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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Alex Gendler: Can you solve the three gods riddle? | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

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.

appease

v. to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety

synonym: pacify, calm, soothe

(1) **appease** hunger, (2) **appease** her fears

The manager tried to **appease** the angry customer by offering them a refund.

overlord

n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

synonym: master, tyrant, autocrat

(1) evil **overlord**, (2) colonial **overlord**

In the feudal system, the **overlord** owned most of the wealth.

artifact

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

synonym : antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**

The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

inscription

n. a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal

synonym : engraving, writing, script

(1) **inscription** on a plaque, (2) funerary **inscriptions**

The ancient coin had an **inscription** in Latin and a picture of the emperor on the other side.

decipher

v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way

synonym : interpret, decode, translate

(1) **decipher** code, (2) **decipher** message

He spent hours trying to **decipher** the ancient text.

downright

adj. (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely

synonym : absolute, utter, complete

(1) **downright** nonsense, (2) **downright** impossible

It was a **downright** lie that he would attend the event.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym : confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

meaningless

adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

synonym : pointless, absurd, senseless

(1) a **meaningless** endeavor, (2) do a **meaningless** task

This experiment's results are **meaningless** because the other conditions are not identical.

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.

takeoff

n. a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne

synonym: leaving, departure, liftoff

(1) vertical **takeoff**, (2) **takeoff** run

Our aircraft is now ready for **takeoff**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. funerary ins_____ons
n. a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
2. a mea_____ss endeavor
adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose
3. do a mea_____ss task
adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose
4. 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
5. vertical ta_____f
n. a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne
6. de_____er code
v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
7. de_____er message
v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
8. environmental det_____nt
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
9. 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

ANSWERS: 1. inscription, 2. meaningless, 3. meaningless, 4. riddle, 5. takeoff, 6. decipher, 7. decipher, 8. determinant, 9. riddle

10. ta_____f run *n.* a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne
11. paleolithic ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
12. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
13. do_____ht impossible *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
14. 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
15. do_____ht nonsense *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
16. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
17. ap_____e her fears *v.* to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety
18. evil ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
19. ins_____on on a plaque *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
20. colonial ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past

ANSWERS: 10. takeoff, 11. artifact, 12. confuse, 13. downright, 14. determinant, 15. downright, 16. confuse, 17. appease, 18. overlord, 19. inscription, 20. overlord

21. Peruvian ar____cts

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

22. ap____e hunger

v. to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety

ANSWERS: 21. artifact, 22. appease

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.
adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose
2. The manager tried to _____ the angry customer by offering them a refund.
v. to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety
3. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
4. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.
n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
5. He spent hours trying to _____ the ancient text.
v. to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
6. In the feudal system, the _____ owned most of the wealth.
n. a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
7. It was a _____ lie that he would attend the event.
adj. (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
8. Our aircraft is now ready for _____.
n. a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne

ANSWERS: 1. meaningless, 2. appease, 3. confused, 4. artifacts, 5. decipher, 6. overlord, 7. downright, 8. takeoff

9. 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
10. 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
11. The ancient coin had an _____ in Latin and a picture of the emperor on the other side.
- n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal

ANSWERS: 9. riddle, 10. determinant, 11. inscription