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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dennis Shasha: Can you solve the stolen rubies riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

prosperous

adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune

synonym : successful, thriving, affluent

(1) **prosperous** weather, (2) **prosperous** nation

The company decided to invest in a **prosperous** industry.

corruptible

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

synonym : bribable, dishonest, venal

(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges

Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

clamor

v. to make a loud, confused, and often continuous noise, especially through shouting, shouting, or other forms of vocal expression; to express strong and determined protest or demand; (noun) a loud and continuous noise or uproar, often created by a group of people

synonym : shout, protest, cry out

(1) **clamor** for change, (2) the **clamor** of urban life

Environmental activists **clamor** against the building of new oil pipelines due to their potential impact on the environment.

confiscation

n. the seizure or taking of property by the state or other authority, often as a penalty or punishment for an offense or violation of the law

synonym : seizure, appropriation, expropriation

(1) illegal **confiscation**, (2) **confiscation** proceedings

The **confiscation** of their assets by the government left the family penniless.

reimburse

v. to pay someone back for money that they have spent

synonym : compensate, repay, refund

(1) **reimburse** expenses, (2) **reimburse** money

The insurance company will **reimburse** the cost of the damage caused by the storm.

scoundrel

n. a person who is dishonest, unscrupulous, or morally corrupt; a rogue or villain

synonym : villain, rogue, knave

(1) **scoundrel** behavior, (2) notorious **scoundrel**

He had a reputation as a **scoundrel**, always cheating and lying to get what he wanted.

ponder

v. to think deeply or carefully about something

synonym : think about, consider, reflect on

(1) **ponder** divine matters, (2) **ponder** life's meaning

She sat quietly, **pondering** the difficult decision.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

discreet

adj. characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in

behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense

synonym: cautious, careful, circumspect

(1) **discreet** manner, (2) **discreet** conversation

He was **discreet** with the sensitive information he had been entrusted with.

overshoot

v. to go further than the end of or past something you intended to stop or turn

synonym: jump, leave, skip

(1) **overshoot** a target, (2) **overshoot** the mark

The department may **overshoot** its budget ceiling this year.

greedy

adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food

synonym: avaricious, covetous, grasping

(1) **greedy** person, (2) **greedy** for money

His **greedy** behavior led him to steal from the company.

stash

v. to store or hide something in a safe or secret place, especially for future use

synonym: hoard, stockpile, reserve

(1) **stash** gems in a safe, (2) **stash** your phone

He **stashed** away a large amount of money in a Swiss bank.

adversary

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

synonym: opponent, enemy, foe

(1) **adversary** team, (2) political **adversary**

The boxer's toughest **adversary** was his fear of losing.

restitution

n. the act of restoring something that has been lost or stolen to its rightful owner; compensation or reimbursement for loss or damage suffered by someone

synonym: compensation, restoration, reimbursement

(1) **restitution** of stolen goods, (2) **restitution** for damages

The judge ordered the defendant to pay full **restitution** to the victims of the crime.

Session 2: Spelling

1. the cl___r of urban life
v. to make a loud, confused, and often continuous noise, especially through shouting, shouting, or other forms of vocal expression; to express strong and determined protest or demand; (noun) a loud and continuous noise or uproar, often created by a group of people
2. sc_____el behavior
n. a person who is dishonest, unscrupulous, or morally corrupt; a rogue or villain
3. gr___y person
adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
4. a det_____nt of crop yields
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
5. st__h your phone
v. to store or hide something in a safe or secret place, especially for future use
6. ov_____ot the mark
v. to go further than the end of or past something you intended to stop or turn
7. illegal con_____ion
n. the seizure or taking of property by the state or other authority, often as a penalty or punishment for an offense or violation of the law
8. political ad_____ry
n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent

ANSWERS: 1. clamor, 2. scoundrel, 3. greedy, 4. determinant, 5. stash, 6. overshoot, 7. confiscation, 8. adversary

