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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Daniel Finkel: Can you solve the vampire hunter riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

- lair** *n.* a den or shelter used by a wild animal
synonym: den, hideout, shelter
(1) **lair** of a dragon, (2) **lair** of a criminal
The tiger's **lair** was filled with treasure.
- stealth** *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
synonym: sneakiness, secrecy, furtiveness
(1) **stealth** technology, (2) **stealth** bomber
The thief moved with **stealth**, careful not to make any noise and alert anyone to his presence.
- descend** *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
synonym: dip, drop, come down
(1) **descend** a steep hill, (2) **descend** by elevator
She was **descended** from an old Italian noble family.
- ricochet** *v.* to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface

synonym : bounce, rebound, spring

(1) **ricochet** off the walls, (2) **ricochet** into a crowd

The police officer fired a warning shot that **ricocheted** off the pavement and hit a nearby car.

diffuser

n. a device or object used to disperse or spread out a substance, often a liquid or gas, over a broad area; a type of accessory often attached to a camera lens to soften or disperse light

synonym : vaporizer, dispenser

(1) scent **diffuser**, (2) light **diffuser**

The **diffuser** on the essential oils helped to calm my nerves and relax my mind.

illuminate

v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

synonym : brighten, light, adorn

(1) **illuminate** a dark hall, (2) **illuminate** my understanding

That biologist **illuminated** the mechanism of heredity.

sneak

v. to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

synonym : creep, tiptoe, smuggle

(1) **sneak** a cigarette, (2) **sneak** out of danger

The children tried to **sneak** out and eat the candy.

coffin

n. a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin

synonym : casket, box, chest

(1) **coffin** lid, (2) wooden **coffin**

The priest prayed over the **coffin** before it was lowered into the ground.

disturb

v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

synonym : agitate, bother, intrude

(1) **disturb** the peace, (2) **disturb** his sleep

Tourists frequently **disturb** the island's delicate natural balance.

rectangle

n. a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
synonym: oblong, square, quadrangle

(1) orthogonal **rectangle**, (2) **rectangle** box

The living room had a **rectangle-shaped** coffee table in the center of it.

unravel

v. undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
synonym: separate, unknot, ravel

(1) **unravel** a knit, (2) **unravel** a plot

Detectives are still attempting to **unravel** the mystery of his death.

riddle

n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

synonym: mystery, puzzle, enigma

(1) **riddle** me a riddle, (2) solve the **riddle**

The **riddle** remains mysterious to us.

Session 2: Spelling

1. sn__k out of danger *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
2. di____b his sleep *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.
3. solve the ri___e *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
4. un____l a knit *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it
5. wooden co___n *n.* a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
6. light di____er *n.* a device or object used to disperse or spread out a substance, often a liquid or gas, over a broad area; a type of accessory often attached to a camera lens to soften or disperse light
7. l__r of a dragon *n.* a den or shelter used by a wild animal
8. re_____le box *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
9. un____l a plot *v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

ANSWERS: 1. sneak, 2. disturb, 3. riddle, 4. unravel, 5. coffin, 6. diffuser, 7. lair, 8. rectangle, 9. unravel

10. co___n lid *n.* a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin
11. ri____et into a crowd *v.* to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface
12. st____h bomber *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
13. de____d a steep hill *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
14. ill____te my understanding *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
15. ri____et off the walls *v.* to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface
16. orthogonal re____le *n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
17. sn__k a cigarette *v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily

ANSWERS: 10. coffin, 11. ricochet, 12. stealth, 13. descend, 14. illuminate, 15. ricochet, 16. rectangle, 17. sneak

18. de____d by elevator *v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
19. scent di____er *n.* a device or object used to disperse or spread out a substance, often a liquid or gas, over a broad area; a type of accessory often attached to a camera lens to soften or disperse light
20. ri____e me a riddle *n.* a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game
21. st____h technology *n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
22. ill____te a dark hall *v.* to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity
23. l__r of a criminal *n.* a den or shelter used by a wild animal
24. di____b the peace *v.* to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

ANSWERS: 18. descend, 19. diffuser, 20. riddle, 21. stealth, 22. illuminate, 23. lair, 24. disturb

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The priest prayed over the _____ before it was lowered into the ground.
n. a box or container used to bury a dead body; a case or structure resembling a coffin

2. The tiger's _____ was filled with treasure.
n. a den or shelter used by a wild animal

3. Tourists frequently _____ the island's delicate natural balance.
v. to interrupt someone who is trying to work, sleep, etc.

4. The _____ on the essential oils helped to calm my nerves and relax my mind.
n. a device or object used to disperse or spread out a substance, often a liquid or gas, over a broad area; a type of accessory often attached to a camera lens to soften or disperse light

5. The police officer fired a warning shot that _____ off the pavement and hit a nearby car.
v. to rebound or deflect off a surface at an angle or series of angles, changing direction multiple times; to have a sudden and unintended effect or outcome; (noun) the motion of an object or a projectile that is deflected off a surface

6. That biologist _____ the mechanism of heredity.
v. to light something or to make something lighter or brighter; to make something free from confusion or ambiguity

7. The _____ remains mysterious to us.
n. a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game

ANSWERS: 1. coffin, 2. lair, 3. disturb, 4. diffuser, 5. ricocheted, 6. illuminated, 7. riddle

8. The living room had a _____ coffee table in the center of it.
- n.* a four-sided geometric shape with four right angles, where opposite sides are parallel and of equal length
9. The thief moved with _____ careful not to make any noise and alert anyone to his presence.
- n.* the quality of remaining hidden or undetected; the ability to move or act with great secrecy and subtlety
10. She was _____ from an old Italian noble family.
- v.* to move downward and lower; to come from, or to be connected by a relationship of blood
11. The children tried to _____ out and eat the candy.
- v.* to go somewhere, or take someone or something somewhere secretly or stealthily; to steal or do something secretly or stealthily
12. Detectives are still attempting to _____ the mystery of his death.
- v.* undo twisted, knitted, or woven threads by separating it

ANSWERS: 8. rectangle-shaped, 9. stealth, 10. descended, 11. sneak, 12. unravel