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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Daniel Finkel: Can you solve the sea monster riddle?

| TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

leviathan

n. a monstrous sea creature or marine animal, often used as a metaphorical term for something big, overbearing, or powerful

synonym : giant, monster, behemoth

(1) **leviathan** of the sea, (2) financial **leviathan**

The company's new CEO was a corporate **leviathan** known for his aggressive business tactics.

roil

v. to stir up or agitate a liquid or substance, causing it to become turbid or muddy; to disturb or unsettle the emotions or mental state of a person or group

synonym : agitate, stir up, turbulate

(1) **roil** the water, (2) **roil** the global economy

The breakup of the famous band **roiled** their fans, leading to disappointment and sadness.

kraken

n. a legendary sea monster of enormous size and strength, typically described as having multiple arms or tentacles

synonym : giant squid, sea monster

(1) **kraken** mythology, (2) giant **kraken**

The legendary **kraken** was said to have the ability to sink ships.

marmite

n. a sticky, dark brown food spread made from yeast extract, often used as a savory spread on toast or crackers in British cuisine

(1) **marmite** sandwich, (2) **marmite** jar

I spread **marmite** on my toast for breakfast this morning.

puny

adj. small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact

synonym: small, weak, feeble

(1) **puny** muscles, (2) **puny** excuse

The weightlifter could easily lift the **puny** dumbbell with one hand.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym: despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

outmatched

adj. surpassed or beaten by someone or something superior in strength, skill, or ability

synonym: outgunned, overpowered, overwhelmed

(1) **outmatched** skills, (2) **outmatched** team

The professional athlete's opponents were **outmatched** during the competition.

ransom

n. a large amount of money that is paid for being made to secure the release of a person being held captive

synonym: blackmail, release, exchange

(1) **ransom** money, (2) **ransom** demand

The kidnappers demanded a **ransom** for the release of the victim.

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.

unequal

adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair

synonym: unfair, uneven, imbalanced

(1) **unequal** distribution, (2) **unequal** opportunity

The income inequality in the country is becoming increasingly **unequal**.

leftover

adj. not consumed or used at the end of something

synonym: extra, residual, unused

(1) **leftover** from a party, (2) **leftover** goods

The chef will make soup with the **leftover** ham bone.

fable

n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

synonym: fantasy, story, legend

(1) classic **fable**, (2) moralize a **fable**

In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known **fable**.

ancestor

n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

recount

v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story

synonym: narrate, tell, report

(1) **recount** the adventure, (2) **recount** a conversation with him

They **recount** events that have already occurred.

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.

decode

v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

synonym: decipher, translate, interpret

(1) **decode** a message, (2) ability to **decode** the differences

The software could **decode** the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.

numeral

n. a symbol or written character that represents a number, typically used in counting or calculation; a digit or figure

synonym: digit, number, figure

(1) **numeral** system, (2) decimal **numeral**

She struggled to read the Roman **numeral** on the clock.

Arabic

n. the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language

(1) **Arabic** cuisine, (2) **Arabic** language

I'm studying **Arabic** calligraphy as part of my art class.

appease

v. to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety

synonym: pacify, calm, soothe

(1) **appease** hunger, (2) **appease** her fears

The manager tried to **appease** the angry customer by offering them a refund.

divisible

adj. able to be divided into parts, usually with nothing left over

synonym: separable, splittable, partitionable

(1) a **divisible** number, (2) exactly **divisible**

The class was divided into groups of four, with each group

being **divisible** by two.

intuition

n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

synonym: instinct, gut feeling, sixth sense

(1) creative **intuition**, (2) **intuition** research

Some studies suggest that people's **intuitions** can be influenced by their experiences and biases.

Session 2: Spelling

1. financial le_____an
n. a monstrous sea creature or marine animal, often used as a metaphorical term for something big, overbearing, or powerful
2. creative in_____on
n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
3. moralize a fa__e
n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
4. p__y muscles
adj. small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact
5. work as a mi___n
n. a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
6. a mi___n of the minister
n. a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
7. un_____l distribution
adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
8. p__y excuse
adj. small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact
9. r__l the water
v. to stir up or agitate a liquid or substance, causing it to become turbid or muddy; to disturb or unsettle the emotions or mental state of a person or group

ANSWERS: 1. leviathan, 2. intuition, 3. fable, 4. puny, 5. minion, 6. minion, 7. unequal, 8. puny, 9. roil

10. un_____l opportunity *adj.* different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
11. ap_____e hunger *v.* to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety
12. ap_____e her fears *v.* to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety
13. earliest human an_____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
14. a di_____le number *adj.* able to be divided into parts, usually with nothing left over
15. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
16. exactly di_____le *adj.* able to be divided into parts, usually with nothing left over
17. an_____or language *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
18. out_____ed skills *adj.* surpassed or beaten by someone or something superior in strength, skill, or ability
19. out_____ed team *adj.* surpassed or beaten by someone or something superior in strength, skill, or ability
20. ma_____e jar *n.* a sticky, dark brown food spread made from yeast extract, often used as a savory spread on toast or crackers in British cuisine
21. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

ANSWERS: 10. unequal, 11. appease, 12. appease, 13. ancestor, 14. divisible, 15. doom, 16. divisible, 17. ancestor, 18. outmatched, 19. outmatched, 20. marmite, 21. doom

22. decimal nu____l *n.* a symbol or written character that represents a number, typically used in counting or calculation; a digit or figure
23. ho____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
24. in____on research *n.* the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why
25. ma____e sandwich *n.* a sticky, dark brown food spread made from yeast extract, often used as a savory spread on toast or crackers in British cuisine
26. re____t the adventure *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story
27. ra____m money *n.* a large amount of money that is paid for being made to secure the release of a person being held captive
28. ra____m demand *n.* a large amount of money that is paid for being made to secure the release of a person being held captive
29. Ar____c cuisine *n.* the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language
30. re____t a conversation with him *v.* to describe what happened or to narrate a story

ANSWERS: 22. numeral, 23. hopeless, 24. intuition, 25. marmite, 26. recount, 27. ransom, 28. ransom, 29. Arabic, 30. recount

31. giant kr___n *n.* a legendary sea monster of enormous size and strength, typically described as having multiple arms or tentacles
32. le_____er from a party *adj.* not consumed or used at the end of something
33. ability to de___e the differences *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
34. de___e a message *v.* to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand
35. r__l the global economy *v.* to stir up or agitate a liquid or substance, causing it to become turbid or muddy; to disturb or unsettle the emotions or mental state of a person or group
36. nu_____l system *n.* a symbol or written character that represents a number, typically used in counting or calculation; a digit or figure
37. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
38. Ar___c language *n.* the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language
39. le_____er goods *adj.* not consumed or used at the end of something

ANSWERS: 31. kraken, 32. leftover, 33. decode, 34. decode, 35. roil, 36. numeral, 37. hopeless, 38. Arabic, 39. leftover

40. classic fa__e *n.* a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson
41. le_____an of the sea *n.* a monstrous sea creature or marine animal, often used as a metaphorical term for something big, overbearing, or powerful
42. kr___n mythology *n.* a legendary sea monster of enormous size and strength, typically described as having multiple arms or tentacles

ANSWERS: 40. fable, 41. leviathan, 42. kraken

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The legendary _____ was said to have the ability to sink ships.
n. a legendary sea monster of enormous size and strength, typically described as having multiple arms or tentacles

2. The weightlifter could easily lift the _____ dumbbell with one hand.
adj. small, weak, or frail in size, strength, or appearance; insignificant or unimportant in value or impact

3. The kidnappers demanded a _____ for the release of the victim.
n. a large amount of money that is paid for being made to secure the release of a person being held captive

4. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

5. Some studies suggest that people's _____ can be influenced by their experiences and biases.
n. the ability to understand or know something without reasoning or evidence; a feeling that guides a person to do or believe something without fully understanding why

6. In his speech, he quoted a passage from a well-known _____.
n. a short story, often with animal characters, that teaches a general truth or a moral lesson

7. She struggled to read the Roman _____ on the clock.
n. a symbol or written character that represents a number, typically used in counting or calculation; a digit or figure

ANSWERS: 1. kraken, 2. puny, 3. ransom, 4. ancestor, 5. intuitions, 6. fable, 7. numeral

8. The professional athlete's opponents were _____ during the competition.
adj. surpassed or beaten by someone or something superior in strength, skill, or ability
9. The manager tried to _____ the angry customer by offering them a refund.
v. to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety
10. The chef will make soup with the _____ ham bone.
adj. not consumed or used at the end of something
11. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
12. The boss treated his employees like _____ demanding obedience and respect.
n. a servant or loyal supporter of a powerful person or organization
13. The breakup of the famous band _____ their fans, leading to disappointment and sadness.
v. to stir up or agitate a liquid or substance, causing it to become turbid or muddy; to disturb or unsettle the emotions or mental state of a person or group
14. The income inequality in the country is becoming increasingly _____.
adj. different in amount, size, degree, or value; not fair
15. The company's new CEO was a corporate _____ known for his aggressive business tactics.
n. a monstrous sea creature or marine animal, often used as a metaphorical term for something big, overbearing, or powerful

ANSWERS: 8. outmatched, 9. appease, 10. leftover, 11. hopeless, 12. minions, 13. roiled, 14. unequal, 15. leviathan

16. They _____ events that have already occurred.
v. to describe what happened or to narrate a story
17. I'm studying _____ calligraphy as part of my art class.
n. the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language
18. I spread _____ on my toast for breakfast this morning.
n. a sticky, dark brown food spread made from yeast extract, often used as a savory spread on toast or crackers in British cuisine
19. The class was divided into groups of four, with each group being _____ by two.
adj. able to be divided into parts, usually with nothing left over
20. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
21. The software could _____ the encrypted data and reveal the hidden information.
v. to convert something, such as a message or piece of information, from a specific form into one that you can understand

ANSWERS: 16. recount, 17. Arabic, 18. marmite, 19. divisible, 20. doom, 21. decode