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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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

discovery

n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known

synonym: finding, uncovering, detection

(1) a scientific **discovery**, (2) the great **discovery** of the century

Her research team made an important **discovery**.

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.

realm

n. a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge

synonym: domain, empire, kingdom

(1) public **realm**, (2) beyond the **realm** of possibility

Her passions are in the **realm** of real-world political affairs.

fantastically

adv. in a manner that is extremely or unbelievably good, impressive, or bizarre; in a fanciful or imaginative way

synonym: amazingly, astonishingly, incredibly

(1) **fantastically** dressed, (2) **fantastically** wealthy

She sang **fantastically** in the talent show and won first place.

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.

creature

n. a living being, especially an animal

synonym : being, animal, organism

(1) **creature** of habit, (2) artificial **creature**

The deep sea **creature** was unlike anything the scientists had ever seen before.

crawl

v. to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground

synonym : creep, drag

(1) **crawl** across the floor, (2) **crawl** away from a car

Along the gravel roads, sizeable yellow school buses **crawl**.

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.

enormous

adj. extremely large or great

synonym : huge, giant, gigantic

(1) **enormous** amount, (2) **enormous** potential

Shakespeare's output of poetry was **enormous**.

brave

adj. showing courage or fearlessness in the face of danger, difficulty, or adversity

synonym : courageous, valiant, heroic

(1) **brave** soldier, (2) **brave** decision

The **brave** firefighter rescued the family from the burning building.

fan

n. a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces

synonym : lover, devotee, blade

(1) a film **fan**, (2) engine cooling **fan**

I'm a big **fan** of French food.

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**.

release

v. to set free or allow to escape from confinement

synonym : free, let go, discharge

(1) **release** a prisoner, (2) **release** CO2 into the air

The animal rights group worked to **release** the dolphins back into the wild.

grab

v. to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way

synonym : clutch, snatch, grasp

(1) **grab** an audience, (2) **grab** an opportunity

Shall we **grab** a bite to eat?

cheat

v. to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws

synonym : deceive, swindle, defraud

(1) **cheat** on my taxes, (2) **cheat** in a game

Even though he knew it was wrong, he **cheated** on the exam.

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.

incredibly

adv. in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely

synonym: enormously, exceptionally, extraordinarily

(1) **incredibly** cheerful character, (2) get **incredibly** insecure

Several cities are experiencing **incredibly** high unemployment rates.

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.

logic

n. a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments

synonym: reasoning, reason, ratiocination

(1) an indisputable **logic**, (2) a demonstration in **logic**

There's no **logic** in his description.

invention

n. the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing

synonym: creation, design, innovation

(1) the **invention** of new techniques, (2) common **invention**

Necessity is the mother of **invention**.

puzzle

n. a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand

synonym: plight, maze, (verb) perplex

(1) crossword **puzzle**, (2) mathematical **puzzle**

This jigsaw **puzzle** is challenging because there are no pictures.

involve

v. to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

synonym: implicate, include, engage

(1) **involve** a lot of paperwork, (2) **involve** a high degree of risk

The investigation **involves** several government agencies and is expected to take several months.

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**.

craft

n. an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands

synonym: art, skill, workmanship

(1) **craft** arts of Japan, (2) **craft** manufacture

His hometown was where he first acquired the **craft** of wood carving.

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.

willingness

n. the state of being ready or inclined to do something
synonym: readiness, eagerness, enthusiasm

(1) **willingness** to help, (2) indicate a **willingness** to change

Her **willingness** to help others earned her many friends.

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.

cheer

v. to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval

synonym: comfort, encourage, hearten

(1) **cheer** for the home team, (2) **cheer** me up

Supporters in the stands **cheered** at every goal.

treasure

n. a valuable or desirable possession; something that is cherished or held dear; a collection of valuable objects or money that is hidden or protected

synonym: hoard, fortune, gem

(1) **treasure** hunt, (2) **treasure** island

The pirates searched for buried **treasure** in the dunes.

