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Daniel Finkel: Can you solve the multiverse rescue mission riddle? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

norm

n. something that is regarded as usual, typical, or standard
synonym: criterion, mean, standard

(1) **norm** of action, (2) cultural **norm**

The systems we have developed has accepted as industry **norms**.

superconductor

n. a material that conducts electricity with zero resistance when cooled to very low temperatures or when subjected to high pressure or strong magnetic fields; a substance with the unique ability to transmit electric current with no energy loss

synonym: zero-resistance material

(1) **superconductor** material, (2) high-temperature **superconductor**

The development of high-temperature **superconductors** revolutionized the field of electrical engineering.

bug

n. any tiny insect; a fault or defect in a computer program, system, or machine

synonym: insect, bacterium, microbe

(1) **bug** bites, (2) number of **bug** fixes

I found a stink **bug** crawling across the ceiling.

- 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**.
- separate** *v.* to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different
synonym : disunite, isolate, ramify
(1) **separate** video into chapter, (2) **separate** cream from milk
We need to **separate** the aspect of his personality from the part of his competence when making an investment decision.
- dimension** *n.* a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length
synonym : extent, measurement, size
(1) new **dimension**, (2) the crosswise **dimension**
Overall **dimensions** are approximately 400x200mm.
- experimental** *adj.* relating to or based on new ideas, forms, methods, etc. that have not been tried before, usually to find out what effect they have
synonym : empirical, exploratory, observed
(1) **experimental** data, (2) **experimental** design
The product is still in the **experimental** stage.
- teleport** *v.* to transport or transmit instantly from one location to another, typically using advanced technology or imagined supernatural powers
synonym : beam, transport, transmit
(1) **teleport** objects through space, (2) **teleport** to any location in the world
The magician seemed to **teleport** instantly from one side of the stage to the other.

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.

interdimensional

adj. relating to or existing in more than one dimension or reality; describing phenomena that can be perceived from multiple perspectives or planes of existence

synonym : between dimensions, otherworldly

(1) **interdimensional** travel, (2) **interdimensional** wormhole

The **interdimensional** portal allowed the characters to travel between different worlds.

engineer

n. a person whose job is designing, building, or maintaining something such as machines, structures, or software

synonym : architect, creator, builder

(1) a civil **engineer**, (2) **engineer** shortage

The **engineer** will repair my telephone tomorrow morning.

alternate

adj. occurring or existing one after the other regularly

synonym : substitute, back up, equivalent

(1) **alternate** choice, (2) every **alternate** year

The cleaning lady comes on **alternate** Wednesdays.

universe

n. everything that exists, especially all physical matter, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy

synonym : cosmos, macrocosm

(1) theory of the **universe**, (2) expansion of the **universe**

The **universe** is about 13.8 billion years old.

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.

lever

n. a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily

synonym: lifter, crowbar, bar

(1) a gear change **lever**, (2) **lever** for reform

This initiative will be a **lever** for increasing company sales.

vice

n. wrongdoing or wicked behavior; (in the form of vice versa) with the order reversed; (as a prefix) someone with a job immediately below a particular person

synonym: corruption, depravity, evil

(1) virtue and **vice**, (2) **vice-chair** of the committee

Cats hate dogs and **vice versa**.

verse

n. a type of poetry that is characterized by a metrical structure and often a rhyme scheme

synonym: poetry, rhyme, stanza

(1) cited **verse**, (2) **verse** play

The poet recited a **verse** from her latest collection.

interfere

v. to get involved in and prevent a process or activity from continuing

synonym: interpose, interrupt, hamper

(1) **interfere** in another country's affairs, (2) **interfere** with DNA synthesis

Your talking **interferes** with my work.

attempt

n. an act or effort of trying to do something, especially something difficult

synonym: endeavor, effort, try

(1) the **attempt** to rescue the hostages, (2) a reckless **attempt**

The third **attempt** was far more successful.

communicate

v. to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals

synonym : convey, share, transmit

(1) **communicate** his anxieties to the psychiatrist,

(2) **communicate** well with my advisor

Dolphins use sound to **communicate** with each other.

attach

v. to fasten, join, or connect one thing to another

synonym : fix, fasten, bind

(1) **attach** firmly, (2) **attach** a file to an e-mail

He does not **attach** importance to these rumors.

scratch

v. to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object

synonym : claw, rub, scrape

(1) **scratch** off a name, (2) **scratch** my signature

Don't **scratch** your mosquito bites.

alloy

n. a metal made by combining two or more metallic elements, especially to give greater strength or resistance to corrosion

synonym : mixture, blend, amalgamation

(1) **alloy** wheels, (2) brass **alloy**

The aircraft was made using a lightweight **alloy** of aluminum and titanium.

