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Daniel Finkel: Can you solve the unstoppable blob riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym : chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym : crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Aging **creeps** up slowly with time.

glide

v. to move smoothly and effortlessly

synonym : slide, skim, coast

(1) **glide** through the water, (2) **glide** down the mountain

The eagle gracefully **glided** on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.

unstoppable

adj. impossible to stop or prevent

synonym : unshakable, unyielding, relentless

(1) **unstoppable** force, (2) **unstoppable** momentum

The team's winning streak was **unstoppable**.

regrow

v. to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation

synonym : regenerate

(1) **regrow** hair, (2) **regrow** vegetation

Lizards can **regrow** their tails if they are cut off.

rampage

n. a violent and uncontrollable outburst of destructive behavior

synonym : storm, binge, destruction

(1) killing **rampage**, (2) an outrageous **rampage**

The crowd went on a **rampage** after their team lost the championship game.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

nanoscale

adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale

(1) **nanoscale** device, (2) things at the **nanoscale**

This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the **nanoscale** lattice structure of the metal.

fission

n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

synonym : splitting, division, separation

(1) heavy-ion **fission**, (2) atomic **fission**

Nuclear **fission** is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.

inert

adj. lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive

synonym : motionless, inactive, dormant

(1) **inert** gases, (2) **inert** ingredients

The rock was completely **inert** and didn't react when we tried to break it open.

obtuse

adj. lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees

synonym: dense, stupid, insensitive

(1) **obtuse** angle, (2) **obtuse** remarks

His **obtuse** reasoning made it difficult for me to understand his point of view.

doable

adj. possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true

synonym: realizable, accomplishable, achievable

(1) make a **doable** plan, (2) **doable** in daily life

This project is **doable** despite the tight schedule.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym: judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

octagon

n. a polygon with eight sides and eight angles

synonym: eight-sided figure

(1) regular **octagon**, (2) an **octagon** table

The building had eight sides, forming an **octagon** shape.

polygon

n. a closed plane figure bounded by three or more straight sides that meet at the same number of angles (vertices)

synonym: shape, figure, form

(1) regular **polygon**, (2) closed **polygon**

The garden had a complex **polygon** shape with many angles and corners.

heptagon

n. a polygon with seven sides and seven angles; a geometrical figure with seven sides

synonym: seven-sided figure

(1) draw a **heptagon**, (2) regular **heptagon**

A snowflake can have a symmetrical **heptagon** shape.

hexagon

n. a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length

synonym: hexahedron, six-sided figure, six-gon

(1) **hexagon** head bolt, (2) **hexagon** pattern

The honeycomb structure of a beehive is made up of **hexagons**.

pentagon

n. a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military

synonym: five-sided shape, quinquangle

(1) equilateral **pentagon**, (2) **pentagon** building

The shape of the building is a distinctive five-sided **pentagon**.

indestructible

adj. impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair

synonym: unbreakable, sturdy, durable

(1) **indestructible** warrior, (2) **indestructible** object

The vault was advertised as **indestructible** but was eventually broken into.

Session 2: Spelling

1. ind_____ble object *adj.* impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair
2. a big b__b of yellow *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
3. killing ra_____e *n.* a violent and uncontrollable outburst of destructive behavior
4. ob____e remarks *adj.* lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees
5. in__t ingredients *adj.* lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive
6. uns_____le force *adj.* impossible to stop or prevent
7. do____e in daily life *adj.* possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
8. cr__p along the leaf *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
9. things at the na_____le *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
10. na_____le device *adj.* on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
11. in__t gases *adj.* lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive

ANSWERS: 1. indestructible, 2. blob, 3. rampage, 4. obtuse, 5. inert, 6. unstoppable, 7. doable, 8. creep, 9. nanoscale, 10. nanoscale, 11. inert

