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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Amy Adkins: *Who am I? A philosophical inquiry* | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

aphorism

n. a concise statement that expresses a general truth or moral principle; a pithy and memorable statement that is meant to be easily remembered and understood

synonym: maxim, adage, proverb

(1) **aphorism** writer, (2) famous **aphorism**

"A penny saved is a penny earned" is a well-known **aphorism** about the value of frugality.

inscribe

v. to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record

synonym: engrave, carve, etch

(1) **inscribe** a message, (2) **inscribe** in her mind clearly

The artist **inscribed** a beautiful design on the surface of the vase.

anthem

n. a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause

synonym: hymn, song, paean

(1) a national **anthem**, (2) **anthem** singer

The **anthem** of the country was played during the ceremony.

theologian

n. an expert or student who studies theology

synonym: clergyperson, philosopher, scholar

(1) Swedish **theologian**, (2) great **theologians**
Death gets more than its share of attention from **theologians**.

murky

adj. dark and gloomy or difficult to see through

synonym: dim, fuzzy, foggy

(1) **murky** waters, (2) a **murky** dungeon

Prospects for the suspect's conviction are **murky** due to a lack of helpful evidence.

mythical

adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination

synonym: mythological, fictitious, legendary

(1) **mythical** heroes, (2) **mythical** world

Many cultures have their **mythical** creatures and legends.

slay

v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon

synonym: kill, murder, eliminate

(1) **slay** a dragon, (2) **slay** civilians

The singer **slayed** the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.

Minotaur

n. in Greek mythology, a creature with the head of a bull and the body of a man is depicted as inhabiting a labyrinth on the island of Crete

synonym: bull, labyrinth dweller

(1) defeating the **Minotaur**, (2) labyrinth of the **Minotaur**

The ancient Greek myth tells the tale of the **Minotaur**, a half-man and half-bull creature.

heroic

adj. courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring

synonym: brave, courageous, daring

(1) a **heroic** poem, (2) **heroic** explorers

The **heroic** actions of individuals are now easily spread worldwide by SNS.

painstaking

adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

synonym : detailed, meticulous, conscientious

(1) **painstaking** research, (2) a **painstaking** student

The training of a hawk was a **painstaking** process.

enact

v. to make a law; to put something into practice

synonym : legislate, pass, decree

(1) **enact** new legislation, (2) **enact** the smoking ban

The government **enacted** this law in 1925.

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**.

revolve

v. to rotate around a central point

synonym : rotate, spin, orbit

(1) **revolve** at high speed, (2) **revolve** around a central axis

The Earth **revolves** around the Sun in an elliptical orbit.

undeniable

adj. not possible to deny; true or certain

synonym : absolute, definite, indubitable

(1) an **undeniable** fact, (2) an **undeniable** masterpiece

Her influence on teenagers is **undeniable**.

quirk

n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

synonym : eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity

(1) personality **quirk**, (2) a **quirk** of fate

One of her **quirks** is that she always wears mismatched socks.

illogical

adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

synonym :

irrational, senseless, nonsensical

(1) **illogical** argument, (2) **illogical** reasoning

His argument made no sense and was completely **illogical**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. my____al heroes *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
2. in____be in her mind clearly *v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
3. re____e at high speed *v.* to rotate around a central point
4. il____al argument *adj.* not making sense or not based on sound reasoning
5. great the____ans *n.* an expert or student who studies theology
6. in____be a message *v.* to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
7. he___c explorers *adj.* courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
8. Swedish the____an *n.* an expert or student who studies theology
9. pai____ng research *adj.* cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort
10. 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;

ANSWERS: 1. mythical, 2. inscribe, 3. revolve, 4. illogical, 5. theologian, 6. inscribe, 7. heroic, 8. theologian, 9. painstaking, 10. paradox