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.

combination

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

synonym : blend, hybrid, compounding

(1) genic **combinations**, (2) **combination** number

The **combination** to the safe was a secret.

indicate

v. to show, point out, or make known something, often through a sign or a symbol; to suggest or imply something without stating it directly

synonym : hint, suggest, show

(1) **indicate** a preference, (2) **indicate** an error

The data **indicates** that the company's profits have steadily increased over the past quarter.

flip

v. to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion

synonym : throw, jump

(1) **flip** over the pork chop, (2) **flip** a coin

He **flipped** when he heard that he had been accepted into the university.

onward

adj. moving or continuing forward; progressing

synonym : forward, continuing, progressing

(1) **onward** journey, (2) **onward** progress

When traveling to some countries, you may be required to show proof of an **onward** ticket as a condition of entry.

critic

n. someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.

synonym : pundit, analyst, attacker

(1) art **critic**, (2) severe **critic**

Advocates for legal reform hear less harsh words from their **critics**.

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.

responsible

adj. answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management

synonym: accountable, answerable, liable

(1) **responsible** action, (2) **responsible** for a customer service

She's a **responsible** pet owner who ensures her dog gets enough exercise and a healthy diet.

volunteer

n. a person who performs or offers to perform a job or service without being paid for or forced to do

synonym: unpaid worker, draftee, enlistee

(1) seek **volunteers**, (2) my **volunteer** work

The teachers make full use of **volunteer** assistance.

individual

n. a single person or thing, as distinct from a group

synonym: person, being, self

(1) a private **individual**, (2) **individual** freedom

As an **individual**, he had the right to make his own decisions and live his life as he saw fit.

reset

v. to set again or differently; to return to a previous state or condition

synonym: restart, reinitialize, set anew

(1) **reset** password, (2) **reset** my brain

She **reset** the computer to fix the problem.

phase

n. any stage in a series of events, change, or development

synonym: degree, stage, step

(1) enter on the last **phase**, (2) two- **phase** structure

The era of the industrial revolution was a crucial **phase** of history.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1. sc_____h off a name | v. | to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object |
| 2. in_____re with DNA synthesis | v. | to get involved in and prevent a process or activity from continuing |
| 3. pa__e for a reaction | v. | to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing |
| 4. brass al__y | n. | a metal made by combining two or more metallic elements, especially to give greater strength or resistance to corrosion |
| 5. new di_____on | n. | a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length |
| 6. theory of the un_____se | n. | everything that exists, especially all physical matter, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy |
| 7. te_____rt to any location in the world | v. | to transport or transmit instantly from one location to another, typically using advanced technology or imagined supernatural powers |
| 8. a qu__k of fate | n. | a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group |
| 9. re__t my brain | v. | to set again or differently; to return to a previous state or condition |

ANSWERS: 1. scratch, 2. interfere, 3. pause, 4. alloy, 5. dimension, 6. universe, 7. teleport, 8. quirk, 9. reset

10. sc____h my signature *v.* to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object
11. en____er shortage *n.* a person whose job is designing, building, or maintaining something such as machines, structures, or software
12. f__p over the pork chop *v.* to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion
13. in____te an error *v.* to show, point out, or make known something, often through a sign or a symbol; to suggest or imply something without stating it directly
14. b_g bites *n.* any tiny insect; a fault or defect in a computer program, system, or machine
15. genic com_____ons *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
16. sup_____tor material *n.* a material that conducts electricity with zero resistance when cooled to very low temperatures or when subjected to high pressure or strong magnetic fields; a substance with the unique ability to transmit electric current with no energy loss
17. al_____te choice *adj.* occurring or existing one after the other regularly
18. enter on the last ph__e *n.* any stage in a series of events, change, or development

ANSWERS: 10. scratch, 11. engineer, 12. flip, 13. indicate, 14. bug, 15. combination, 16. superconductor, 17. alternate, 18. phase

19. a private ind_____al *n.* a single person or thing, as distinct from a group
20. n__m of action *n.* something that is regarded as usual, typical, or standard
21. se_____te cream from milk *v.* to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different
22. expansion of the un_____se *n.* everything that exists, especially all physical matter, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy
23. every al_____te year *adj.* occurring or existing one after the other regularly
24. int_____nal travel *adj.* relating to or existing in more than one dimension or reality; describing phenomena that can be perceived from multiple perspectives or planes of existence
25. severe cr___c *n.* someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.
26. 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
27. bombs fell at ra___m *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
28. high-temperature sup_____tor *n.* a material that conducts electricity with zero resistance when cooled to very low temperatures or when subjected to high pressure or strong magnetic fields; a substance with the unique ability to transmit electric current with no energy loss