Session 2: Spelling

1. fan_____lly dressed *adv.* in a manner that is extremely or unbelievably good, impressive, or bizarre; in a fanciful or imaginative way
2. do_____y to success *n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
3. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
4. ch__t in a game *v.* to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws
5. en_____us amount *adj.* extremely large or great
6. 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;
7. public re__m *n.* a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge
8. a par_____al anecdote *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true
9. cr__l across the floor *v.* to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground
10. apparently par_____al *adj.* seemingly contradictory or absurd because of having two opposite features or facts, though it is probably true

ANSWERS: 1. fantastically, 2. doorway, 3. pause, 4. cheat, 5. enormous, 6. paradox, 7. realm, 8. paradoxical, 9. crawl, 10. paradoxical

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 11. indicate a wil_____ss to change | <i>n.</i> the state of being ready or inclined to do something |
| 12. a scientific di_____ry | <i>n.</i> the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known |
| 13. cr__t manufacture | <i>n.</i> an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands |
| 14. crossword pu___e | <i>n.</i> a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand |
| 15. in_____e a high degree of risk | <i>v.</i> to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else |
| 16. copyright tr__l | <i>n.</i> 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. st__p on his foot | <i>v.</i> to walk heavily and noisily, often with a rhythmical sound; to dance with a rhythmical step |
| 18. a demonstration in lo__c | <i>n.</i> a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments |

ANSWERS: 11. willingness, 12. discovery, 13. craft, 14. puzzle, 15. involve, 16. troll, 17. stomp, 18. logic

19. spread fa_____ods *n.* a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading
20. a film f_n *n.* a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces
21. br__e decision *adj.* showing courage or fearlessness in the face of danger, difficulty, or adversity
22. 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
23. precision sc_____l *n.* a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body
24. co_____ve behavior *adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion
25. st__p off to the room *v.* to walk heavily and noisily, often with a rhythmical sound; to dance with a rhythmical step
26. 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;

ANSWERS: 19. falsehood, 20. fan, 21. brave, 22. troll, 23. scalpel, 24. coercive, 25. stomp, 26. paradox

27. ch__r for the home team *v.* to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval
28. si_____ly situated *adv.* in almost the same way
29. get inc_____ly insecure *adv.* in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely
30. wi__d her authority *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
31. engine cooling f_n *n.* a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces
32. g__b an audience *v.* to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way
33. surgical sc_____l *n.* a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body
34. have si_____ly great abilities *adv.* in almost the same way
35. en_____us potential *adj.* extremely large or great
36. wil_____ss to help *n.* the state of being ready or inclined to do something
37. an indisputable lo__c *n.* a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments
38. use co_____ve measures *adj.* using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to do something against their will or desire; related to coercion

ANSWERS: 27. cheer, 28. similarly, 29. incredibly, 30. wield, 31. fan, 32. grab, 33. scalpel, 34. similarly, 35. enormous, 36. willingness, 37. logic, 38. coercive

39. the in_____on of new techniques *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
40. a wide do_____y *n.* an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
41. cr__l away from a car *v.* to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground
42. br__e soldier *adj.* showing courage or fearlessness in the face of danger, difficulty, or adversity
43. common in_____on *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
44. re_____e CO2 into the air *v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement
45. in_____e a lot of paperwork *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
46. cr__t arts of Japan *n.* an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands
47. tr_____re island *n.* a valuable or desirable possession; something that is cherished or held dear; a collection of valuable objects or money that is hidden or protected
48. ch__r me up *v.* to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval
49. g__b an opportunity *v.* to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way

ANSWERS: 39. invention, 40. doorway, 41. crawl, 42. brave, 43. invention, 44. release, 45. involve, 46. craft, 47. treasure, 48. cheer, 49. grab

