

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Colm Kelleher: What is Zeno's Dichotomy Paradox? | TED Talk

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

All Words

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

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.

philosophy

n. the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind

synonym: doctrine, attitude, creed

(1) **philosophy** of education, (2) western **philosophy**

Ethics is a branch of **philosophy**.

invention

n. the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing

synonym: creation, design, innovation

(1) the **invention** of new techniques, (2) common **invention**

Necessity is the mother of **invention**.

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**.

argument

n. a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute

synonym: debate, discourse, discussion

(1) a blazing **argument**, (2) the **argument** against capital punishment

The **argument** between the two sides over the proposed policy was heated.

conclude

v. to come to an end or close; to reach a judgment or opinion by reasoning

synonym: complete, finish, decide

(1) **conclude** a meeting, (2) **conclude** that he is healthy

We **concluded** a cease-fire.

absurd

adj. ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical

synonym: ridiculous, foolish, idiotic

(1) **absurd** storyline, (2) an **absurd** amount of money

We immediately rejected his **absurd** suggestion.

contradictory

adj. containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements

synonym: conflicting, opposing, inconsistent

(1) apparently **contradictory**, (2) **contradictory** evidence

His statements were **contradictory**, leaving the audience confused.

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.

inspire

v. to make somebody fill with the desire, confidence, or enthusiasm, especially to do something creative

synonym: boost, encourage, enlighten

(1) **inspire** a feeling of curiosity, (2) **inspire** him to write a novel

The unique style of this martial arts **inspired** many action film producers.

mathematics

n. the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement

synonym: arithmetic, calculation, calculus

(1) a good grounding in **mathematics**, (2) **mathematics** competition

He has a flair for **mathematics**.

infinity

n. the state or quality of having no end or limit; (mathematics) a number greater than any natural number

synonym: endlessness, boundlessness, continuity

(1) the **infinity** of the universe, (2) negative **infinity**

That investor saw an **infinity** of possibilities in this company.

dichotomy

n. a division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different; a sharp contrast between two opposing and mutually exclusive categories or concepts

synonym: division, duality, contrast

(1) moral **dichotomy**, (2) psychological **dichotomy**

The **dichotomy** between good and evil is common in literature and philosophy.

decide

v. to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options

synonym: choose, determine, settle

(1) **decide** a question, (2) **decide** on a course of action

She couldn't **decide** whether to order the pizza or the pasta for dinner.

finite

adj. having a limit or restriction of size, time, etc.

synonym : delimited, defined, limited

(1) **finite** resources, (2) **finite** decimal

Human beings have a **finite** lifespan, so we yearn for the idea of immortality.

halfway

adj. in or at a point midway or an equal distance between two points

synonym : middle, median, center

(1) **halfway** through my journey, (2) **halfway** decent job

The famous restaurant stands **halfway** up the hill.

distance

n. the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance

synonym : space, gap, span

(1) driving **distance**, (2) social **distance**

The marathon runner covered a long **distance** in a short amount of time.

divide

v. to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups

synonym : separate, disconnect, split

(1) **divide** the cake into two pieces, (2) **divide** money equally

Can you **divide** 123321 by eleven?

traverse

v. to cross or move through a land or water area

synonym : cross, pass through, travel over

(1) **traverse** the region, (2) **traverse** a vast extent of sea
Approximately 1000 automobiles **traverse** the bridge every day.

infinite

adj. unlimited or very great; impossible to measure

synonym : boundless, countless, limitless

(1) **infinite** appetite, (2) **infinite** in supply

The battle had an **infinite** impact on the nation.

locate

v. to specify or determine the exact position of someone or something

synonym: discover, find, place

(1) **locate** a missing pet, (2) **locate** a tumor

The robot can accurately **locate** construction material.

flaw

n. a fault, mistake, or weakness that causes something not to be perfect

synonym: defect, fault, imperfection

(1) a minor **flaw**, (2) the **flaw** in the legislation

Even the slightest design **flaw** in an aircraft can lead to a fatal accident.

