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## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

*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](https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_finkel_can_you_solve_the_riddle_and_escape_hades)

### Advanced Words Only

#### 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.

## 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.

## 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**.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## **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.

## Session 2: Spelling

1. cl\_\_\_y at sports *adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
2. ove\_\_\_\_\_ed with passengers *adj.* containing too many people or things in a particular space, making it cramped or uncomfortable
3. god of the und\_\_\_\_\_ld *n.* the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
4. a sn\_\_\_\_\_ng sense of satisfaction *adj.* characterized by stealth, secrecy, or furtiveness; done in a surreptitious or underhanded manner
5. 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
6. cl\_\_\_y attempt *adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
7. begin to r\_t *v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
8. re\_\_\_n identity *adj.* brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
9. fu\_\_\_\_s anger *adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
10. 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

ANSWERS: 1. clumsy, 2. overcrowded, 3. underworld, 4. sneaking, 5. probabilistic, 6. clumsy, 7. rot, 8. reborn, 9. furious, 10. probabilistic

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|------------------------------|--|
| 11. re___n soul              | <i>adj.</i> brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature  |
| 12. prophet of d__m          | <i>n.</i> death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided                        |
| 13. ove_____ed refugee camp  | <i>adj.</i> containing too many people or things in a particular space, making it cramped or uncomfortable   |
| 14. a fu____s sea            | <i>adj.</i> extremely angry; full of rage  |
| 15. a mi___n of the minister | <i>n.</i> a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization                                  |
| 16. economic d__m            | <i>n.</i> death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided                        |
| 17. criminal und_____ld      | <i>n.</i> the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies   |
| 18. sn_____ng suspicion      | <i>adj.</i> characterized by stealth, secrecy, or furtiveness; done in a surreptitious or underhanded manner |
| 19. work as a mi___n         | <i>n.</i> a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization                                  |
| 20. r_t with age             | <i>v.</i> to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually                                     |

ANSWERS: 11. reborn, 12. doom, 13. overcrowded, 14. furious, 15. minion, 16. doom, 17. underworld, 18. sneaking, 19. minion, 20. rot

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ waiter accidentally spilled a tray of drinks on a customer.  
*adj.* lacking in grace or skill; awkward; cumbersome
2. Please refrigerate the meat, or it will \_\_\_\_\_.  
*v.* to decay, or cause something to decay, naturally and gradually
3. 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
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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
7. The boss treated his employees like \_\_\_\_\_ demanding obedience and respect.  
*n.* a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization

ANSWERS: 1. clumsy, 2. rot, 3. overcrowded, 4. sneaking, 5. probabilistic, 6. reborn, 7. minions,

8. The coach was \_\_\_\_\_ with the players for their lack of effort during the game.  
*adj.* extremely angry; full of rage
9. 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
10. Everyone was aware of the impending \_\_\_\_\_ but was unable to prevent it.  
*n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

ANSWERS: 8. furious, 9. underworld, 10. doom