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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

All Words

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Session 1: Word List

colleague

n. one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business

synonym: coworker, associate, fellow

(1) collaborate with **colleagues**, (2) former **colleague**

I decided to seek counseling on the advice of my **colleague**.

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.

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.

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.

landing

n. the act of coming to rest on the ground or another surface after being in flight or jumping; a platform or area of ground where a plane or spacecraft can come to rest

synonym : touchdown, arrival, descent

(1) **landing** gear, (2) emergency **landing**

The plane made a rough **landing**, and everyone clapped once we came to a stop.

ancient

adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old

synonym : archaic, age-old, obsolete

(1) pre-Christian **ancient**, (2) **ancient** stories

They have been living near water since **ancient** times.

planet

n. any of the nine large celestial bodies that circle in the solar system; any celestial body that revolves around a star

synonym : earth, world, globe

(1) **planet** like the Earth, (2) save the **planet**

Mercury is the closest **planet** to the sun.

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.

alien

n. a person who comes from a different country, race, or group; a form of life assumed to exist outside the Earth or its atmosphere

synonym : foreigner, unfamiliar, unknown

(1) **alien** fungi, (2) resident **aliens**

Alien species have drastically altered the ecosystem in this area.

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**.

unfortunately

adv. by bad luck; unluckily

synonym : regrettably, unluckily, alas

(1) **unfortunately** caught in a shower, (2) even more **unfortunately**

The treatments were done but, **unfortunately**, were unsuccessful.

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.

lord

n. a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office

synonym : master, noble, peer

(1) a young **lord**, (2) **lord** of castle
The feudal **lord** had ruled the land for many years.

random

adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern

synonym : incidental, arbitrary, unanticipated

(1) a **random** choice, (2) bombs fell at **random**
To find drunk drivers, police conduct **random** tests.

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.

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.

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.

yield

n. the total output of crops, profits, etc. that are produced; (verb) to produce or supply helpful something, such as a profit, an amount of food, or information

synonym : proceeds, harvest, output

(1) corn **yield**, (2) the **yield** on the bond
The company's stock gives a high **yield**.

hypothesis

n. a proposed idea or explanation that is based on a few known facts but has not yet been proven to be true or accurate

synonym: assumption, conjecture, theory

(1) test my **hypothesis**, (2) a bold **hypothesis**

This evidence supports the big-bang **hypothesis**.

pose

v. to present a risk, problem, or other issues that must be addressed

synonym: present, put, position

(1) **pose** a significant threat to my company, (2) **pose** a challenge

The chemicals **pose** a massive health risk.

embedded

adj. fixed firmly into the surface of something

synonym: ingrained, implanted, inserted

(1) **embedded** systems, (2) LED- **embedded** glass

The **embedded** chip in my credit card allows me to make contactless payments.

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.

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.

structure

n. the way of construction of something and the arrangement of its parts, or a complex thing constructed of many parts

synonym: construction, architecture, establishment

(1) the **structure** of a machine, (2) **structure** and function of

the brain

The organizational **structure** of start-ups is often flat and straightforward.

negative

adj. having the quality of something bad or harmful; expressing refusal

synonym: minus, adverse, pessimistic

(1) have a **negative** effect, (2) a **negative** number

The movie has received almost universally **negative** criticism.

regardless

adv. not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties

synonym: anyhow, nevertheless, still

(1) **regardless** of the difficulties, (2) **regardless** tread

People can pick out superior products **regardless** of the quality of the advertising.

identify

v. to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are

synonym: determine, specify, recognize

(1) **identify** handwriting, (2) **identify** gene sequences

I will introduce you to how to **identify** the leading causes of the malfunction.

definitely

adv. without any question and beyond doubt; clearly

synonym: absolutely, certainly, indeed

(1) **definitely** become a problem, (2) say **definitely**

The paper is **definitely** worth reading thoroughly.

possibility

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

synonym: chance, prospect, likelihood

(1) **possibility** for growth, (2) **possibility** of a major earthquake

The **possibility** of getting the disease will drastically

increase.