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.

resolve

v. to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty

synonym: decide, determine, fix

(1) **resolve** a dispute, (2) **resolve** the computer error

This company **resolves** its battery problem completely.

suppose

v. to think that something is likely to be actual or possible

synonym: guess, assume, presume

(1) **suppose** you're right, (2) **suppose** beforehand

What do you **suppose** the culprit's motive was?

quarter

n. one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion

synonym: fourth, one-fourth

(1) a **quarter** mile, (2) end of the first **quarter**

The unemployment rate in the first **quarter** was 2.3

percentage points higher than in the previous.

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**.

individual

n. a single person or thing, as distinct from a group

synonym : person, being, self

(1) a private **individual**, (2) **individual** freedom

As an **individual**, he had the right to make his own decisions and live his life as he saw fit.

chop

v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife

synonym : cut, hack, slice

(1) **chop** wood, (2) **chop** a meet with a knife

The cook **chopped** the vegetables for the soup.

slice

n. a flat, often thin, piece of bread, meat, cheese, etc., that has been cut from a larger piece; a wound made by cutting

synonym : piece, portion, slit

(1) a **slice** of the company's revenue, (2) **slice** a tomato thin

The children complained because one **slice** of cake was slightly larger than the other.

obtain

v. to get something, especially by making a great effort

synonym : accept, acquire, receive

(1) **obtain** a license, (2) **obtain** a bid

Where can I **obtain** the application form?

construct

v. to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole

synonym : build, assemble, create

(1) **construct** a 3D image, (2) **construct** a dam
He **constructs** hypotheses that no mathematician has ever imagined before.

jargon

n. specialized language or vocabulary used by a particular group or profession that is often difficult for outsiders to understand; language that is full of technical slang or obscure terms and is often used to obscure or confuse rather than clarify

synonym: lingo, vernacular, slang

(1) business **jargon**, (2) scientific **jargon**

The financial industry is notorious for using complicated **jargon** that confuses consumers.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. re____e a dispute | <i>v.</i> to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty |
| 2. ha____y through my journey | <i>adj.</i> in or at a point midway or an equal distance between two points |
| 3. di___e money equally | <i>v.</i> to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups |
| 4. c__p a meet with a knife | <i>v.</i> to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife |
| 5. the eq_____on of poverty with ignorance | <i>n.</i> the act of regarding as equal; (mathematics) a statement that expresses the equality of two expressions by connecting them with the equals sign |
| 6. sl__e a tomato thin | <i>n.</i> a flat, often thin, piece of bread, meat, cheese, etc., that has been cut from a larger piece; a wound made by cutting |
| 7. social di_____ce | <i>n.</i> the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance |
| 8. the pa_____x of the heap | <i>n.</i> a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange; |
| 9. the in_____on of new techniques | <i>n.</i> the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing |

ANSWERS: 1. resolve, 2. halfway, 3. divide, 4. chop, 5. equation, 6. slice, 7. distance, 8. paradox, 9. invention

10. tr____se the region *v.* to cross or move through a land or water area
11. end of the first qu____r *n.* one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion
12. ab____d storyline *adj.* ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical
13. in____te appetite *adj.* unlimited or very great; impossible to measure
14. common in _____on *n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing
15. c__p wood *v.* to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife
16. scientific ja____n *n.* specialized language or vocabulary used by a particular group or profession that is often difficult for outsiders to understand; language that is full of technical slang or obscure terms and is often used to obscure or confuse rather than clarify
17. a blazing ar____nt *n.* a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute
18. mat____cs competition *n.* the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement
19. lo____e a tumor *v.* to specify or determine the exact position of someone or something

ANSWERS: 10. traverse, 11. quarter, 12. absurd, 13. infinite, 14. invention, 15. chop, 16. jargon, 17. argument, 18. mathematics, 19. locate

