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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Yossi Elran: Can you solve the prisoner boxes riddle?

| TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

misplace

v. to put something in the wrong place or lose it temporarily
synonym: lose, mislay, misfile

(1) to **misplace** the figure, (2) **misplace** documents

I have **misplaced** my keys again and need help finding them.

instrument

n. an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work

synonym: apparatus, tool, device

(1) musical **instruments**, (2) surgical **instruments**

This electronic **instrument** is required to undergo periodic inspections to ensure precision.

mad

adj. insane, especially due to a mental illness; very angry
synonym: crazy, insane, furious

(1) a **mad** person, (2) gets **mad** easily

He was **mad** with joy to see the results.

concert

n. a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers

synonym: gig, musical, show

(1) have a **concert** again, (2) a benefit **concert**

This artist always packs the **concert** halls.

soundproof

v. to make a room or other enclosed space impervious to sound by reducing the transmission of sound through its walls or floor and ceiling; (adjective, of a building) not allowing sound to pass through it

synonym: insulate, muffle, dampen

(1) **soundproof** room, (2) **soundproof** material

The walls of the recording studio were **soundproofed** to eliminate outside noise.

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.

communicate

v. to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals

synonym: convey, share, transmit

(1) **communicate** his anxieties to the psychiatrist,

(2) **communicate** well with my advisor

Dolphins use sound to **communicate** with each other.

label

n. a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category

synonym: tag, mark, identifier

(1) a mailing **label**, (2) **label** a bag with my name

The **label** on the food package lists the ingredients and nutritional information.

despair

n. the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation

synonym: dismay, anguish, misery

(1) **despair** at the future, (2) untold **despair**

His friend's death drove him to **despair**.

suddenly

adv. quickly and unexpectedly

synonym : abruptly, unexpectedly, unawares

(1) **suddenly** attacked by an enemy, (2) die **suddenly**

Who answers **suddenly** knows little.

valid

adj. having a reasonable basis in logic or fact; still legally or officially acceptable

synonym : proper, reasonable, useful

(1) a **valid** contract, (2) a ticket **valid** for two days

Your credit card is no longer **valid**.

strategy

n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.

synonym : approach, procedure, scenario

(1) military **strategy**, (2) develop a **strategy**

Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing **strategy**.

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.

bandmate

n. a member of the same band or musical group as another person, typically someone who plays a different instrument or has a different role in the group

synonym : band member, collaborator, teammate

(1) talented **bandmate**, (2) former **bandmate**

It's important to have good communication with your **bandmates** during rehearsals and performances.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym : doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

amazing

adj. extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire

synonym: exceptional, extraordinary, wonderful

(1) **amazing** advances, (2) the most **amazing** feeling

The golfer recorded an **amazing** distance.

fan

n. a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces

synonym: lover, devotee, blade

(1) a film **fan**, (2) engine cooling **fan**

I'm a big **fan** of French food.

sequence

n. a series of related events, actions, numbers, etc., which have a particular order

synonym: arrangement, succession, series

(1) the **sequence** of the seasons, (2) the DNA **sequence**

We do move forward with those tasks in **sequence** next week.

loop

n. a shape like a curve or a circle made by something long and thin, such as a piece of string, that bends round and crosses itself

synonym: circle, curl, spiral

(1) exit from a **loop**, (2) positive feedback **loop**

Many people in this city use the **loop** railway for transportation.

arrange

v. to plan, prepare for, and carry out something

synonym: set up, order, organize

(1) **arrange** the meeting, (2) the list was **arranged** alphabetically

I need to **arrange** plans with him for the celebration.

bass

n. the lowest part in polyphonic music; a type of fish belonging to the large order Perciformes, or perch-like fishes

synonym : low-pitch, resonance

(1) **bass** guitar, (2) **bass** fisherman

The **bass** in the music was so deep that it vibrated the floor.

microphone

n. a device that converts sound into an electrical signal used for recording sounds or making the voice louder

synonym : mic, megaphone, amplifier

(1) **microphone** cable, (2) built-in **microphone**

The interviewer asked him to speak into the **microphone**.

restrict

v. to limit someone's actions or movements, or to limit something to lessen its size or prevent it from increasing

synonym : limit, confine, hinder

(1) **restrict** an Internet access, (2) **restrict** the use of this parking lot

We **restrict** the number of students per course to twenty.

decent

adj. satisfactory, acceptable, or good in a general sense

synonym : respectable, honorable, good

(1) yearn for the **decent** living, (2) a **decent** education

He earned a **decent** salary at his job.

odds

n. the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen

synonym : chances, likelihoods, probabilities

(1) **odds** in favor, (2) **odds** of business

What are the **odds** that he will survive?

calculate

v. to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics

synonym : compute, figure, estimate

(1) **calculate** the distance, (2) **calculate** his credit score

He couldn't **calculate** the actual value of the artwork.

sake

n. purpose; reason for wanting something done

synonym : purpose, reason, interest

(1) for your own **sake**, (2) for the **sake** of argument

He got a new job for the **sake** of his family.

simplicity

n. the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do

synonym : easiness, plainness, modesty

(1) a life of **simplicity**, (2) refined **simplicity**

He liked the car because of the **simplicity** of the design.

demonstrate

v. to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience

synonym : show, illustrate, display

(1) **demonstrate** a difference, (2) **demonstrate** mastery

How can you **demonstrate** that the earth is a sphere?

simplify

v. to make something more straightforward, more understandable, or easier to do

synonym : streamline, clarify, elucidate

(1) **simplify** my life, (2) **simplify** the process

Please **simplify** your explanation for the children.

distinct

adj. noticeable from something else of a similar type

synonym : different, special, characteristic

(1) **distinct** difference, (2) **distinct** from each other

It is essential to keep these two issues **distinct**.

diagonal

adj. at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle

synonym : oblique, sloping, slanting

(1) **diagonal** pattern, (2) place at a **diagonal**

The **diagonal** cut of the skirt added movement and flair to the outfit.

visualize

v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

synonym: imagine, picture, envision

(1) **visualize** data, (2) **visualize** flying through space

She tried to **visualize** the layout of the new house in her mind.

triangle

n. a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts

synonym: trilateral, delta, triad

(1) **triangle** shape, (2) love **triangle**

The Pythagorean theorem is used to calculate the length of the sides of a right **triangle**.

combination

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

synonym: blend, hybrid, compounding

(1) genic **combinations**, (2) **combination** number

The **combination** to the safe was a secret.

computation

n. the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator

synonym: calculation, estimation, arithmetic

(1) parallel **computation**, (2) theory of **computation**

The researcher demonstrated the superiority of quantum **computation** in several mathematical tasks.

shortcut

n. an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one

synonym: bypass, cutoff, alternative

(1) take a **shortcut**, (2) keyboard **shortcuts**

There is no **shortcut** to success.

handy

adj. valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use

synonym: clever, accessible, available

(1) a **handy-sized** bag, (2) **handy** tool

They found a **handy** place to play catch.

equation

n. the act of regarding as equal; (mathematics) a statement that expresses the equality of two expressions by connecting them with the equals sign

(1) the **equation** of poverty with ignorance, (2) a chemical **equation**

In this class, you will learn how to solve quadratic **equations**.

hopeless

adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success

synonym: despairing, helpless, futile

(1) **hopeless** situation, (2) **hopeless** at everything

After months of job searching, he felt **hopeless** and unsure of his future.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| 1. vi_____ze data | v. | to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible |
| 2. b__s fisherman | n. | the lowest part in polyphonic music; a type of fish belonging to the large order Perciformes, or perch-like fishes |
| 3. si_____fy my life | v. | to make something more straightforward, more understandable, or easier to do |
| 4. built-in mic_____ne | n. | a device that converts sound into an electrical signal used for recording sounds or making the voice louder |
| 5. a life of sim_____ty | n. | the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do |
| 6. parallel com_____on | n. | the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator |
| 7. musical ins_____nts | n. | an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work |
| 8. re_____ct the use of this parking lot | v. | to limit someone's actions or movements, or to limit something to lessen its size or prevent it from increasing |
| 9. su_____ly attacked by an enemy | adv. | quickly and unexpectedly |

