

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dan Finkel: Can you solve the world's most evil wizard riddle? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

- evil** *adj.* profoundly immoral, cruel, and wicked; having or exerting a harmful effect on people
synonym: malign, corruption, immorality
(1) **evil** ways, (2) a charm against **evil**
Corruption is an **evil** act for any reason.
- wizard** *n.* a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field
synonym: sorcerer, magician, alchemist
(1) a **wizard** at chess, (2) financial **wizard**
He was a **wizard** at solving complex mathematical equations.
- 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.
- charm** *n.* the power or quality of pleasing or fascinating people
synonym: allure, appeal, beauty
(1) masculine **charm**, (2) **charm** against bad luck
These are significantly more exquisite than typical **charm** bracelets.

ward

n. a room in a hospital for patients requiring special care
synonym: room, division, unit

(1) a children's **ward**, (2) **ward** nurse

The patient was moved to the intensive care **ward** for further treatment.

despair

n. the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation

synonym: dismay, anguish, misery

(1) **despair** at the future, (2) untold **despair**

His friend's death drove him to **despair**.

curse

n. a rude or offensive word or an expression that is not polite and shows that you are very angry

synonym: condemnation, cuss, hex

(1) under a **curse**, (2) few **curse** words

Many autocratic policies became a **curse** for that country's economy.

distinct

adj. noticeable from something else of a similar type

synonym: different, special, characteristic

(1) **distinct** difference, (2) **distinct** from each other

It is essential to keep these two issues **distinct**.

distance

n. the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance

synonym: space, gap, span

(1) driving **distance**, (2) social **distance**

The marathon runner covered a long **distance** in a short amount of time.

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.

process

n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

synonym : procedure, method, system

(1) **process** improvement, (2) decision-making **process**

The **process** for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.

trap

n. a piece of equipment or hole for catching animals or people; (verb) to catch animals or people and prevent them from escaping

synonym : catch, snare, pinfall

(1) set a **trap**, (2) **trap** an animal

The enemy fell right into the **trap**.

strategy

n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

synonym : approach, procedure, scenario

(1) military **strategy**, (2) develop a **strategy**

Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing **strategy**.

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.

relative

adj. considered and evaluated through comparison with something else

synonym : comparative, proximate, congeneric

(1) a remote **relative**, (2) **relative** factors

Most countries prohibit sexual activity between certain close **relatives**.

grid

n. a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region

synonym: gridiron, battery grid, power system

(1) a **grid** design, (2) a wire **grid**

Grid pattern roads often appear in urban areas.

row

n. an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line

synonym: line, sequence, layer

(1) criminal on death **row**, (2) a **row** of cherry trees

He was the leader of the demonstrators and spoke out against the war in the front **row**.

diagonal

adj. at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle

synonym: oblique, sloping, slanting

(1) **diagonal** pattern, (2) place at a **diagonal**

The **diagonal** cut of the skirt added movement and flair to the outfit.

theorem

n. a statement or proposition that can be demonstrated or proved to be true, typically by logical or mathematical reasoning

synonym: proof, proposition, formula

(1) corollary **theorem**, (2) Pythagorean **theorem**

Gödel's incompleteness **theorems** prove the limitations of formal systems, including mathematical ones.

triangle

n. a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts

synonym: trilateral, delta, triad

(1) **triangle** shape, (2) love **triangle**

The Pythagorean theorem is used to calculate the length of the sides of a right **triangle**.

hypotenuse

n. in a right-angled triangle, the longest side, opposite the right angle, which is calculated using the Pythagorean theorem and the lengths of the other two sides

synonym: oblique, diagonal, slant

(1) right-angled **hypotenuse**, (2) calculate the **hypotenuse**
To find the **hypotenuse** length, you can use the Pythagorean theorem.

triple

adj. consisting of three items or people; three times as great or many

synonym: threefold

(1) a **triple** mirror, (2) **triple** digits
His coach is a **triple** Olympic champion.

