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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alice Pailhès: Secrets of the mind and free will -- revealed by magic tricks | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

quirk

n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

synonym: eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched socks.

kiwi

n. a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand

(1) **kiwi** fruit, (2) **kiwi** orchard

I could eat a whole **kiwi** in one bite if I wanted to.

cob

n. a type of bread made from cornmeal, traditionally associated with Native American cuisine; the central hub or axis of a wheel or turbine; a small, delicately built horse, typically used for riding or light work

synonym: lump, clod, nugget

(1) **cob** construction, (2) **cob** loaf

The chef boiled the corn **cob** in water before roasting it on the grill.

deception

n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

synonym : fraud, deceit, trickery

(1) **deception** tactics, (2) **deception** in advertising

The politician was accused of **deception** for making false promises during his campaign.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym : captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

magician

n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects

synonym : illusionist, conjurer, wizard

(1) **magician's** hat, (2) street **magician**

The children were delighted with the **magician's** clever tricks.

instinct

n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true

synonym : intuition, aptitude, feeling

(1) **instinct** for self-preservation, (2) aggressive **instinct**

When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial **instinct** was to flee.

tactic

n. a method or strategy used to achieve a particular goal or objective

synonym : strategy, approach, method

(1) an imprudent **tactic**, (2) alternative **tactic**

The coach implemented a new **tactic** to win the game.

disproportionately

adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

synonym : excessively, unequally

(1) **disproportionately** affected, (2) **disproportionately** high

The rich can often **disproportionately** benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.

impulsive

adj. acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have

synonym : abrupt, hasty, capricious

(1) an **impulsive** force, (2) do **impulsive** buying

He regrets the **impulsive** behavior he took in his drunken state.

mentalist

n. a performer, artist, or person with interest in mentalism or the art of using mental powers and illusions to create the impression of extraordinary psychic or paranormal abilities

synonym : mind reader, psychic, mental magician

(1) **mentalist** trick, (2) television **mentalist**

Due to his incredible talents, the **mentalist's** show was sold out weeks in advance.

oblivious

adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful

synonym : forgetful, clueless, unaware

(1) **oblivious** of his promise, (2) **oblivious** to our response

She was so engrossed in her work that she was **oblivious** to her surroundings.

consciously

adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner

synonym : intentionally, deliberately, knowingly

(1) **consciously** aware of a problem, (2) act **consciously**

He **consciously** criticizes her in the publicity.

mislead

v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true

synonym: misinform, delude, belie

(1) **mislead** him into trusting her, (2) **mislead** the enemy

Our troops pulled back to **mislead** the enemy.

showy

adj. attracting attention due to being bright, flashy, or ostentatious; tending to be more concerned with appearance or showmanship than with substance or quality

synonym: flashy, flamboyant, ostentatious

(1) **showy** clothes, (2) **showy** jewelry

She wore a **showy** dress to the awards ceremony to grab people's attention.

Session 2: Spelling

1. aggressive in ____ct
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
2. de _____on tactics
n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
3. an im _____ve force
adj. acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
4. sh __y clothes
adj. attracting attention due to being bright, flashy, or ostentatious; tending to be more concerned with appearance or showmanship than with substance or quality
5. fa _____te the public
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
6. alternative ta ____c
n. a method or strategy used to achieve a particular goal or objective
7. ob _____us of his promise
adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
8. television me _____st
n. a performer, artist, or person with interest in mentalism or the art of using mental powers and illusions to create the impression of extraordinary psychic or paranormal abilities

ANSWERS: 1. instinct, 2. deception, 3. impulsive, 4. showy, 5. fascinate, 6. tactic, 7. oblivious, 8. mentalist