ANSWERS: 1. visualize, 2. bass, 3. simplify, 4. microphone, 5. simplicity, 6. computation, 7. instrument, 8. restrict, 9. suddenly

10. ca_____te the distance *v.* to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics
11. tr_____le shape *n.* a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts
12. theory of com_____on *n.* the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator
13. de_____r at the future *n.* the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation
14. to mi_____ce the figure *v.* to put something in the wrong place or lose it temporarily
15. untold de_____r *n.* the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation
16. a chemical eq_____on *n.* the act of regarding as equal; (mathematics) a statement that expresses the equality of two expressions by connecting them with the equals sign
17. sou_____of room *v.* to make a room or other enclosed space impervious to sound by reducing the transmission of sound through its walls or floor and ceiling; (adjective, of a building) not allowing sound to pass through it
18. genic com_____ons *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

ANSWERS: 10. calculate, 11. triangle, 12. computation, 13. despair, 14. misplace, 15. despair, 16. equation, 17. soundproof, 18. combination

19. com_____te his anxieties to the psychiatrist
v. to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals
20. di_____al pattern
adj. at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle
21. sk_____al scientists
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
22. the eq_____on of poverty with ignorance
n. the act of regarding as equal; (mathematics) a statement that expresses the equality of two expressions by connecting them with the equals sign
23. positive feedback l__p
n. a shape like a curve or a circle made by something long and thin, such as a piece of string, that bends round and crosses itself
24. a sk_____al attitude
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
25. o__s of business
n. the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen
26. die su_____ly
adv. quickly and unexpectedly
27. mic_____ne cable
n. a device that converts sound into an electrical signal used for recording sounds or making the voice louder
28. the list was ar_____ed alphabetically
v. to plan, prepare for, and carry out something
29. a benefit co_____t
n. a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers

ANSWERS: 19. communicate, 20. diagonal, 21. skeptical, 22. equation, 23. loop, 24. skeptical, 25. odds, 26. suddenly, 27. microphone, 28. arrange, 29. concert

30. ho____ss at everything *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
31. am____g advances *adj.* extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire
32. mi____ce documents *v.* to put something in the wrong place or lose it temporarily
33. exit from a l__p *n.* a shape like a curve or a circle made by something long and thin, such as a piece of string, that bends round and crosses itself
34. love tr____le *n.* a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts
35. for the s__e of argument *n.* purpose; reason for wanting something done
36. a film f_n *n.* a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces
37. dem____te mastery *v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
38. a m_d person *adj.* insane, especially due to a mental illness; very angry
39. talented ba____te *n.* a member of the same band or musical group as another person, typically someone who plays a different instrument or has a different role in the group
40. ar____e the meeting *v.* to plan, prepare for, and carry out something

ANSWERS: 30. hopeless, 31. amazing, 32. misplace, 33. loop, 34. triangle, 35. sake, 36. fan, 37. demonstrate, 38. mad, 39. bandmate, 40. arrange

41. a ra___m choice *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
42. bombs fell at ra___m *adj.* made, done, or happening without method, conscious decision, or any regular pattern
43. a va__d contract *adj.* having a reasonable basis in logic or fact; still legally or officially acceptable
44. 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
45. la__l a bag with my name *n.* a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category
46. vi_____ze flying through space *v.* to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible
47. former ba_____te *n.* a member of the same band or musical group as another person, typically someone who plays a different instrument or has a different role in the group
48. di_____ct difference *adj.* noticeable from something else of a similar type
49. ho_____ss situation *adj.* having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
50. si_____fy the process *v.* to make something more straightforward, more understandable, or easier to do

ANSWERS: 41. random, 42. random, 43. valid, 44. riddle, 45. label, 46. visualize, 47. bandmate, 48. distinct, 49. hopeless, 50. simplify