50. wi__d a bad influence *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
51. beyond the re__m of possibility *n.* a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge
52. cr____re of habit *n.* a living being, especially an animal
53. fan_____lly wealthy *adv.* in a manner that is extremely or unbelievably good, impressive, or bizarre; in a fanciful or imaginative way
54. tr____re hunt *n.* a valuable or desirable possession; something that is cherished or held dear; a collection of valuable objects or money that is hidden or protected
55. pa__e for a reaction *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
56. inc_____ly cheerful character *adv.* in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely
57. the great di_____ry of the century *n.* the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
58. palpable fa_____od *n.* a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading
59. re_____e a prisoner *v.* to set free or allow to escape from confinement
60. ch__t on my taxes *v.* to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws

ANSWERS: 50. wield, 51. realm, 52. creature, 53. fantastically, 54. treasure, 55. pause, 56. incredibly, 57. discovery, 58. falsehood, 59. release, 60. cheat

61. artificial cr____re

n. a living being, especially an animal

62. mathematical pu___e

n. a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge;
(verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand

ANSWERS: 61. creature, 62. puzzle

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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
2. The pirates searched for buried _____ in the dunes.
n. a valuable or desirable possession; something that is cherished or held dear; a collection of valuable objects or money that is hidden or protected
3. The media exposed the politician's _____.
n. a statement or belief that is untrue, often intentionally deceptive or misleading
4. 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;
5. There's no _____ in his description.
n. a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments
6. The man _____ before opening the door.
v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
7. His hometown was where he first acquired the _____ of wood carving.
n. an activity that requires a particular skill in making things with one's hands
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

ANSWERS: 1. coercive, 2. treasure, 3. falsehoods, 4. paradox, 5. logic, 6. paused, 7. craft, 8. stomped

9. 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
10. They _____ enormous power and influence.
- v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
11. Her _____ to help others earned her many friends.
- n.* the state of being ready or inclined to do something
12. This jigsaw _____ is challenging because there are no pictures.
- n.* a situation that is difficult to follow or solve; a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge; (verb) to cause someone to feel confused because of something difficult to understand
13. The deep sea _____ was unlike anything the scientists had ever seen before.
- n.* a living being, especially an animal
14. Necessity is the mother of _____.
- n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
15. Shall we _____ a bite to eat?
- v.* to take hold of something or someone suddenly with a hand, especially in a violent way
16. The investigation _____ several government agencies and is expected to take several months.
- v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

ANSWERS: 9. scalpel, 10. wielded, 11. willingness, 12. puzzle, 13. creature, 14. invention, 15. grab, 16. involves

17. Supporters in the stands _____ at every goal.
v. to give a loud shout to show support, praise, or approval
18. Even though he knew it was wrong, he _____ on the exam.
v. to act dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage or to deceive someone; to break the rules or laws
19. Several cities are experiencing _____ high unemployment rates.
adv. in a way that is very difficult to believe; exceedingly or extremely
20. Her passions are in the _____ of real-world political affairs.
n. a domain of activity, interest, or knowledge
21. Shakespeare's output of poetry was _____.
adj. extremely large or great
22. I'm a big ___ of French food.
n. a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces
23. We argue that wages for temporary workers should _____ rise.
adv. in almost the same way
24. She sang _____ in the talent show and won first place.
adv. in a manner that is extremely or unbelievably good, impressive, or bizarre; in a fanciful or imaginative way
25. The _____ firefighter rescued the family from the burning building.
adj. showing courage or fearlessness in the face of danger, difficulty, or adversity

ANSWERS: 17. cheered, 18. cheated, 19. incredibly, 20. realm, 21. enormous, 22. fan, 23. similarly, 24. fantastically, 25. brave

26. 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
27. Her research team made an important _____.
n. the act or process of finding information, a place, or an object, or learning about something that was previously not known
28. The animal rights group worked to _____ the dolphins back into the wild.
v. to set free or allow to escape from confinement
29. He leaned against the _____ waiting for her to come home.
n. an opening in a wall for a door to fit into
30. Along the gravel roads, sizeable yellow school buses _____.
v. to move forward slowly, as people or animals with their bodies near the ground
31. 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: 26. paradoxical, 27. discovery, 28. release, 29. doorway, 30. crawl, 31. troll