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.

symmetrical

adj. having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts

synonym: harmonious, balanced, proportional

(1) **symmetrical** triangle, (2) **symmetrical** pattern
This figure is **symmetrical** about the x-axis.

functional

adj. designed for or capable of a particular activity, purpose, or task; practical or ready for use or service

synonym: applicable, practical, usable

(1) field of **functional** medicine, (2) **functional** deafness
The mobile phone was still **functional** even after being dropped.

similarly

adv. in almost the same way

synonym: also, likewise, ditto

(1) **similarly** situated, (2) have **similarly** great abilities
We argue that wages for temporary workers should **similarly** rise.

fin

n. a thin flat part on the body of a fish or other aquatic animal used for propulsion or balance

synonym: flipper, appendage, stabilizer

(1) back **fin**, (2) a **fin** of a plane

The shark's powerful **fins** allowed it to swim at high speeds.

midpoint

n. the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points

synonym: center point, halfway point

(1) **midpoint** formula, (2) **midpoint** theorem

The **midpoint** between New York City and Los Angeles is located in Kansas.

develop

v. to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

synonym: evolve, progress, advance

(1) **develop** a strategy, (2) **develop** a skill

We must **develop** a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.

column

n. one of the vertical blocks that split content on a page or screen from top to bottom; an upright pillar that often supports an arch, entablature, or other structure or stands alone as a monument

synonym: line, pillar, cue

(1) the spinal **column**, (2) a **column** of water

The newspaper devoted several **columns** to the affair.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. w__d nurse | <i>n.</i> a room in a hospital for patients requiring special care |
| 2. mi____nt formula | <i>n.</i> the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points |
| 3. financial wi____d | <i>n.</i> a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field |
| 4. social di____ce | <i>n.</i> the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance |
| 5. few cu__e words | <i>n.</i> a rude or offensive word or an expression that is not polite and shows that you are very angry |
| 6. military st____gy | <i>n.</i> a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal. |
| 7. place at a di____al | <i>adj.</i> at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle |
| 8. Pythagorean th____m | <i>n.</i> a statement or proposition that can be demonstrated or proved to be true, typically by logical or mathematical reasoning |
| 9. re____ve factors | <i>adj.</i> considered and evaluated through comparison with something else |

ANSWERS: 1. ward, 2. midpoint, 3. wizard, 4. distance, 5. curse, 6. strategy, 7. diagonal, 8. theorem, 9. relative

10. a children's w__d	<i>n.</i> a room in a hospital for patients requiring special care
11. develop a st____gy	<i>n.</i> a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
12. su____e a plane crash	<i>v.</i> to live or exist despite a dangerous event or period
13. ch__m against bad luck	<i>n.</i> the power or quality of pleasing or fascinating people
14. right-angled hyp_____se	<i>n.</i> in a right-angled triangle, the longest side, opposite the right angle, which is calculated using the Pythagorean theorem and the lengths of the other two sides
15. a wi____d at chess	<i>n.</i> a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field
16. untold de____r	<i>n.</i> the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation
17. field of fun_____al medicine	<i>adj.</i> designed for or capable of a particular activity, purpose, or task; practical or ready for use or service
18. criminal on death r_w	<i>n.</i> an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line
19. have si_____ly great abilities	<i>adv.</i> in almost the same way
20. sym_____al triangle	<i>adj.</i> having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts
21. set a t__p	<i>n.</i> a piece of equipment or hole for catching animals or people; (verb) to catch animals or people and prevent them from escaping

ANSWERS: 10. ward, 11. strategy, 12. survive, 13. charm, 14. hypotenuse, 15. wizard, 16. despair, 17. functional, 18. row, 19. similarly, 20. symmetrical, 21. trap