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 51. keyboard sh_____uts | <i>n.</i> an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one |
| 52. develop a st_____gy | <i>n.</i> a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal. |
| 53. re_____ct an Internet access | <i>v.</i> to limit someone's actions or movements, or to limit something to lessen its size or prevent it from increasing |
| 54. di_____ct from each other | <i>adj.</i> noticeable from something else of a similar type |
| 55. take a sh_____ut | <i>n.</i> an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one |
| 56. yearn for the de____t living | <i>adj.</i> satisfactory, acceptable, or good in a general sense |
| 57. com_____te well with my advisor | <i>v.</i> to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals |
| 58. military st_____gy | <i>n.</i> a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal. |
| 59. the se_____ce of the seasons | <i>n.</i> a series of related events, actions, numbers, etc., which have a particular order |
| 60. for your own s__e | <i>n.</i> purpose; reason for wanting something done |
| 61. pa__e for a reaction | <i>v.</i> to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing |
| 62. the DNA se_____ce | <i>n.</i> a series of related events, actions, numbers, etc., which have a particular order |

ANSWERS: 51. shortcut, 52. strategy, 53. restrict, 54. distinct, 55. shortcut, 56. decent, 57. communicate, 58. strategy, 59. sequence, 60. sake, 61. pause, 62. sequence

63. refined sim_____ty *n.* the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do
64. gets m_d easily *adj.* insane, especially due to a mental illness; very angry
65. sou_____of material *v.* to make a room or other enclosed space impervious to sound by reducing the transmission of sound through its walls or floor and ceiling; (adjective, of a building) not allowing sound to pass through it
66. a ha__y-sized bag *adj.* valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use
67. pa__e a moment *v.* to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing
68. ha__y tool *adj.* valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use
69. engine cooling f_n *n.* a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces
70. the most am_____g feeling *adj.* extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire
71. dem_____te a difference *v.* to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience
72. com_____on number *n.* a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities
73. a de__t education *adj.* satisfactory, acceptable, or good in a general sense

ANSWERS: 63. simplicity, 64. mad, 65. soundproof, 66. handy, 67. pause, 68. handy, 69. fan, 70. amazing, 71. demonstrate, 72. combination, 73. decent

74. a mailing la__l *n.* a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category
75. surgical ins_____nts *n.* an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work
76. 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
77. b__s guitar *n.* the lowest part in polyphonic music; a type of fish belonging to the large order Perciformes, or perch-like fishes
78. o__s in favor *n.* the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen
79. ca_____te his credit score *v.* to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics
80. a ticket va__d for two days *adj.* having a reasonable basis in logic or fact; still legally or officially acceptable
81. have a co_____t again *n.* a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers
82. place at a di_____al *adj.* at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle

ANSWERS: 74. label, 75. instrument, 76. riddle, 77. bass, 78. odds, 79. calculate, 80. valid, 81. concert, 82. diagonal

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. There is no _____ to success.
n. an alternative route shorter or quicker than the usual one

2. Who answers _____ knows little.
adv. quickly and unexpectedly

3. Dolphins use sound to _____ with each other.
v. to share or exchange information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals

4. How can you _____ that the earth is a sphere?
v. to display something or give an exhibition to an interested audience

5. I have _____ my keys again and need help finding them.
v. to put something in the wrong place or lose it temporarily

6. In this class, you will learn how to solve quadratic _____.
n. the act of regarding as equal; (mathematics) a statement that expresses the equality of two expressions by connecting them with the equals sign

7. She tried to _____ the layout of the new house in her mind.
v. to form a mental image or concept of something; to make something visible

8. He was ___ with joy to see the results.
adj. insane, especially due to a mental illness; very angry

9. The interviewer asked him to speak into the _____.
n. a device that converts sound into an electrical signal used for recording sounds or making the voice louder

ANSWERS: 1. shortcut, 2. suddenly, 3. communicate, 4. demonstrate, 5. misplaced, 6. equations, 7. visualize, 8. mad, 9. microphone