ANSWERS: 19. individual, 20. norm, 21. separate, 22. universe, 23. alternate, 24. interdimensional, 25. critic, 26. insight, 27. random, 28. superconductor

29. com_____on number *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
30. seek vo_____ers *n.* a person who performs or offers to perform a job or service without being paid for or forced to do
31. exp_____tal design *adj.* relating to or based on new ideas, forms, methods, etc. that have not been tried before, usually to find out what effect they have
32. a civil en_____er *n.* a person whose job is designing, building, or maintaining something such as machines, structures, or software
33. le__r for reform *n.* a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily
34. on____d progress *adj.* moving or continuing forward; progressing
35. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
36. com_____te well with my advisor *v.* to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals
37. com_____te his anxieties to the psychiatrist *v.* to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals
38. at____h a file to an e-mail *v.* to fasten, join, or connect one thing to another

ANSWERS: 29. combination, 30. volunteer, 31. experimental, 32. engineer, 33. lever, 34. onward, 35. quirk, 36. communicate, 37. communicate, 38. attach

39. art cr ___c *n.* someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.
40. re __t password *v.* to set again or differently; to return to a previous state or condition
41. v __e-chair of the committee *n.* wrongdoing or wicked behavior; (in the form of vice versa) with the order reversed; (as a prefix) someone with a job immediately below a particular person
42. se ____te video into chapter *v.* to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different
43. in ____te a preference *v.* to show, point out, or make known something, often through a sign or a symbol; to suggest or imply something without stating it directly
44. the at ____t to rescue the hostages *n.* an act or effort of trying to do something, especially something difficult
45. a gear change le __r *n.* a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily
46. in ____re in another country's affairs *v.* to get involved in and prevent a process or activity from continuing
47. pa __e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
48. int _____nal wormhole *adj.* relating to or existing in more than one dimension or reality; describing phenomena that can be perceived from multiple perspectives or planes of existence

ANSWERS: 39. critic, 40. reset, 41. vice, 42. separate, 43. indicate, 44. attempt, 45. lever, 46. interfere, 47. pause, 48. interdimensional

49. my vo_____er work *n.* a person who performs or offers to perform a job or service without being paid for or forced to do
50. number of b_g fixes *n.* any tiny insect; a fault or defect in a computer program, system, or machine
51. res_____le action *adj.* answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management
52. res_____le for a customer service *adj.* answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management
53. ve__e play *n.* a type of poetry that is characterized by a metrical structure and often a rhyme scheme
54. cultural n__m *n.* something that is regarded as usual, typical, or standard
55. t__p an animal *n.* a piece of equipment or hole for catching animals or people; (verb) to catch animals or people and prevent them from escaping
56. ind_____al freedom *n.* a single person or thing, as distinct from a group
57. cited ve__e *n.* a type of poetry that is characterized by a metrical structure and often a rhyme scheme
58. f__p a coin *v.* to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion
59. set a t__p *n.* a piece of equipment or hole for catching animals or people; (verb) to catch animals or people and prevent them from escaping

ANSWERS: 49. volunteer, 50. bug, 51. responsible, 52. responsible, 53. verse, 54. norm, 55. trap, 56. individual, 57. verse, 58. flip, 59. trap

60. 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
61. two-ph__e structure *n.* any stage in a series of events, change, or development
62. virtue and v__e *n.* wrongdoing or wicked behavior; (in the form of vice versa) with the order reversed; (as a prefix) someone with a job immediately below a particular person
63. te_____rt objects through space *v.* to transport or transmit instantly from one location to another, typically using advanced technology or imagined supernatural powers
64. a ra____m choice *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
65. al__y wheels *n.* a metal made by combining two or more metallic elements, especially to give greater strength or resistance to corrosion
66. at____h firmly *v.* to fasten, join, or connect one thing to another
67. exp_____tal data *adj.* relating to or based on new ideas, forms, methods, etc. that have not been tried before, usually to find out what effect they have
68. the crosswise di_____on *n.* a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length

ANSWERS: 60. insight, 61. phase, 62. vice, 63. teleport, 64. random, 65. alloy, 66. attach, 67. experimental, 68. dimension

