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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Dennis Shasha: Can you solve the temple riddle? |

TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

evade

v. to escape from or avoid meeting someone or something
synonym: dodge, avoid, bypass

(1) **evade** capture, (2) **evade** an issue

The jailbroken criminal is continuously attempting to **evade** the cops.

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.

wisp

n. a thin, delicate strand or vestige of something, such as smoke, vapor, or a piece of hair; a faint, barely perceptible indication or hint of something; a small creature or fairy, often depicted as a hovering, translucent figure

synonym: strand, thread, filament

(1) a **wisp** of mist, (2) a **wisp** of conversation

The **wisp** of smoke from the candle added to the room's cozy ambiance.

hallway

n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
synonym : foyer, corridor, entrance

(1) the head of a **hallway**, (2) wax a **hallway** floor
He dashed down a **hallway** to a bathroom.

hourglass

n. a device used for measuring time consisting of two glass bulbs, connected by a narrow waist, that contains sand or other granular material which takes a set amount of time to pass from one bulb to the other

synonym : sand clock, time glass, egg timer

(1) **hourglass** figure, (2) **hourglass** economy

The **hourglass** on the table was used to time the cooking of the cookies.

rumble

v. to make a low, heavy continuous sound

synonym : roar, growl, grumble

(1) **rumble** an order, (2) **rumble** down the dirt track

The thunder **rumbled** in the distance.

intruder

n. someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something

synonym : trespasser, intruder, interloper

(1) illegal **intruder**, (2) infrared **intruder** system

The homeowner called the police when they spotted an **intruder** in their backyard.

doom

n. death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

synonym : judgment, destiny, fate

(1) economic **doom**, (2) prophet of **doom**

Everyone was aware of the impending **doom** but was unable to prevent it.

deception

n. the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

synonym : fraud, deceit, trickery

(1) **deception** tactics, (2) **deception** in advertising

The politician was accused of **deception** for making false promises during his campaign.

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.

ordeal

n. a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience

synonym : trial, hardship, torment

(1) **ordeal** by fire, (2) emotional **ordeal**

The car accident was a traumatic **ordeal** for everyone involved.

Session 2: Spelling

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|------------------------------|---|
| 1. ho_____ss economy | <i>n.</i> a device used for measuring time consisting of two glass bulbs, connected by a narrow waist, that contains sand or other granular material which takes a set amount of time to pass from one bulb to the other |
| 2. wax a ha_____y floor | <i>n.</i> an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open |
| 3. ev__e capture | <i>v.</i> to escape from or avoid meeting someone or something |
| 4. infrared in_____er system | <i>n.</i> someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something |
| 5. a w__p of mist | <i>n.</i> a thin, delicate strand or vestige of something, such as smoke, vapor, or a piece of hair; a faint, barely perceptible indication or hint of something; a small creature or fairy, often depicted as a hovering, translucent figure |
| 6. de_____on in advertising | <i>n.</i> the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action |
| 7. prophet of d__m | <i>n.</i> death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided |
| 8. the head of a ha_____y | <i>n.</i> an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open |

ANSWERS: 1. hourglass, 2. hallway, 3. evade, 4. intruder, 5. wisp, 6. deception, 7. doom, 8. hallway

9. 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
10. ev__e an issue *v.* to escape from or avoid meeting someone or something
11. 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
12. ru___e down the dirt track *v.* to make a low, heavy continuous sound
13. a w__p of conversation *n.* a thin, delicate strand or vestige of something, such as smoke, vapor, or a piece of hair; a faint, barely perceptible indication or hint of something; a small creature or fairy, often depicted as a hovering, translucent figure
14. economic d__m *n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided
15. ho_____ss figure *n.* a device used for measuring time consisting of two glass bulbs, connected by a narrow waist, that contains sand or other granular material which takes a set amount of time to pass from one bulb to the other
16. emotional or___l *n.* a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience
17. de_____on tactics *n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

ANSWERS: 9. determinant, 10. evade, 11. inscription, 12. rumble, 13. wisp, 14. doom, 15. hourglass, 16. ordeal, 17. deception

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. 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

2. The homeowner called the police when they spotted an _____ in their backyard.
 - n.* someone who enters a place or situation without permission or invitation; someone who interrupts or interferes in something

3. The car accident was a traumatic _____ for everyone involved.
 - n.* a painful, difficult, or dangerous experience or trial; a severe test of endurance or patience

4. The _____ of smoke from the candle added to the room's cozy ambiance.
 - n.* a thin, delicate strand or vestige of something, such as smoke, vapor, or a piece of hair; a faint, barely perceptible indication or hint of something; a small creature or fairy, often depicted as a hovering, translucent figure

5. The politician was accused of _____ for making false promises during his campaign.
 - n.* the act of misleading or tricking someone, often by creating a false impression or concealing the truth; a fraudulent or dishonest action

6. Everyone was aware of the impending _____ but was unable to prevent it.
 - n.* death, destruction, or some other terrible situation that cannot be avoided

7. 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: 1. determinant, 2. intruder, 3. ordeal, 4. wisp, 5. deception, 6. doom, 7. inscription

8. The thunder _____ in the distance.
v. to make a low, heavy continuous sound
9. He dashed down a _____ to a bathroom.
n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
10. The jailbroken criminal is continuously attempting to _____ the cops.
v. to escape from or avoid meeting someone or something
11. The _____ on the table was used to time the cooking of the cookies.
n. a device used for measuring time consisting of two glass bulbs, connected by a narrow waist, that contains sand or other granular material which takes a set amount of time to pass from one bulb to the other

ANSWERS: 8. rumbled, 9. hallway, 10. evade, 11. hourglass