20. an ab___d amount of money *adj.* ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical
21. 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
22. an_____t stories *adj.* relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
23. in_____e him to write a novel *v.* to make somebody fill with the desire, confidence, or enthusiasm, especially to do something creative
24. ha_____y decent job *adj.* in or at a point midway or an equal distance between two points
25. 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
26. 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;
27. de___e on a course of action *v.* to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options
28. psychological di_____my *n.* a division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different; a sharp contrast between two opposing and mutually exclusive categories or concepts

ANSWERS: 20. absurd, 21. logic, 22. ancient, 23. inspire, 24. halfway, 25. riddle, 26. paradox, 27. decide, 28. dichotomy

29. co_____ct a 3D image *v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
30. a private ind_____al *n.* a single person or thing, as distinct from a group
31. co_____de that he is healthy *v.* to come to an end or close; to reach a judgment or opinion by reasoning
32. a good grounding in mat_____cs *n.* the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement
33. the f__w in the legislation *n.* a fault, mistake, or weakness that causes something not to be perfect
34. ob___n a bid *v.* to get something, especially by making a great effort
35. su_____e you're right *v.* to think that something is likely to be actual or possible
36. fi___e resources *adj.* having a limit or restriction of size, time, etc.
37. ind_____al freedom *n.* a single person or thing, as distinct from a group
38. western phi_____hy *n.* the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind
39. 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
40. phi_____hy of education *n.* the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind

ANSWERS: 29. construct, 30. individual, 31. conclude, 32. mathematics, 33. flaw, 34. obtain, 35. suppose, 36. finite, 37. individual, 38. philosophy, 39. riddle, 40. philosophy

41. in_____te in supply *adj.* unlimited or very great; impossible to measure
42. the ar_____nt against capital punishment *n.* a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute
43. 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
44. lo_____e a missing pet *v.* to specify or determine the exact position of someone or something
45. apparently con_____ory *adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
46. negative in_____ty *n.* the state or quality of having no end or limit; (mathematics) a number greater than any natural number
47. pre-Christian an_____t *adj.* relating to the long ago, particularly the historical period preceding the fall of the Western Roman Empire; very old
48. di_____e the cake into two pieces *v.* to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups
49. con_____ory evidence *adj.* containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
50. co_____ct a dam *v.* to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
51. driving di_____ce *n.* the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance

ANSWERS: 41. infinite, 42. argument, 43. equation, 44. locate, 45. contradictory, 46. infinity, 47. ancient, 48. divide, 49. contradictory, 50. construct, 51. distance

52. re_____e the computer error *v.* to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty
53. moral di_____my *n.* a division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different; a sharp contrast between two opposing and mutually exclusive categories or concepts
54. tr_____se a vast extent of sea *v.* to cross or move through a land or water area
55. a qu_____r mile *n.* one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion
56. business ja_____n *n.* specialized language or vocabulary used by a particular group or profession that is often difficult for outsiders to understand; language that is full of technical slang or obscure terms and is often used to obscure or confuse rather than clarify
57. de_____e a question *v.* to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options
58. the in_____ty of the universe *n.* the state or quality of having no end or limit; (mathematics) a number greater than any natural number
59. ob_____n a license *v.* to get something, especially by making a great effort
60. su_____e beforehand *v.* to think that something is likely to be actual or possible

ANSWERS: 52. resolve, 53. dichotomy, 54. traverse, 55. quarter, 56. jargon, 57. decide, 58. infinity, 59. obtain, 60. suppose

61. fi___e decimal *adj.* having a limit or restriction of size, time, etc.
62. in____e a feeling of curiosity *v.* to make somebody fill with the desire, confidence, or enthusiasm, especially to do something creative
63. 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
64. co____de a meeting *v.* to come to an end or close; to reach a judgment or opinion by reasoning
65. a sl__e of the company's revenue *n.* a flat, often thin, piece of bread, meat, cheese, etc., that has been cut from a larger piece; a wound made by cutting
66. a minor f__w *n.* a fault, mistake, or weakness that causes something not to be perfect