69. on___d journey

adj. moving or continuing forward;
progressing

70. a reckless at____t

n. an act or effort of trying to do
something, especially something
difficult

ANSWERS: 69. onward, 70. attempt

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The aircraft was made using a lightweight _____ of aluminum and titanium.
n. a metal made by combining two or more metallic elements, especially to give greater strength or resistance to corrosion
2. The era of the industrial revolution was a crucial _____ of history.
n. any stage in a series of events, change, or development
3. When traveling to some countries, you may be required to show proof of an _____ ticket as a condition of entry.
adj. moving or continuing forward; progressing
4. Your talking _____ with my work.
v. to get involved in and prevent a process or activity from continuing
5. The product is still in the _____ stage.
adj. relating to or based on new ideas, forms, methods, etc. that have not been tried before, usually to find out what effect they have
6. 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
7. To find drunk drivers, police conduct _____ tests.
adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
8. The _____ is about 13.8 billion years old.
n. everything that exists, especially all physical matter, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy

ANSWERS: 1. alloy, 2. phase, 3. onward, 4. interferes, 5. experimental, 6. trap, 7. random, 8. universe

9. Dolphins use sound to _____ with each other.
- v.* to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals
10. The _____ to the safe was a secret.
- n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
11. The systems we have developed has accepted as industry _____.
- n.* something that is regarded as usual, typical, or standard
12. He _____ when he heard that he had been accepted into the university.
- v.* to turn over into a different position quickly; to throw or toss with a light motion
13. The poet recited a _____ from her latest collection.
- n.* a type of poetry that is characterized by a metrical structure and often a rhyme scheme
14. The man _____ before opening the door.
- v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
15. Advocates for legal reform hear less harsh words from their _____.
- n.* someone who expresses opinions about the quality of books, music, etc.
16. The _____ portal allowed the characters to travel between different worlds.
- adj.* relating to or existing in more than one dimension or reality; describing phenomena that can be perceived from multiple perspectives or planes of existence

ANSWERS: 9. communicate, 10. combination, 11. norms, 12. flipped, 13. verse, 14. paused, 15. critics, 16. interdimensional

17. As an _____ he had the right to make his own decisions and live his life as he saw fit.

n. a single person or thing, as distinct from a group

18. The magician seemed to _____ instantly from one side of the stage to the other.

v. to transport or transmit instantly from one location to another, typically using advanced technology or imagined supernatural powers

19. 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

20. I found a stink ____ crawling across the ceiling.

n. any tiny insect; a fault or defect in a computer program, system, or machine

21. He does not _____ importance to these rumors.

v. to fasten, join, or connect one thing to another

22. She _____ the computer to fix the problem.

v. to set again or differently; to return to a previous state or condition

23. This initiative will be a _____ for increasing company sales.

n. a handle used to operate a vehicle or a machine; a rigid bar resting on a pivot so that one end of it can be pushed or pulled easily

24. The _____ will repair my telephone tomorrow morning.

n. a person whose job is designing, building, or maintaining something such as machines, structures, or software

ANSWERS: 17. individual, 18. teleport, 19. insights, 20. bug, 21. attach, 22. reset, 23. lever, 24. engineer

25. Don't _____ your mosquito bites.

- v.* to cut or damage the surface of something or the skin with a sharp or pointed object

26. The cleaning lady comes on _____ Wednesdays.

- adj.* occurring or existing one after the other regularly

27. The teachers make full use of _____ assistance.

- n.* a person who performs or offers to perform a job or service without being paid for or forced to do

28. Cats hate dogs and _____ versa.

- n.* wrongdoing or wicked behavior; (in the form of vice versa) with the order reversed; (as a prefix) someone with a job immediately below a particular person

29. We need to _____ the aspect of his personality from the part of his competence when making an investment decision.

- v.* to force, take, or pull apart; mark as different

30. She's a _____ pet owner who ensures her dog gets enough exercise and a healthy diet.

- adj.* answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management

31. The third _____ was far more successful.

- n.* an act or effort of trying to do something, especially something difficult

32. The data _____ that the company's profits have steadily increased over the past quarter.

- v.* to show, point out, or make known something, often through a sign or a symbol; to suggest or imply something without stating it directly

ANSWERS: 25. scratch, 26. alternate, 27. volunteer, 28. vice, 29. separate, 30. responsible, 31. attempt, 32. indicates

33. The development of high-temperature _____ revolutionized the field of electrical engineering.
- n.* a material that conducts electricity with zero resistance when cooled to very low temperatures or when subjected to high pressure or strong magnetic fields; a substance with the unique ability to transmit electric current with no energy loss
34. Overall _____ are approximately 400x200mm.
- n.* a measurable extent of a particular kind, such as width, height, or length
35. 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

ANSWERS: 33. superconductors, 34. dimensions, 35. quirks