9. ma____an's hat *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
10. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
11. in_____ct for self-preservation *n.* an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
12. an imprudent ta____c *n.* a method or strategy used to achieve a particular goal or objective
13. act con_____ly *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
14. sh__y jewelry *adj.* attracting attention due to being bright, flashy, or ostentatious; tending to be more concerned with appearance or showmanship than with substance or quality
15. dis_____ely high *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
16. c_b loaf *n.* a type of bread made from cornmeal, traditionally associated with Native American cuisine; the central hub or axis of a wheel or turbine; a small, delicately built horse, typically used for riding or light work

ANSWERS: 9. magician, 10. fascinate, 11. instinct, 12. tactic, 13. consciously, 14. showy, 15. disproportionately, 16. cob

17. street ma____an *n.* a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
18. k__i fruit *n.* a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand
19. mi____d him into trusting her *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
20. k__i orchard *n.* a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand
21. mi____d the enemy *v.* to cause someone to believe something that is not true
22. con____ly aware of a problem *adv.* with awareness; in a deliberate manner
23. do im____ve buying *adj.* acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
24. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
25. c_b construction *n.* a type of bread made from cornmeal, traditionally associated with Native American cuisine; the central hub or axis of a wheel or turbine; a small, delicately built horse, typically used for riding or light work

ANSWERS: 17. magician, 18. kiwi, 19. mislead, 20. kiwi, 21. mislead, 22. consciously, 23. impulsive, 24. quirk, 25. cob

26. me_____st trick *n.* a performer, artist, or person with interest in mentalism or the art of using mental powers and illusions to create the impression of extraordinary psychic or paranormal abilities
27. dis_____ely affected *adv.* in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else
28. ob_____us to our response *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
29. de_____on in advertising *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
30. a qu__k of fate *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

ANSWERS: 26. mentalist, 27. disproportionately, 28. oblivious, 29. deception, 30. quirk

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The chef boiled the corn ____ in water before roasting it on the grill.
n. a type of bread made from cornmeal, traditionally associated with Native American cuisine; the central hub or axis of a wheel or turbine; a small, delicately built horse, typically used for riding or light work
2. He regrets the _____ behavior he took in his drunken state.
adj. acting suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have
3. The children were delighted with the _____ clever tricks.
n. a person who performs magic tricks or illusions to entertain an audience; typically involves sleight of hand or deception to create seemingly impossible or supernatural effects
4. She wore a _____ dress to the awards ceremony to grab people's attention.
adj. attracting attention due to being bright, flashy, or ostentatious; tending to be more concerned with appearance or showmanship than with substance or quality
5. He _____ criticizes her in the publicity.
adv. with awareness; in a deliberate manner
6. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
7. I could eat a whole ____ in one bite if I wanted to.
n. a small, brown, flightless bird native to New Zealand; the fuzzy, edible fruit of a certain type of vine that is likewise native to New Zealand

ANSWERS: 1. cob, 2. impulsive, 3. magician's, 4. showy, 5. consciously, 6. fascinated, 7. kiwi

8. Our troops pulled back to _____ the enemy.
v. to cause someone to believe something that is not true
9. The coach implemented a new _____ to win the game.
n. a method or strategy used to achieve a particular goal or objective
10. When faced with a dangerous situation, his initial _____ was to flee.
n. an inborn behavioral pattern that is often responsive to specific stimuli; an innate feeling that causes you to act or believe that something is true
11. One of her _____ is that she always wears mismatched socks.
n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
12. Due to his incredible talents, the _____ show was sold out weeks in advance.
n. a performer, artist, or person with interest in mentalism or the art of using mental powers and illusions to create the impression of extraordinary psychic or paranormal abilities
13. The politician was accused of _____ for making false promises during his campaign.
n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action
14. The rich can often _____ benefit from tax breaks and other advantages.
adv. in a way that is not reasonably or appropriately balanced, equal, or distributed; in a manner that is unequal or excessive about something else

ANSWERS: 8. mislead, 9. tactic, 10. instinct, 11. quirks, 12. mentalist's, 13. deception, 14. disproportionately

15. She was so engrossed in her work that she was _____ to her surroundings.

adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful

ANSWERS: 15. oblivious