9. pro_____us weather *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
10. cor_____le judges *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
11. ov_____ot a target *v.* to go further than the end of or past something you intended to stop or turn
12. po____r life's meaning *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
13. cl____r for change *v.* to make a loud, confused, and often continuous noise, especially through shouting, shouting, or other forms of vocal expression; to express strong and determined protest or demand; (noun) a loud and continuous noise or uproar, often created by a group of people
14. di_____et manner *adj.* characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense
15. gr____y for money *adj.* having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
16. di_____et conversation *adj.* characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense
17. re_____se expenses *v.* to pay someone back for money that they have spent

ANSWERS: 9. prosperous, 10. corruptible, 11. overshoot, 12. ponder, 13. clamor, 14. discreet, 15. greedy, 16. discreet, 17. reimburse

18. ad_____ry team *n.* a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
19. con_____ion proceedings *n.* the seizure or taking of property by the state or other authority, often as a penalty or punishment for an offense or violation of the law
20. notorious sc_____el *n.* a person who is dishonest, unscrupulous, or morally corrupt; a rogue or villain
21. st__h gems in a safe *v.* to store or hide something in a safe or secret place, especially for future use
22. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
23. po____r divine matters *v.* to think deeply or carefully about something
24. pro_____us nation *adj.* successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
25. res_____on of stolen goods *n.* the act of restoring something that has been lost or stolen to its rightful owner; compensation or reimbursement for loss or damage suffered by someone
26. res_____on for damages *n.* the act of restoring something that has been lost or stolen to its rightful owner; compensation or reimbursement for loss or damage suffered by someone
27. cor_____le officials *adj.* capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

ANSWERS: 18. adversary, 19. confiscation, 20. scoundrel, 21. stash, 22. determinant, 23. ponder, 24. prosperous, 25. restitution, 26. restitution, 27. corruptible

28. re_____se money

v. to pay someone back for money that they have spent

ANSWERS: 28. reimburse

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The department may _____ its budget ceiling this year.
v. to go further than the end of or past something you intended to stop or turn
2. He was _____ with the sensitive information he had been entrusted with.
adj. characterized by the ability to keep secrets or maintain confidentiality; showing prudence, tact, or reserve in behavior or speech; not likely to draw attention or cause offense
3. He _____ away a large amount of money in a Swiss bank.
v. to store or hide something in a safe or secret place, especially for future use
4. Environmental activists _____ against the building of new oil pipelines due to their potential impact on the environment.
v. to make a loud, confused, and often continuous noise, especially through shouting, shouting, or other forms of vocal expression; to express strong and determined protest or demand; (noun) a loud and continuous noise or uproar, often created by a group of people
5. The insurance company will _____ the cost of the damage caused by the storm.
v. to pay someone back for money that they have spent
6. His _____ behavior led him to steal from the company.
adj. having or showing an intense or insatiable desire for wealth, status, power, or food
7. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 1. overshoot, 2. discreet, 3. stashed, 4. clamor, 5. reimburse, 6. greedy, 7. determinant

8. The boxer's toughest _____ was his fear of losing.
n. a person, group, or force that opposes or fights against another; an enemy or opponent
9. The company decided to invest in a _____ industry.
adj. successful financially or materially; bringing success or good fortune
10. The _____ of their assets by the government left the family penniless.
n. the seizure or taking of property by the state or other authority, often as a penalty or punishment for an offense or violation of the law
11. He had a reputation as a _____ always cheating and lying to get what he wanted.
n. a person who is dishonest, unscrupulous, or morally corrupt; a rogue or villain
12. She sat quietly, _____ the difficult decision.
v. to think deeply or carefully about something
13. The judge ordered the defendant to pay full _____ to the victims of the crime.
n. the act of restoring something that has been lost or stolen to its rightful owner; compensation or reimbursement for loss or damage suffered by someone
14. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.
adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

ANSWERS: 8. adversary, 9. prosperous, 10. confiscation, 11. scoundrel, 12. pondering, 13. restitution, 14. corruptible