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 22. di____ct from each other | <i>adj.</i> noticeable from something else of a similar type |
| 23. t__p an animal | <i>n.</i> a piece of equipment or hole for catching animals or people; (verb) to catch animals or people and prevent them from escaping |
| 24. a wire g__d | <i>n.</i> a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region |
| 25. a co____n of water | <i>n.</i> one of the vertical blocks that split content on a page or screen from top to bottom; an upright pillar that often supports an arch, entablature, or other structure or stands alone as a monument |
| 26. si_____ly situated | <i>adv.</i> in almost the same way |
| 27. de____r at the future | <i>n.</i> the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation |
| 28. the spinal co____n | <i>n.</i> one of the vertical blocks that split content on a page or screen from top to bottom; an upright pillar that often supports an arch, entablature, or other structure or stands alone as a monument |
| 29. a profound in____t | <i>n.</i> the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like |

ANSWERS: 22. distinct, 23. trap, 24. grid, 25. column, 26. similarly, 27. despair, 28. column, 29. insight

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 30. calculate the hyp_____se | <i>n.</i> in a right-angled triangle, the longest side, opposite the right angle, which is calculated using the Pythagorean theorem and the lengths of the other two sides |
| 31. de_____p a strategy | <i>v.</i> to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created |
| 32. a r_w of cherry trees | <i>n.</i> an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line |
| 33. mi_____nt theorem | <i>n.</i> the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points |
| 34. a s__t on his honor | <i>n.</i> a particular location or place; a small round or roundish area, differing in color or feels from the surface around it |
| 35. e__l ways | <i>adj.</i> profoundly immoral, cruel, and wicked; having or exerting a harmful effect on people |
| 36. a f_n of a plane | <i>n.</i> a thin flat part on the body of a fish or other aquatic animal used for propulsion or balance |
| 37. beauty s__t | <i>n.</i> a particular location or place; a small round or roundish area, differing in color or feels from the surface around it |
| 38. decision-making pr_____s | <i>n.</i> a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products |

ANSWERS: 30. hypotenuse, 31. develop, 32. row, 33. midpoint, 34. spot, 35. evil, 36.

fin, 37. spot, 38. process

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 39. a remote re____ve | <i>adj.</i> considered and evaluated through comparison with something else |
| 40. a g__d design | <i>n.</i> a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region |
| 41. di____al pattern | <i>adj.</i> at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle |
| 42. driving di____ce | <i>n.</i> the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance |
| 43. masculine ch__m | <i>n.</i> the power or quality of pleasing or fascinating people |
| 44. tr___e digits | <i>adj.</i> consisting of three items or people; three times as great or many |
| 45. fun_____al deafness | <i>adj.</i> designed for or capable of a particular activity, purpose, or task; practical or ready for use or service |
| 46. back f_n | <i>n.</i> a thin flat part on the body of a fish or other aquatic animal used for propulsion or balance |
| 47. a tr___e mirror | <i>adj.</i> consisting of three items or people; three times as great or many |
| 48. under a cu__e | <i>n.</i> a rude or offensive word or an expression that is not polite and shows that you are very angry |

ANSWERS: 39. relative, 40. grid, 41. diagonal, 42. distance, 43. charm, 44. triple, 45. functional, 46. fin, 47. triple, 48. curse

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 49. pr____s improvement | <i>n.</i> a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products |
| 50. love tr____le | <i>n.</i> a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts |
| 51. pa__e for a reaction | <i>v.</i> to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing |
| 52. de____p a skill | <i>v.</i> to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created |
| 53. su____e a blizzard | <i>v.</i> to live or exist despite a dangerous event or period |
| 54. share my in____ts | <i>n.</i> the ability to gain an accurate and deep understanding of people or situations; an accurate and deep understanding of what something is like |
| 55. sym____al pattern | <i>adj.</i> having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts |
| 56. di____ct difference | <i>adj.</i> noticeable from something else of a similar type |
| 57. a charm against e__l | <i>adj.</i> profoundly immoral, cruel, and wicked; having or exerting a harmful effect on people |

ANSWERS: 49. process, 50. triangle, 51. pause, 52. develop, 53. survive, 54. insight, 55. symmetrical, 56. distinct, 57. evil

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 58. pa__e a moment | <i>v.</i> to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing |
| 59. corollary th____m | <i>n.</i> a statement or proposition that can be demonstrated or proved to be true, typically by logical or mathematical reasoning |
| 60. tr____le shape | <i>n.</i> a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts |

ANSWERS: 58. pause, 59. theorem, 60. triangle

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. His friend's death drove him to _____.
n. the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation
2. The mobile phone was still _____ even after being dropped.
adj. designed for or capable of a particular activity, purpose, or task; practical or ready for use or service
3. _____ pattern roads often appear in urban areas.
n. a pattern of regularly spaced horizontal and vertical lines; a system of high tension cables by which electrical power is distributed throughout a region
4. The _____ cut of the skirt added movement and flair to the outfit.
adj. at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle
5. The newspaper devoted several _____ to the affair.
n. one of the vertical blocks that split content on a page or screen from top to bottom; an upright pillar that often supports an arch, entablature, or other structure or stands alone as a monument
6. Corruption is an _____ act for any reason.
adj. profoundly immoral, cruel, and wicked; having or exerting a harmful effect on people
7. The _____ for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.
n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

ANSWERS: 1. despair, 2. functional, 3. Grid, 4. diagonal, 5. columns, 6. evil, 7. process

8. Gödel's incompleteness _____ prove the limitations of formal systems, including mathematical ones.
- n.* a statement or proposition that can be demonstrated or proved to be true, typically by logical or mathematical reasoning
9. Most countries prohibit sexual activity between certain close _____.
adj. considered and evaluated through comparison with something else
10. The shark's powerful _____ allowed it to swim at high speeds.
- n.* a thin flat part on the body of a fish or other aquatic animal used for propulsion or balance
11. Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing _____.
n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
12. 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
13. The marathon runner covered a long _____ in a short amount of time.
- n.* the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance
14. 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
15. He was the leader of the demonstrators and spoke out against the war in the front _____.
n. an arrangement of objects or people side by side in a line

ANSWERS: 8. theorems, 9. relatives, 10. fins, 11. strategy, 12. spot, 13. distance, 14. insights, 15. row

16. The enemy fell right into the _____.

- n.* a piece of equipment or hole for catching animals or people; (verb) to catch animals or people and prevent them from escaping

17. The _____ between New York City and Los Angeles is located in Kansas.

- n.* the exact middle point or position between two things or places; a point that is equidistant from two other points

18. The man _____ before opening the door.

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

19. He was a _____ at solving complex mathematical equations.

- n.* a person who is skilled in magic or a particular technical field

20. To find the _____ length, you can use the Pythagorean theorem.

- n.* in a right-angled triangle, the longest side, opposite the right angle, which is calculated using the Pythagorean theorem and the lengths of the other two sides

21. The patient was moved to the intensive care _____ for further treatment.

- n.* a room in a hospital for patients requiring special care

22. It is essential to keep these two issues _____.

- adj.* noticeable from something else of a similar type

23. His coach is a _____ Olympic champion.

- adj.* consisting of three items or people; three times as great or many

24. We must _____ a new system to streamline our workflow and increase efficiency.

- v.* to grow or expand; to improve or refine through a process of progress and refinement, often to achieve greater sophistication or complexity; to elaborate or add detail to something that is in the process of being created

ANSWERS: 16. trap, 17. midpoint, 18. paused, 19. wizard, 20. hypotenuse, 21. ward, 22. distinct, 23. triple, 24. develop

25. The Pythagorean theorem is used to calculate the length of the sides of a right _____.

- n.* a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts

26. These are significantly more exquisite than typical _____ bracelets.

- n.* the power or quality of pleasing or fascinating people

27. These birds can only _____ in temperate climates.

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

28. This figure is _____ about the x-axis.

- adj.* having similarity in size, shape, and relative position of corresponding parts

29. We argue that wages for temporary workers should _____ rise.

- adv.* in almost the same way

30. Many autocratic policies became a _____ for that country's economy.

- n.* a rude or offensive word or an expression that is not polite and shows that you are very angry

ANSWERS: 25. triangle, 26. charm, 27. survive, 28. symmetrical, 29. similarly, 30. curse