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Garth Sundem: How to defeat a dragon with math | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

swashbuckler

n. a person, typically a fictional character in literature or film, who engages in daring and flamboyant actions, especially in fights or adventures

synonym: adventurer, daredevil, swordsman

(1) famous **swashbuckler**, (2) adventurous **swashbuckler**

He played the role of a charismatic **swashbuckler** in the adventure film.

musket

n. a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle

synonym: rifle, firearm, gun

(1) antique **musket**, (2) civil war **musket**

The **musket** ball was made of lead and could cause serious injuries or even death to those hit by it.

parenthesis

n. a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification

synonym: bracket, round bracket, curved bracket

(1) a sentence in **parenthesis**, (2) **parenthesis** in literature

Make sure to include all necessary information within the

parenthesis in your citation.

subtraction

n. the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities

synonym: deduction, minus, withdrawal

(1) **subtraction** equation, (2) double-digit **subtraction**

The **subtraction** of expenses from revenue resulted in a net profit for the company.

exponent

n. a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself

synonym: advocate, representative, exponent

(1) **exponent** function, (2) the **exponent** of the free market

The CEO is an **exponent** of innovation and encourages employees to think outside the box.

communion

n. the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist

synonym: affinity, intimacy, camaraderie

(1) **communion** with God, (2) spiritual **communion** with nature

We use this tableware in a **communion** service.

Senate

n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

synonym: upper house, council, assembly

(1) **Senate** hearing, (2) **Senate** Finance Committee

The **Senate** majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

emperor

n. the male ruler of an empire

synonym: ruler, king, dictator

(1) **emperor** of Rome, (2) former **emperor**

The **Emperor** once lived in the vast palace.

voracious

adj. having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

synonym: ravenous, insatiable, greedy

(1) **voracious** thirst, (2) **voracious** reader

The **voracious** appetite of the teenager was legendary.

valiant

adj. brave and courageous; marked by great courage or determination in the face of danger or adversity

synonym: brave, courageous, heroic

(1) show **valiant** spirit, (2) **valiant** knight

The teacher made a **valiant** effort to inspire her students to pursue their dreams.

steed

n. a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

synonym: horse, mount, charger

(1) a matchless **steed**, (2) black **steed**

The knight rode his trusty **steed** into battle.

squash

v. to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

synonym: smash, crush, compress

(1) **squash** a package, (2) **squash** a rebellion

I like to **squash** my grapes when making homemade wine.

huddle

v. to crowd or press closely together; cuddle

synonym: cluster, crowd, group

(1) **huddle** in a temporary shelter, (2) **huddle** around the open fire

The children **huddled** together for warmth in the cold winter storm.

bicker

v. to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms

synonym : quarrel, dispute, argue

(1) **bicker** over small things, (2) **bicker** with each other
My siblings always **bicker** over who gets the front seat in the car.

whittle

v. to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something

synonym : carve, pare, trim

(1) **whittle** wooden toys, (2) **whittle** down expenses
The skilled craftsman used a pocket knife to **whittle** a small figurine from a wood block.

fearsome

adj. causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable

synonym : terrifying, alarming, intimidating

(1) **fearsome** creature, (2) **fearsome** reputation
The dragon's **fearsome** roar echoed through the valley.

roar

v. to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine

synonym : bellow, yell, shout

(1) **roar** with laughter, (2) **roar** for more
The lion **roared** loudly, signaling its dominance over the other animals.

vanquish

v. to defeat or conquer thoroughly; to overcome and gain control over someone or something

synonym : conquer, triumph over, defeat

(1) **vanquish** an opponent, (2) **vanquish** a fear
The army successfully **vanquished** their enemy in the battle and gained control of the territory.

Session 2: Spelling

1. wh____e down expenses
v. to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something
2. civil war mu____t
n. a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle
3. va____t knight
adj. brave and courageous; marked by great courage or determination in the face of danger or adversity
4. Se____e hearing
n. a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament
5. r__r with laughter
v. to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine
6. bi____r with each other
v. to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms
7. ex____nt function
n. a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself
8. sub_____on equation
n. the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities

ANSWERS: 1. whittle, 2. musket, 3. valiant, 4. Senate, 5. roar, 6. bicker, 7. exponent, 8. subtraction

9. former em____r *n.* the male ruler of an empire
10. hu___e around the open fire *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
11. antique mu___t *n.* a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle
12. bi___r over small things *v.* to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms
13. co_____on with God *n.* the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist
14. fe_____me creature *adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable
15. wh_____e wooden toys *v.* to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something
16. show va_____t spirit *adj.* brave and courageous; marked by great courage or determination in the face of danger or adversity
17. va_____sh a fear *v.* to defeat or conquer thoroughly; to overcome and gain control over someone or something
18. famous swa_____ler *n.* a person, typically a fictional character in literature or film, who engages in daring and flamboyant actions, especially in fights or adventures