ANSWERS: 61. finite, 62. inspire, 63. logic, 64. conclude, 65. slice, 66. flaw

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He _____ hypotheses that no mathematician has ever imagined before.
v. to build or create something; to assemble or combine different parts to form something whole
2. We _____ a cease-fire.
v. to come to an end or close; to reach a judgment or opinion by reasoning
3. His statements were _____ leaving the audience confused.
adj. containing or consisting of conflicting or incompatible elements
4. The financial industry is notorious for using complicated _____ that confuses consumers.
n. specialized language or vocabulary used by a particular group or profession that is often difficult for outsiders to understand; language that is full of technical slang or obscure terms and is often used to obscure or confuse rather than clarify
5. The unemployment rate in the first _____ was 2.3 percentage points higher than in the previous.
n. one of four equal parts; a fourth part or portion
6. As an _____ he had the right to make his own decisions and live his life as he saw fit.
n. a single person or thing, as distinct from a group
7. He has a flair for _____.
n. the science dealing with the logic of quantities, shapes, spaces, and arrangement

ANSWERS: 1. constructs, 2. concluded, 3. contradictory, 4. jargon, 5. quarter, 6. individual, 7. mathematics

8. Can you _____ 123321 by eleven?

v. to separate or cause to separate into parts or groups

9. The robot can accurately _____ construction material.

v. to specify or determine the exact position of someone or something

10. We immediately rejected his _____ suggestion.

adj. ridiculously silly, unreasonable, or illogical

11. The cook _____ the vegetables for the soup.

v. to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool, such as a knife

12. The famous restaurant stands _____ up the hill.

adj. in or at a point midway or an equal distance between two points

13. 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

14. The battle had an _____ impact on the nation.

adj. unlimited or very great; impossible to measure

15. The unique style of this martial arts _____ many action film producers.

v. to make somebody fill with the desire, confidence, or enthusiasm, especially to do something creative

16. She couldn't _____ whether to order the pizza or the pasta for dinner.

v. to make up someone's mind about something; to come to a conclusion or judgment after considering options

ANSWERS: 8. divide, 9. locate, 10. absurd, 11. chopped, 12. halfway, 13. riddle, 14. infinite, 15. inspired, 16. decide

17. 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

18. What do you _____ the culprit's motive was?

- v.* to think that something is likely to be actual or possible

19. Approximately 1000 automobiles _____ the bridge every day.

- v.* to cross or move through a land or water area

20. Human beings have a _____ lifespan, so we yearn for the idea of immortality.

- adj.* having a limit or restriction of size, time, etc.

21. Where can I _____ the application form?

- v.* to get something, especially by making a great effort

22. 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

23. This company _____ its battery problem completely.

- v.* to find a suitable answer to the problems or difficulty

24. The marathon runner covered a long _____ in a short amount of time.

- n.* the amount of space between two points, measured in units such as miles, meters, or kilometers; the extent, scope, or range between two things, such as distance or emotional distance

25. 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: 17. logic, 18. suppose, 19. traverse, 20. finite, 21. obtain, 22. equations, 23. resolves, 24. distance, 25. paradox

26. That investor saw an _____ of possibilities in this company.
- n.* the state or quality of having no end or limit; (mathematics) a number greater than any natural number
27. Even the slightest design _____ in an aircraft can lead to a fatal accident.
- n.* a fault, mistake, or weakness that causes something not to be perfect
28. Ethics is a branch of _____.
- n.* the study of general and fundamental questions, such as those about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind
29. 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
30. The _____ between the two sides over the proposed policy was heated.
- n.* a set of statements or reasons used to support or refute a proposition or theory; a verbal or physical fight or dispute
31. The children complained because one _____ of cake was slightly larger than the other.
- n.* a flat, often thin, piece of bread, meat, cheese, etc., that has been cut from a larger piece; a wound made by cutting
32. The _____ between good and evil is common in literature and philosophy.
- n.* a division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different; a sharp contrast between two opposing and mutually exclusive categories or concepts
33. Necessity is the mother of _____.
- n.* the creation of a new device or process resulting from study and experimentation; the act of inventing

ANSWERS: 26. infinity, 27. flaw, 28. philosophy, 29. ancient, 30. argument, 31. slice, 32. dichotomy, 33. invention

ANSWERS: