage** of his weak points

One of the main **advantages** of the new product is its increased efficiency.

spot

n. a particular location or place; a small round or roundish area, differing in color or feels from the surface around it

synonym : dot, mark, place

(1) beauty **spot**, (2) a **spot** on his honor

This remote **spot** is rarely visited.

rot

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

synonym : perish, decay, corrode

(1) begin to **rot**, (2) **rot** with age

Please refrigerate the meat, or it will **rot**.

pause

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

synonym : halt, break, intermit

(1) **pause** a moment, (2) **pause** for a reaction

The man **paused** before opening the door.

calculate

v. to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics

synonym: compute, figure, estimate

(1) **calculate** the distance, (2) **calculate** his credit score

He couldn't **calculate** the actual value of the artwork.

probabilistic

adj. characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

synonym: probable, statistical, likely

(1) **probabilistic** model, (2) **probabilistic** approach

In a **probabilistic** system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.

surprisingly

adv. in a way that causes amazement or wonder

synonym: exceptionally, notably, unusually

(1) **surprisingly** advanced culture, (2) have **surprisingly** little effect

The exam was **surprisingly** tricky for everyone.

calculation

n. the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something

synonym: analysis, computation, estimate

(1) make a **calculation**, (2) **calculation** of loss and gain

The error in the **calculation** was attributable to rounding.

random

adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern

synonym: incidental, arbitrary, unanticipated

(1) a **random** choice, (2) bombs fell at **random**

To find drunk drivers, police conduct **random** tests.

survival

n. the state of continuing to exist or live, frequently in the face of difficulty or danger

synonym: endurance, continuity

(1) **survival** ability, (2) **survival** food

He evaluated his chances for **survival** rather pessimistically.

shortcut

n. an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one

synonym: bypass, cutoff, alternative

(1) take a **shortcut**, (2) keyboard **shortcuts**

There is no **shortcut** to success.

extreme

adj. very great in amount or degree

synonym: farthestmost, outermost, fierce

(1) **extreme** sports, (2) **extreme** weather events

Solar gravity creates **extreme** pressures and temperatures.

observation

n. the act or activity of carefully examining or monitoring something or someone

synonym: watching, notice, reflection

(1) class **observation** day, (2) **observation** instrument

In the hospital, she will remain under constant **observation**.

incredibly

adv. in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely

synonym: enormously, exceptionally, extraordinarily

(1) **incredibly** cheerful character, (2) get **incredibly** insecure

Several cities are experiencing **incredibly** high unemployment rates.

ignore

v. to intentionally not listen or pay attention to

synonym: neglect, disregard, shun

(1) **ignore** her advice, (2) **ignore** a ban

Since independence, the area has been completely **ignored**.

trio

n. a group or set of three people or things, especially musicians playing together

synonym: set, group, threesome

(1) **trio** sonata, (2) jazz **trio**

The piano, violin, and cello formed a beautiful **trio** for the classical concert.

maximum

adj. the largest or greatest amount or value attainable or attained

synonym : peak, top, highest

(1) **maximum** limit, (2) the **maximum** speed

The **maximum** temperature recorded this summer was higher than average.

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.

odds

n. the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen

synonym : chances, likelihoods, probabilities

(1) **odds** in favor, (2) **odds** of business

What are the **odds** that he will survive?

survive

v. to live or exist despite a dangerous event or period

synonym : endure, persist, stay

(1) **survive** a blizzard, (2) **survive** a plane crash

These birds can only **survive** in temperate climates.

reborn

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

synonym : regenerated, revived, renewed

(1) **reborn** soul, (2) **reborn** identity

After recovering from her illness, she felt like a **reborn** person with a new perspective on life.

handy

adj. valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use

synonym : clever, accessible, available

(1) a **handy-sized** bag, (2) **handy** tool
They found a **handy** place to play catch.

reward

n. a thing given in acknowledgment of service, hard work, achievement, etc.

synonym: compensation, gratuity, bonus

(1) the **reward** for good works, (2) shopping **rewards** cards
Night fishing has a lot of **rewards**.

