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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Asaf Bar-Yosef: An athlete uses physics to shatter world records | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

straddle

- v. to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

synonym : strive, sit astride, span

- (1) **straddle** a fence, (2) **straddle** a motorcycle

We had to **straddle** the fallen tree to cross the river.

improvisation

- n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

synonym : spontaneity, ad-lib, extemporization

- (1) **improvisation** on stage, (2) jazz **improvisation**

He created a beautiful piece of music using only **improvisation**.

amaze

- v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

synonym : astound, surprise, stagger

- (1) **amaze** and entertain visitors, (2) **amaze** everyone

The magician's tricks **amazed** the audience.

olympiad

- n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held

every four years

(1) the modern **olympiad**, (2) summer **olympiad**

She won a gold medal in the physics **olympiad** and was praised by her teachers and peers.

broom

n. a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces

synonym: sweeper, brush

(1) **broom** closet, (2) **broom** handle

Could you please grab the **broom** and sweep the crumbs on the floor?

boomerang

n. a curved, flat wooden or metal weapon that is thrown and can return to the thrower; a plan, action, or attempt that unintentionally rebounds on the person who initiates it

synonym: bouncing bomb, comeback, backfire

(1) **boomerang** effect, (2) throw a **boomerang**

The criticism that he gave to his boss ended up **boomeranging** on himself.

divert

v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

synonym: distract, redirect, sidetrack

(1) **divert** attention, (2) **divert** an assault

Due to the road construction, we had to **divert** our course to get to the restaurant.

Session 2: Spelling

1. bo_____ng effect
n. a curved, flat wooden or metal weapon that is thrown and can return to the thrower; a plan, action, or attempt that unintentionally rebounds on the person who initiates it
2. br__m closet
n. a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces
3. br__m handle
n. a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces
4. throw a bo_____ng
n. a curved, flat wooden or metal weapon that is thrown and can return to the thrower; a plan, action, or attempt that unintentionally rebounds on the person who initiates it
5. di___t attention
v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
6. st_____le a motorcycle
v. to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

ANSWERS: 1. boomerang, 2. broom, 3. broom, 4. boomerang, 5. divert, 6. straddle

7. st____le a fence v. to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests
8. am__e everyone v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
9. am__e and entertain visitors v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration
10. di____t an assault v. to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose
11. jazz imp_____ion n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
12. imp_____ion on stage n. the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
13. the modern ol____ad n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years
14. summer ol____ad n. a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years

ANSWERS: 7. straddle, 8. amaze, 9. amaze, 10. divert, 11. improvisation, 12. improvisation, 13. olympiad, 14. olympiad

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. Could you please grab the _____ and sweep the crumbs on the floor?
 - n.* a cleaning tool that typically consists of a long handle with a bundle of stiff bristles or fibers at one end, used for sweeping or cleaning floors or other surfaces

2. He created a beautiful piece of music using only _____.
 - n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation

3. Due to the road construction, we had to _____ our course to get to the restaurant.
 - v.* to change the course or direction of something, often away from a specific path or target; to entertain or amuse someone, often to distract them from a problem or concern; to appropriate something for a different purpose

4. She won a gold medal in the physics _____ and was praised by her teachers and peers.
 - n.* a period of four years, originally the time between the ancient Olympic Games and now commonly used to refer to the modern Olympic Games, which are held every four years

5. The criticism that he gave to his boss ended up _____ on himself.
 - n.* a curved, flat wooden or metal weapon that is thrown and can return to the thrower; a plan, action, or attempt that unintentionally rebounds on the person who initiates it

6. We had to _____ the fallen tree to cross the river.
 - v.* to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something or someone; to adopt a position or attitude that involves a compromise or combination of two or more opposing principles, ideas, or interests

ANSWERS: 1. broom, 2. improvisation, 3. divert, 4. olympiad, 5. boomeranging, 6. straddle

7. The magician's tricks _____ the audience.

v. to fill with wonder, surprise, or admiration

ANSWERS: 7. amazed