10. What are the _____ that he will survive?

n. the degree or probability that a particular thing will or will not happen

11. They found a _____ place to play catch.

adj. valuable and convenient; easy or ready to reach or use

12. The golfer recorded an _____ distance.

adj. extremely surprising, especially in a way that you like or admire

13. Your credit card is no longer _____.

adj. having a reasonable basis in logic or fact; still legally or officially acceptable

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

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

15. The _____ cut of the skirt added movement and flair to the outfit.

adj. at an angle or slant; (noun) a line that runs across a surface or figure at an angle

16. It's important to have good communication with your _____ during rehearsals and performances.

n. a member of the same band or musical group as another person, typically someone who plays a different instrument or has a different role in the group

17. He got a new job for the _____ of his family.

n. purpose; reason for wanting something done

18. Many people in this city use the _____ railway for transportation.

n. a shape like a curve or a circle made by something long and thin, such as a piece of string, that bends round and crosses itself

ANSWERS: 10. odds, 11. handy, 12. amazing, 13. valid, 14. random, 15. diagonal, 16. bandmates, 17. sake, 18. loop

19. I need to _____ plans with him for the celebration.

v. to plan, prepare for, and carry out something

20. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

21. The walls of the recording studio were _____ to eliminate outside noise.

v. to make a room or other enclosed space impervious to sound by reducing the transmission of sound through its walls or floor and ceiling; (adjective, of a building) not allowing sound to pass through it

22. We _____ the number of students per course to twenty.

v. to limit someone's actions or movements, or to limit something to lessen its size or prevent it from increasing

23. The Pythagorean theorem is used to calculate the length of the sides of a right _____.

n. a three-sided polygon with three angles; something that has three sides or parts

24. This electronic _____ is required to undergo periodic inspections to ensure precision.

n. an object used to make musical sounds, such as a piano, guitar, or drum; a tool or device used for a specific activity, particularly in specialist or scientific work

25. The man _____ before opening the door.

v. to take a short break from talking or doing something before continuing

26. The _____ to the safe was a secret.

n. a collection of things that have been combined; an assemblage of separate parts or qualities

ANSWERS: 19. arrange, 20. skeptical, 21. soundproofed, 22. restrict, 23. triangle, 24. instrument, 25. paused, 26. combination

27. 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
28. The _____ on the food package lists the ingredients and nutritional information.
n. a small piece of paper, fabric, or other material attached to an object and giving information about it; (verb) to assign to a category
29. Our plan includes a comprehensive marketing _____.
n. a detailed plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall goal.
30. This artist always packs the _____ halls.
n. a musical performance given in public by one or more players or singers
31. After months of job searching, he felt _____ and unsure of his future.
adj. having no hope; despairing; having no chance of success
32. He couldn't _____ the actual value of the artwork.
v. to judge or find out the amount or number of something by using mathematics
33. I'm a big ____ of French food.
n. a person who admires and supports a person, group, sport, sports team, etc.; a device for creating a current of air by the movement of a surface or surfaces
34. He earned a _____ salary at his job.
adj. satisfactory, acceptable, or good in a general sense
35. He liked the car because of the _____ of the design.
n. the quality or condition of being natural and plain or easy to understand or do

ANSWERS: 27. riddle, 28. label, 29. strategy, 30. concert, 31. hopeless, 32. calculate, 33. fan, 34. decent, 35. simplicity

36. The _____ in the music was so deep that it vibrated the floor.
- n.* the lowest part in polyphonic music; a type of fish belonging to the large order Perciformes, or perch-like fishes
37. It is essential to keep these two issues _____.
- adj.* noticeable from something else of a similar type
38. His friend's death drove him to _____.
- n.* the feeling that there is no hope and you cannot do anything to improve a difficult situation
39. We do move forward with those tasks in _____ next week.
- n.* a series of related events, actions, numbers, etc., which have a particular order
40. Please _____ your explanation for the children.
- v.* to make something more straightforward, more understandable, or easier to do
41. The researcher demonstrated the superiority of quantum _____ in several mathematical tasks.
- n.* the act or process of calculating something, especially an answer or amount, by using a machine or calculator

ANSWERS: 36. bass, 37. distinct, 38. despair, 39. sequence, 40. simplify, 41. computation