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|------------------------------------|------|---|
| 11. en__t new legislation | v. | to make a law; to put something into practice |
| 12. s__y a dragon | v. | to kill violently, especially with a weapon |
| 13. il_____al reasoning | adj. | not making sense or not based on sound reasoning |
| 14. a pai_____ng student | adj. | cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort |
| 15. a national an___m | n. | a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause |
| 16. mu__y waters | adj. | dark and gloomy or difficult to see through |
| 17. an___m singer | n. | a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause |
| 18. a mu__y dungeon | adj. | dark and gloomy or difficult to see through |
| 19. an und_____le masterpiece | adj. | not possible to deny; true or certain |
| 20. a qu__k of fate | n. | a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group |
| 21. a he___c poem | adj. | courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring |
| 22. an und_____le fact | adj. | not possible to deny; true or certain |
| 23. re_____e around a central axis | v. | to rotate around a central point |
| 24. labyrinth of the Mi_____ur | n. | in Greek mythology, a creature with the head of a bull and the body of a man is depicted as inhabiting a labyrinth on the island of Crete |

ANSWERS: 11. enact, 12. slay, 13. illogical, 14. painstaking, 15. anthem, 16. murky, 17. anthem, 18. murky, 19. undeniable, 20. quirk, 21. heroic, 22. undeniable, 23. revolve, 24. Minotaur

25. s__y civilians *v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon
26. personality qu__k *n.* a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group
27. famous ap_____sm *n.* a concise statement that expresses a general truth or moral principle; a pithy and memorable statement that is meant to be easily remembered and understood
28. en__t the smoking ban *v.* to make a law; to put something into practice
29. 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;
30. my_____al world *adj.* based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
31. ap_____sm writer *n.* a concise statement that expresses a general truth or moral principle; a pithy and memorable statement that is meant to be easily remembered and understood
32. defeating the Mi_____ur *n.* in Greek mythology, a creature with the head of a bull and the body of a man is depicted as inhabiting a labyrinth on the island of Crete

ANSWERS: 25. slay, 26. quirk, 27. aphorism, 28. enact, 29. paradox, 30. mythical, 31. aphorism, 32. Minotaur

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. One of her _____ is that she always wears mismatched socks.
n. a peculiar behavior, habit, or characteristic that is distinctive to an individual or group

2. The training of a hawk was a _____ process.
adj. cautious and correct, and requiring a significant amount of effort

3. His argument made no sense and was completely _____.
adj. not making sense or not based on sound reasoning

4. Prospects for the suspect's conviction are _____ due to a lack of helpful evidence.
adj. dark and gloomy or difficult to see through

5. The ancient Greek myth tells the tale of the _____ a half-man and half-bull creature.
n. in Greek mythology, a creature with the head of a bull and the body of a man is depicted as inhabiting a labyrinth on the island of Crete

6. Death gets more than its share of attention from _____.
n. an expert or student who studies theology

7. The singer _____ the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.
v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon

8. 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;

ANSWERS: 1. quirks, 2. painstaking, 3. illogical, 4. murky, 5. Minotaur, 6. theologians, 7. slayed, 8. paradox

9. The Earth _____ around the Sun in an elliptical orbit.
v. to rotate around a central point
10. The government _____ this law in 1925.
v. to make a law; to put something into practice
11. The artist _____ a beautiful design on the surface of the vase.
v. to write or carve something on a surface, especially as a formal or permanent record
12. The _____ actions of individuals are now easily spread worldwide by SNS.
adj. courageous and daring; having or displaying qualities appropriate for legendary figures that is courage and daring
13. The _____ of the country was played during the ceremony.
n. a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause
14. Many cultures have their _____ creatures and legends.
adj. based on or related to myths, legends, or folklore; existing only in tales or in the imagination
15. Her influence on teenagers is _____.
adj. not possible to deny; true or certain
16. "A penny saved is a penny earned" is a well-known _____ about the value of frugality.
n. a concise statement that expresses a general truth or moral principle; a pithy and memorable statement that is meant to be easily remembered and understood

ANSWERS: 9. revolves, 10. enacted, 11. inscribed, 12. heroic, 13. anthem, 14. mythical, 15. undeniable, 16. aphorism

ANSWERS: