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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Daniel Finkel: Can you solve the troll's paradox riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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

doorway

n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into

synonym: entrance, portal, gateway

(1) a wide **doorway**, (2) **doorway** to success

He leaned against the **doorway**, waiting for her to come home.

paradoxical

adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

synonym: contradictory, conflicting, perplexing

(1) a **paradoxical** anecdote, (2) apparently **paradoxical**

it is **paradoxical** that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.

troll

n. a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

synonym: provocateur, antagonist, troublemaker

(1) feed a **troll**, (2) copyright **troll**

He was banned from the online forum for being a **troll** and causing trouble.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap

There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

coercive

adj. using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion

synonym: force, compel, pressure

(1) **coercive** behavior, (2) use **coercive** measures

The politician used **coercive** tactics to convince the public to support their policies.

falsehood

n. a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading

synonym: lie, untruth, deception

(1) spread **falsehoods**, (2) palpable **falsehood**

The media exposed the politician's **falsehoods**.

wield

v. to possess and exercise power, authority, etc

synonym: exert, manage, handle

(1) **wield** her authority, (2) **wield** a bad influence

They **wielded** enormous power and influence.

scalpel

n. a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body

synonym: knife, surgical instrument, blade

(1) surgical **scalpel**, (2) precision **scalpel**

The surgeon used an electric **scalpel** to make a precise incision during the operation.

stomp

v. to walk heavily and noisily, often with a rhythmical sound; to dance with a rhythmical step

synonym: trample, tread, dance

(1) **stomp** off to the room, (2) **stomp** on his foot

The children **stomped** their feet in time to the music.

Session 2: Spelling

1. a par_____al anecdote
adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
2. surgical sc_____l
n. a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body
3. st__p off to the room
v. to walk heavily and noisily, often with a rhythmical sound; to dance with a rhythmical step
4. precision sc_____l
n. a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body
5. apparently par_____al
adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
6. st__p on his foot
v. to walk heavily and noisily, often with a rhythmical sound; to dance with a rhythmical step
7. spread fa_____ods
n. a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading
8. French pa_____x
n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

ANSWERS: 1. paradoxical, 2. scalpel, 3. stomp, 4. scalpel, 5. paradoxical, 6. stomp, 7. falsehood, 8. paradox

9. a wide do____y *n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
10. wi__d a bad influence *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
11. co____ve behavior *adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion
12. the pa____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
13. use co____ve measures *adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion
14. wi__d her authority *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
15. palpable fa____od *n.* a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading
16. copyright tr__l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat
17. feed a tr__l *n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

ANSWERS: 9. doorway, 10. wield, 11. coercive, 12. paradox, 13. coercive, 14. wield, 15. falsehood, 16. troll, 17. troll

18. do____y to success

n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into

ANSWERS: 18. doorway

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. They _____ enormous power and influence.
v. to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
2. There are many theories to explain this _____.
n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
3. The surgeon used an electric _____ to make a precise incision during the operation.
n. a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body
4. it is _____ that the French, who prefer animal foods, live longer than people in other countries.
adj. seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
5. He leaned against the _____ waiting for her to come home.
n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
6. The politician used _____ tactics to convince the public to support their policies.
adj. using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion
7. The media exposed the politician's _____.
n. a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading

ANSWERS: 1. wielded, 2. paradox, 3. scalpel, 4. paradoxical, 5. doorway, 6. coercive, 7. falsehoods

8. The children _____ their feet in time to the music.
- v.* to walk heavily and noisily, often with a rhythmical sound; to dance with a rhythmical step
9. He was banned from the online forum for being a _____ and causing trouble.
- n.* a person who makes inflammatory or off-topic posts on the internet; a supernatural creature often portrayed as a giant or dwarf that lives in isolated areas; (verb) to fish by dragging a baited line through the water behind a boat

ANSWERS: 8. stomped, 9. troll