insight

n. the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like

synonym: wisdom, discernment, understanding

(1) a profound **insight**, (2) share my **insights**

We gained various **insights** by analyzing the vast amount of data owned by the company.

sneaking

adj. characterized by stealth, secrecy, or furtiveness; done in a surreptitious or underhanded manner

synonym: sneaky, furtive, covert

(1) **sneaking** suspicion, (2) a **sneaking** sense of satisfaction

He had a **sneaking** admiration for his rival's work, even though they were competitors.

ultimate

adj. furthest or highest in degree or order

synonym: highest, maximum, foremost

(1) the **ultimate** goal in life, (2) the **ultimate** luxury

Management must take **ultimate** responsibility for the accident.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. score an ad_____ge | <i>n.</i> a condition or circumstance that puts one in a favorable or superior position; a beneficial feature or asset that someone or something has |
| 2. r_t with age | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually |
| 3. work as a mi____n | <i>n.</i> a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization |
| 4. gr__t a land | <i>v.</i> to agree to give or allow somebody |
| 5. a ra___m choice | <i>adj.</i> made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern |
| 6. t__o sonata | <i>n.</i> a group or set of three people or things, especially musicians playing together |
| 7. inc_____ly cheerful character | <i>adv.</i> in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely |
| 8. sp____t and the letter of the law | <i>n.</i> the part of a person which is the seat of their mind, feelings, and character rather than their physical body; the general atmosphere of a place or situation and the effect that it has on people |
| 9. a fu____s sea | <i>adj.</i> extremely angry; full of rage |
| 10. a sn____ng sense of satisfaction | <i>adj.</i> characterized by stealth, secrecy, or furtiveness; done in a surreptitious or underhanded manner |

ANSWERS: 1. advantage, 2. rot, 3. minion, 4. grant, 5. random, 6. trio, 7. incredibly, 8. spirit, 9. furious, 10. sneaking

11. ig___e a ban *v.* to intentionally not listen or pay attention to
12. unf_____ely caught in a shower *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
13. su___e a blizzard *v.* to live or exist despite a dangerous event or period
14. the ul___te goal in life *adj.* furthest or highest in degree or order
15. have sur_____gly little effect *adv.* in a way that causes amazement or wonder
16. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
17. share my in_____ts *n.* the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like
18. sur_____gly advanced culture *adv.* in a way that causes amazement or wonder
19. ar___e the meeting *v.* to plan, prepare for, and carry out something
20. pro_____tic approach *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
21. obs_____on instrument *n.* the act or activity of carefully examining or monitoring something or someone
22. the ul___te luxury *adj.* furthest or highest in degree or order
23. su___al food *n.* the state of continuing to exist or live, frequently in the face of difficulty or danger

ANSWERS: 11. ignore, 12. unfortunately, 13. survive, 14. ultimate, 15. surprisingly, 16. doom, 17. insight, 18. surprisingly, 19. arrange, 20. probabilistic, 21. observation, 22. ultimate, 23. survival

24. ma____m limit *adj.* the largest or greatest amount or value attainable or attained
25. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
26. ha__y tool *adj.* valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use
27. ove_____ed with passengers *adj.* containing too many people or things in a particular space, making it cramped or uncomfortable
28. ca_____te the distance *v.* to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics
29. o__s of business *n.* the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen
30. shopping re____ds cards *n.* a thing given in acknowledgment of service, hard work, achievement, etc.
31. ex_____e weather events *adj.* very great in amount or degree
32. sn_____ng suspicion *adj.* characterized by stealth, secrecy, or furtiveness; done in a surreptitious or underhanded manner
33. get inc_____ly insecure *adv.* in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely
34. a profound in_____t *n.* the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like
35. pro_____tic model *adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks

ANSWERS: 24. maximum, 25. pause, 26. handy, 27. overcrowded, 28. calculate, 29. odds, 30. reward, 31. extreme, 32. sneaking, 33. incredibly, 34. insight, 35. probabilistic

36. even more unf_____ely *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
37. keyboard sh_____uts *n.* an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one
38. cl_____y attempt *adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
39. make a cal_____on *n.* the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something
40. in_____ly cope with *adv.* immediately
41. bombs fell at ra_____m *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
42. the list was ar_____ed alphabetically *v.* to plan, prepare for, and carry out something
43. economic d_____m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
44. sim_____sly affected *adv.* at the same time
45. class obs_____on day *n.* the act or activity of carefully examining or monitoring something or someone
46. end of the gr_____e period *n.* a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal
47. criminal und_____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
48. o____s in favor *n.* the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen

ANSWERS: 36. unfortunately, 37. shortcut, 38. clumsy, 39. calculation, 40. instantly, 41. random, 42. arrange, 43. doom, 44. simultaneously, 45. observation, 46. grace, 47. underworld, 48. odds

49. ca_____te his credit score *v.* to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics
50. su_____e a plane crash *v.* to live or exist despite a dangerous event or period
51. cal_____on of loss and gain *n.* the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something
52. take a sh_____ut *n.* an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one
53. re____n identity *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
54. be killed in_____ly *adv.* immediately
55. ex_____e sports *adj.* very great in amount or degree
56. the re____d for good works *n.* a thing given in acknowledgment of service, hard work, achievement, etc.
57. gr__t a new license *v.* to agree to give or allow somebody
58. beauty s__t *n.* a particular location or place; a small round or roundish area, differing in color or feels from the surface around it
59. jazz t__o *n.* a group or set of three people or things, especially musicians playing together
60. pa__e for a reaction *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
61. su_____ly attacked by an enemy *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
62. begin to r_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

ANSWERS: 49. calculate, 50. survive, 51. calculation, 52. shortcut, 53. reborn, 54. instantly, 55. extreme, 56. reward, 57. grant, 58. spot, 59. trio, 60. pause, 61. suddenly, 62. rot

63. ig___e her advice *v.* to intentionally not listen or pay attention to
64. sh___w puppetry *n.* a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner
65. take ad_____ge of his weak points *n.* a condition or circumstance that puts one in a favorable or superior position; a beneficial feature or asset that someone or something has
66. a mi___n of the minister *n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
67. cl___y at sports *adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
68. a ha__y-sized bag *adj.* valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use
69. say a gr__e *n.* a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal
70. an indomitable sp___t *n.* the part of a person which is the seat of their mind, feelings, and character rather than their physical body; the general atmosphere of a place or situation and the effect that it has on people

ANSWERS: 63. ignore, 64. shadow, 65. advantage, 66. minion, 67. clumsy, 68. handy, 69. grace, 70. spirit

71. fu____s anger *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
72. ove_____ed refugee camp *adj.* containing too many people or things in a particular space, making it cramped or uncomfortable
73. god of the und_____ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
74. die su_____ly *adv.* quickly and unexpectedly
75. su_____al ability *n.* the state of continuing to exist or live, frequently in the face of difficulty or danger
76. the ma_____m speed *adj.* the largest or greatest amount or value attainable or attained
77. a s__t on his honor *n.* a particular location or place; a small round or roundish area, differing in color or feels from the surface around it
78. sh_____e deck *v.* to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps
79. take several inputs sim_____sly *adv.* at the same time
80. re___n soul *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
81. sh___w cast *n.* a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner

ANSWERS: 71. furious, 72. overcrowded, 73. underworld, 74. suddenly, 75. survival, 76. maximum, 77. spot, 78. shuffle, 79. simultaneously, 80. reborn, 81. shadow

82. sh____e from side to side

v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

ANSWERS: 82. shuffle

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The old oak tree stood with _____ and majesty in the park's center.
n. a quality of being pleasing, especially in appearance or manner; a temporary exemption, especially an extended period granted as a special favor; a short prayer of thanks before a meal
2. The chairperson _____ him the right to speak.
v. to agree to give or allow somebody
3. Several cities are experiencing _____ high unemployment rates.
adv. in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely
4. The tree cast a _____ over the picnic area, providing relief from the sun.
n. a dark area or shape cast by an object blocking the passage of light; an area in darkness or shade; a reflected image or copy of something; a person, activity, or influence that follows or accompanies someone or something closely and persistently, often in a secretive or ominous manner
5. In the hospital, she will remain under constant _____.
n. the act or activity of carefully examining or monitoring something or someone
6. The treatments were done but, _____ were unsuccessful.
adv. by bad luck; unluckily
7. Night fishing has a lot of _____.
n. a thing given in acknowledgment of service, hard work, achievement, etc.
8. The school district is facing a problem with _____ classrooms.
adj. containing too many people or things in a particular space, making it cramped or uncomfortable