ANSWERS: 9. emperor, 10. huddle, 11. musket, 12. bicker, 13. communion, 14. fearsome, 15. whittle, 16. valiant, 17. vanquish, 18. swashbuckler

19. par_____is in literature *n.* a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification
20. vo_____us reader *adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something
21. a sentence in par_____is *n.* a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification
22. sq___h a package *v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully
23. the ex_____nt of the free market *n.* a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself
24. sq___h a rebellion *v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully
25. Se___e Finance Committee *n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

ANSWERS: 19. parenthesis, 20. voracious, 21. parenthesis, 22. squash, 23. exponent, 24. squash, 25. Senate

26. hu___e in a temporary shelter *v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle
27. black st__d *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle
28. spiritual co_____on with nature *n.* the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings; (Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist
29. a matchless st__d *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle
30. r__r for more *v.* to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine
31. va_____sh an opponent *v.* to defeat or conquer thoroughly; to overcome and gain control over someone or something
32. double-digit sub_____on *n.* the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities
33. vo_____us thirst *adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something
34. adventurous swa_____ler *n.* a person, typically a fictional character in literature or film, who engages in daring and flamboyant actions, especially in fights or adventures
35. fe_____me reputation *adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable

ANSWERS: 26. huddle, 27. steed, 28. communion, 29. steed, 30. roar, 31. vanquish, 32. subtraction, 33. voracious, 34. swashbuckler, 35. fearsome

36. em____r of Rome

n. the male ruler of an empire

ANSWERS: 36. emperor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We use this tableware in a _____ service.
 - n.* the act or condition of exchanging or sharing thoughts and feelings;
(Christianity) the act of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist

2. The army successfully _____ their enemy in the battle and gained control of the territory.
 - v.* to defeat or conquer thoroughly; to overcome and gain control over someone or something

3. The _____ majority leader announced plans to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.
 - n.* a legislative body, especially the upper house of a parliament

4. The children _____ together for warmth in the cold winter storm.
 - v.* to crowd or press closely together; cuddle

5. The teacher made a _____ effort to inspire her students to pursue their dreams.
 - adj.* brave and courageous; marked by great courage or determination in the face of danger or adversity

6. The dragon's _____ roar echoed through the valley.
 - adj.* causing fear or terror; frightening, alarming, or formidable

7. Make sure to include all necessary information within the _____ in your citation.
 - n.* a pair of curved marks () used in writing as a way of separating and marking off a clause, phrase, or word that is not essential to the structure of the sentence but adds additional information or clarification

ANSWERS: 1. communion, 2. vanquished, 3. Senate, 4. huddled, 5. valiant, 6. fearsome, 7. parenthesis

8. The CEO is an _____ of innovation and encourages employees to think outside the box.
- n.* a person who supports and promotes a particular theory, idea, or scheme; a numerical expression usually written as a superscript that indicates the number of times a given number or expression is to be multiplied by itself
9. My siblings always _____ over who gets the front seat in the car.
- v.* to engage in a petty or argumentative disagreement, often characterized by back-and-forth exchanges and trivial accusations or criticisms
10. The _____ once lived in the vast palace.
- n.* the male ruler of an empire
11. The skilled craftsman used a pocket knife to _____ a small figurine from a wood block.
- v.* to carve or cut away small pieces of wood, stone, or other materials with a knife or other sharp tool; to gradually reduce or diminish something
12. The _____ ball was made of lead and could cause serious injuries or even death to those hit by it.
- n.* a long, smoothbore gun used in warfare from the 16th to 19th centuries, typically fired from the shoulder and loaded through the muzzle
13. The lion _____ loudly, signaling its dominance over the other animals.
- v.* to make a loud, deep sound, like a lion or a car engine
14. He played the role of a charismatic _____ in the adventure film.
- n.* a person, typically a fictional character in literature or film, who engages in daring and flamboyant actions, especially in fights or adventures

ANSWERS: 8. exponent, 9. bicker, 10. Emperor, 11. whittle, 12. musket, 13. roared, 14. swashbuckler

15. I like to _____ my grapes when making homemade wine.

- v.* to forcefully crush or flatten something; to suppress, stifle, or defeat an idea or opposition forcefully

16. The _____ appetite of the teenager was legendary.

- adj.* having a very strong appetite or desire for something, especially for food or activity; extremely eager or enthusiastic for something

17. The _____ of expenses from revenue resulted in a net profit for the company.

- n.* the process or action of removing one number from another; the mathematical operation of finding the difference between two numbers or quantities

18. The knight rode his trusty _____ into battle.

- n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

ANSWERS: 15. squash, 16. voracious, 17. subtraction, 18. steed