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.

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.

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.

identity

n. the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another

synonym : character, personality, individuality

(1) mistaken **identity**, (2) **identity** as an individual

The terrorist's **identity** remains unknown.

process

n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

synonym : procedure, method, system

(1) **process** improvement, (2) decision-making **process**

The **process** for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.

elimination

n. the act or process of removing or getting rid of something or someone

synonym: removal, eradication, extinction

(1) waste **elimination**, (2) an **elimination** tournament

The government's efforts toward disease **elimination** have been successful in many regions.

satisfy

v. to make somebody pleased by giving them what they want or need

synonym: please, amuse, meet

(1) **satisfy** a desire, (2) **satisfy** a user's needs

Did this response **satisfy** your request?

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. collaborate with co_____ues | <i>n.</i> one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business |
| 2. a det_____nt of crop yields | <i>n.</i> a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result |
| 3. id_____fy gene sequences | <i>v.</i> to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are |
| 4. sa_____y a desire | <i>v.</i> to make somebody pleased by giving them what they want or need |
| 5. a mea_____ss endeavor | <i>adj.</i> having no meaning, direction, or purpose |
| 6. vertical ta_____f | <i>n.</i> a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne |
| 7. em_____ed systems | <i>adj.</i> fixed firmly into the surface of something |
| 8. a ra_____m choice | <i>adj.</i> made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern |
| 9. si_____ly situated | <i>adv.</i> in almost the same way |
| 10. ri_____e me a riddle | <i>n.</i> a type of question that describes something in a difficult and confusing way, and that has a surprising answer, often asked as a game |
| 11. reg_____ss of the difficulties | <i>adv.</i> not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties |

ANSWERS: 1. colleague, 2. determinant, 3. identify, 4. satisfy, 5. meaningless, 6. takeoff, 7. embedded, 8. random, 9. similarly, 10. riddle, 11. regardless

12. resident al__ns *n.* a person who comes from a different country, race, or group; a form of life assumed to exist outside the Earth or its atmosphere
13. do_____ht nonsense *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
14. do_____ht impossible *adj.* (especially of something bad) complete and absolute; utter; (adverb) completely and absolutely
15. test my hyp_____is *n.* a proposed idea or explanation that is based on a few known facts but has not yet been proven to be true or accurate
16. 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
17. mistaken id_____ty *n.* the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another
18. st_____re and function of the brain *n.* the way of construction of something and the arrangement of its parts, or a complex thing constructed of many parts
19. decision-making pr_____s *n.* a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products

ANSWERS: 12. alien, 13. downright, 14. downright, 15. hypothesis, 16. inscription, 17. identity, 18. structure, 19. process

20. corn yi__d *n.* the total output of crops, profits, etc. that are produced; (verb) to produce or supply helpful something, such as a profit, an amount of food, or information
21. p__e a challenge *v.* to present a risk, problem, or other issues that must be addressed
22. 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
23. sa_____y a user's needs *v.* to make somebody pleased by giving them what they want or need
24. co_____e fantasy with reality *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
25. al__n fungi *n.* a person who comes from a different country, race, or group; a form of life assumed to exist outside the Earth or its atmosphere
26. Peruvian ar_____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
27. evil ov_____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
28. pos_____ty of a major earthquake *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
29. de_____er message *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
30. p__e a significant threat to my company *v.* to present a risk, problem, or other issues that must be addressed

ANSWERS: 20. yield, 21. pose, 22. riddle, 23. satisfy, 24. confuse, 25. alien, 26. artifact, 27. overlord, 28. possibility, 29. decipher, 30. pose

31. bombs fell at ra___m *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
32. a demonstration in lo__c *n.* a way of thinking or reasoning conducted or evaluated by strict validity principles; the study of correct reasoning or good arguments
33. even more unf_____ely *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
34. co_____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
35. pre-Christian an_____t *adj.* relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
36. an_____t stories *adj.* relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
37. in_____e a high degree of risk *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else
38. do a mea_____ss task *adj.* having no meaning, direction, or purpose
39. a ne_____ve number *adj.* having the quality of something bad or harmful; expressing refusal
40. ap_____e hunger *v.* to pacify or soothe someone, usually by agreeing to their demands or requests; to calm someone's anger or anxiety
41. an eli_____on tournament *n.* the act or process of removing or getting rid of something or someone

ANSWERS: 31. random, 32. logic, 33. unfortunately, 34. confuse, 35. ancient, 36. ancient, 37. involve, 38. meaningless, 39. negative, 40. appease, 41. elimination

42. la_____g gear *n.* the act of coming to rest on the ground or another surface after being in flight or jumping; a platform or area of ground where a plane or spacecraft can come to rest
43. LED-em_____ed glass *adj.* fixed firmly into the surface of something
44. pa__e for a reaction *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
45. pos_____ty for growth *n.* a chance that something may happen or be true
46. the st_____re of a machine *n.* the way of construction of something and the arrangement of its parts, or a complex thing constructed of many parts
47. have si_____ly great abilities *adv.* in almost the same way
48. environmental det_____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
49. the yi__d on the bond *n.* the total output of crops, profits, etc. that are produced; (verb) to produce or supply helpful something, such as a profit, an amount of food, or information
50. say def_____ly *adv.* without any question and beyond doubt; clearly
51. waste eli_____on *n.* the act or process of removing or getting rid of something or someone
52. former co_____ue *n.* one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business

ANSWERS: 42. landing, 43. embedded, 44. pause, 45. possibility, 46. structure, 47. similarly, 48. determinant, 49. yield, 50. definitely, 51. elimination, 52. colleague

53. have a ne____ve effect *adj.* having the quality of something bad or harmful; expressing refusal
54. id____fy handwriting *v.* to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are
55. def____ly become a problem *adv.* without any question and beyond doubt; clearly
56. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
57. funerary ins____ons *n.* a message or design that is written or engraved on a surface of something, such as stone or metal
58. unf____ely caught in a shower *adv.* by bad luck; unluckily
59. a bold hyp____is *n.* a proposed idea or explanation that is based on a few known facts but has not yet been proven to be true or accurate
60. ta____f run *n.* a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne
61. l__d of castle *n.* a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office
62. save the pl____t *n.* any of the nine large celestial bodies that circle in the solar system; any celestial body that revolves around a star
63. pl____t like the Earth *n.* any of the nine large celestial bodies that circle in the solar system; any celestial body that revolves around a star

ANSWERS: 53. negative, 54. identify, 55. definitely, 56. pause, 57. inscription, 58. unfortunately, 59. hypothesis, 60. takeoff, 61. lord, 62. planet, 63. planet

64. colonial ov____rd *n.* a person who has great power over many other people, especially in the past
65. 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
66. paleolithic ar____cts *n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
67. a young l__d *n.* a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office
68. de____er code *v.* to read or understand something that is written in code or in a difficult or obscure way
69. 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
70. emergency la____g *n.* the act of coming to rest on the ground or another surface after being in flight or jumping; a platform or area of ground where a plane or spacecraft can come to rest
71. crossword 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: 64. overlord, 65. puzzle, 66. artifact, 67. lord, 68. decipher, 69. appease, 70. landing, 71. puzzle

72. id____ty as an individual *n.* the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another
73. reg_____ss tread *adv.* not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties
74. pr_____s improvement *n.* a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products
75. 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
76. in_____e a lot of paperwork *v.* to include or affect someone or something as a necessary part of something else

ANSWERS: 72. identity, 73. regardless, 74. process, 75. logic, 76. involve

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. They have been living near water since _____ times.
adj. relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
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. The company's stock gives a high _____.
n. the total output of crops, profits, etc. that are produced; (verb) to produce or supply helpful something, such as a profit, an amount of food, or information
4. 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
5. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.
n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
6. The feudal _____ had ruled the land for many years.
n. a person who has general authority, control, or power over others; a man of noble rank or high office
7. The man _____ before opening the door.
v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

ANSWERS: 1. ancient, 2. appease, 3. yield, 4. inscription, 5. artifacts, 6. lord, 7. paused

8. 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
9. The _____ for applying for a visa can be lengthy and complicated.
n. a series of actions or operations performed to achieve a particular outcome or goal; a systematic procedure or approach used to accomplish a specific task or objective; a method of treating milk to make it suitable for consumption or use in other dairy products
10. The government's efforts toward disease _____ have been successful in many regions.
n. the act or process of removing or getting rid of something or someone
11. Her remarks _____ the debate.
v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
12. 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
13. The movie has received almost universally _____ criticism.
adj. having the quality of something bad or harmful; expressing refusal
14. 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
15. This experiment's results are _____ because the other conditions are not identical.
adj. having no meaning, direction, or purpose

ANSWERS: 8. overlord, 9. process, 10. elimination, 11. confused, 12. involves, 13. negative, 14. logic, 15. meaningless

16. To find drunk drivers, police conduct _____ tests.

adj. made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern

17. 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

18. The plane made a rough _____ and everyone clapped once we came to a stop.

n. the act of coming to rest on the ground or another surface after being in flight or jumping; a platform or area of ground where a plane or spacecraft can come to rest

19. Mercury is the closest _____ to the sun.

n. any of the nine large celestial bodies that circle in the solar system; any celestial body that revolves around a star

20. 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

21. The terrorist's _____ remains unknown.

n. the fact of being who or what somebody or something is; the features, emotions, or ideas that distinguish persons from one another

22. _____ species have drastically altered the ecosystem in this area.

n. a person who comes from a different country, race, or group; a form of life assumed to exist outside the Earth or its atmosphere

ANSWERS: 16. random, 17. riddle, 18. landing, 19. planet, 20. decipher, 21. identity, 22. Alien

23. Did this response _____ your request?

v. to make somebody pleased by giving them what they want or need

24. I decided to seek counseling on the advice of my _____.

n. one of a group of a coworker, especially in a profession or a business

25. It was a _____ lie that he would attend the event.

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

26. I will introduce you to how to _____ the leading causes of the malfunction.

v. to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are

27. The paper is _____ worth reading thoroughly.

adv. without any question and beyond doubt; clearly

28. The chemicals _____ a massive health risk.

v. to present a risk, problem, or other issues that must be addressed

29. The _____ chip in my credit card allows me to make contactless payments.

adj. fixed firmly into the surface of something

30. The _____ of getting the disease will drastically increase.

n. a chance that something may happen or be true

31. 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: 23. satisfy, 24. colleague, 25. downright, 26. identify, 27. definitely, 28. pose, 29. embedded, 30. possibility, 31. determinant

32. We argue that wages for temporary workers should _____ rise.
adv. in almost the same way
33. The treatments were done but, _____ were unsuccessful.
adv. by bad luck; unluckily
34. Our aircraft is now ready for _____.
n. a departure, especially of airplanes; the initial ascent of an airplane as it becomes airborne
35. 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
36. People can pick out superior products _____ of the quality of the advertising.
adv. not paying attention or considering something or someone even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties
37. The organizational _____ of start-ups is often flat and straightforward.
n. the way of construction of something and the arrangement of its parts, or a complex thing constructed of many parts
38. This evidence supports the big-bang _____.
n. a proposed idea or explanation that is based on a few known facts but has not yet been proven to be true or accurate

ANSWERS: 32. similarly, 33. unfortunately, 34. takeoff, 35. puzzle, 36. regardless, 37. structure, 38. hypothesis