ANSWERS: 1. grace, 2. granted, 3. incredibly, 4. shadow, 5. observation, 6. unfortunately, 7. rewards, 8. overcrowded

9. What are the _____ that he will survive?
n. the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen
10. The coach was _____ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.
adj. extremely angry; full of rage
11. There is no _____ to success.
n. an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one
12. Since independence, the area has been completely _____.
v. to intentionally not listen or pay attention to
13. He evaluated his chances for _____ rather pessimistically.
n. the state of continuing to exist or live, frequently in the face of difficulty or danger
14. The exam was _____ tricky for everyone.
adv. in a way that causes amazement or wonder
15. I need to _____ plans with him for the celebration.
v. to plan, prepare for, and carry out something
16. They found a _____ place to play catch.
adj. valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use
17. Who answers _____ knows little.
adv. quickly and unexpectedly
18. Solar gravity creates _____ pressures and temperatures.
adj. very great in amount or degree

ANSWERS: 9. odds, 10. furious, 11. shortcut, 12. ignored, 13. survival, 14. surprisingly, 15. arrange, 16. handy, 17. suddenly, 18. extreme

19. One of the main _____ of the new product is its increased efficiency.
- n.* a condition or circumstance that puts one in a favorable or superior position; a beneficial feature or asset that someone or something has
20. Despite their tragic loss, the family is showing great _____.
- n.* the part of a person which is the seat of their mind, feelings, and character rather than their physical body; the general atmosphere of a place or situation and the effect that it has on people
21. The _____ waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.
- adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
22. In a _____ system, the outcome is uncertain and can vary based on chance.
- adj.* characterized by the influence of chance or probability; involving the use of statistical models or methods to estimate likelihoods or risks
23. The boss treated his employees like _____ demanding obedience and respect.
- n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
24. I remembered that person _____ and never forgot.
- adv.* immediately
25. The error in the _____ was attributable to rounding.
- n.* the act or process of using numbers to judge an amount of something
26. We gained various _____ by analyzing the vast amount of data owned by the company.
- n.* the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like

ANSWERS: 19. advantages, 20. spirit, 21. clumsy, 22. probabilistic, 23. minions, 24. instantly, 25. calculation, 26. insights

27. After recovering from her illness, she felt like a _____ person with a new perspective on life.

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

28. To find drunk drivers, police conduct _____ tests.

adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern

29. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will ____.

v. to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually

30. She _____ the cards before dealing them to the players.

v. to move or mix around in a casual or unorganized way; to walk with short, dragging steps

31. Management must take _____ responsibility for the accident.

adj. furthest or highest in degree or order

32. The _____ temperature recorded this summer was higher than average.

adj. the largest or greatest amount or value attainable or attained

33. Two students answered the teacher's question _____.

adv. at the same time

34. These birds can only _____ in temperate climates.

v. to live or exist despite a dangerous event or period

35. The piano, violin, and cello formed a beautiful _____ for the classical concert.

n. a group or set of three people or things, especially musicians playing together

ANSWERS: 27. reborn, 28. random, 29. rot, 30. shuffled, 31. ultimate, 32. maximum, 33. simultaneously, 34. survive, 35. trio

36. The man _____ before opening the door.

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

37. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.

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

38. He had a _____ admiration for his rival's work, even though they were competitors.

adj. characterized by stealth, secrecy, or furtiveness; done in a surreptitious or underhanded manner

39. He couldn't _____ the actual value of the artwork.

v. to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics

40. The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the _____ where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.

n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

41. This remote _____ is rarely visited.

n. a particular location or place; a small round or roundish area, differing in color or feels from the surface around it

ANSWERS: 36. paused, 37. doom, 38. sneaking, 39. calculate, 40. underworld, 41. spot