12. draw a he_____on *n.* a polygon with seven sides and seven angles; a geometrical figure with seven sides
13. he_____n head bolt *n.* a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length
14. equilateral pe_____on *n.* a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military
15. closed po_____n *n.* a closed plane figure bounded by three or more straight sides that meet at the same number of angles (vertices)
16. ind_____ble warrior *adj.* impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair
17. uns_____le momentum *adj.* impossible to stop or prevent
18. regular po_____n *n.* a closed plane figure bounded by three or more straight sides that meet at the same number of angles (vertices)
19. ob____e angle *adj.* lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees
20. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
21. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

ANSWERS: 12. heptagon, 13. hexagon, 14. pentagon, 15. polygon, 16. indestructible, 17. unstoppable, 18. polygon, 19. obtuse, 20. blob, 21. opportune

22. gl__e down the mountain *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
23. regular he____on *n.* a polygon with seven sides and seven angles; a geometrical figure with seven sides
24. an oc____n table *n.* a polygon with eight sides and eight angles
25. heavy-ion fi____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
26. an op____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
27. regular oc____n *n.* a polygon with eight sides and eight angles
28. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
29. pe____on building *n.* a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military
30. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
31. prophet of d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
32. he____n pattern *n.* a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length

ANSWERS: 22. glide, 23. heptagon, 24. octagon, 25. fission, 26. opportune, 27. octagon, 28. doom, 29. pentagon, 30. creep, 31. doom, 32. hexagon

33. re___w vegetation *v.* to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation
34. re___w hair *v.* to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation
35. gl___e through the water *v.* to move smoothly and effortlessly
36. atomic fi____n *n.* the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces
37. make a do___e plan *adj.* possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true
38. an outrageous ra____e *n.* a violent and uncontrollable outburst of destructive behavior

ANSWERS: 33. regrow, 34. regrow, 35. glide, 36. fission, 37. doable, 38. rampage

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

2. The honeycomb structure of a beehive is made up of _____.
n. a six-sided polygon with six angles and six sides of equal length

3. The crowd went on a _____ after their team lost the championship game.
n. a violent and uncontrollable outburst of destructive behavior

4. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

5. The shape of the building is a distinctive five-sided _____.
n. a flat geometric shape with five straight sides and five angles; a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the U.S. Department of Defense and is the headquarters of the U.S. military

6. The building had eight sides, forming an _____ shape.
n. a polygon with eight sides and eight angles

7. Nuclear _____ is the process of splitting an atom into two smaller ones.
n. the splitting of an atomic nucleus into two or smaller nuclei, releasing a large amount of energy; the process of breaking something into smaller parts or pieces

8. His _____ reasoning made it difficult for me to understand his point of view.
adj. lacking in sharpness or quickness of mind; blunt or dull-witted; (of mathematics) an angle that measures greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees

ANSWERS: 1. doom, 2. hexagons, 3. rampage, 4. opportune, 5. pentagon, 6. octagon, 7. fission, 8. obtuse

9. This process improves the strength of the metal by controlling the _____ lattice structure of the metal.
adj. on a scale that can be measured in nanometres (= one billionth of a meter); on a very small scale
10. Lizards can _____ their tails if they are cut off.
v. to grow back or regenerate after being cut or removed, such as cells or tissues in the body, or plants and vegetation
11. The team's winning streak was _____.
adj. impossible to stop or prevent
12. The vault was advertised as _____ but was eventually broken into.
adj. impossible to destroy or damage beyond repair
13. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
14. The garden had a complex _____ shape with many angles and corners.
n. a closed plane figure bounded by three or more straight sides that meet at the same number of angles (vertices)
15. A snowflake can have a symmetrical _____ shape.
n. a polygon with seven sides and seven angles; a geometrical figure with seven sides
16. This project is _____ despite the tight schedule.
adj. possible to do; capable of existing, taking place, or proving true

ANSWERS: 9. nanoscale, 10. regrow, 11. unstoppable, 12. indestructible, 13. blob, 14. polygon, 15. heptagon, 16. doable

17. The eagle gracefully _____ on the thermals, soaring above the mountains.
v. to move smoothly and effortlessly
18. Aging _____ up slowly with time.
v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
19. The rock was completely _____ and didn't react when we tried to break it open.
adj. lacking the ability to move or act, often used to describe an object or substance that is inactive or non-reactive

ANSWERS: 17. glided, 18. creeps, 19. inert