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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Renny Gleeson: 404, the story of a page not found |

TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/renny_gleeson_404_the_story_of_a_page_not_found

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

dicey

adj. risky, uncertain, or unpredictable; involving a potential for danger or uncertain outcomes

synonym : risky, precarious, uncertain

(1) **dicey** situation, (2) **dicey** gamble

The weather forecast warned of **dicey** conditions on the mountain pass.

unicorn

n. a mythical horse-like creature with a single horn on its forehead; a privately held startup company that reached a valuation of \$1 billion

synonym : mythical creature, fantasy animal, legendary horse

(1) **unicorn** beetle, (2) **unicorn** investors

In medieval times, people believed that the **unicorn** horn had magical powers that could cure diseases.

slap

v. to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly

synonym : smack, hit, whack

(1) **slap** on the back, (2) **slap** a heavy fine

The politician tried to **slap** down the rumors about his personal life.

skim

v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface

synonym: glance, scan, skitter

(1) **skim** off the top, (2) **skim** the surface of the water

I like to **skim** the newspaper headlines in the morning to catch up on the news.

incubator

n. an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses

synonym: hatchery, brooder, nursery

(1) infant **incubator**, (2) business **incubator** program

The eggs were placed in an artificial **incubator** to ensure proper hatching conditions.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym: suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager

synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion

The news of her promotion **excited** her.

Session 2: Spelling

1. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
2. s__p on the back *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
3. un_____n beetle *n.* a mythical horse-like creature with a single horn on its forehead; a privately held startup company that reached a valuation of \$1 billion
4. ex___e rebellion *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
5. s__m the surface of the water *v.* to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface
6. business in_____or program *n.* an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses
7. di__y situation *adj.* risky, uncertain, or unpredictable; involving a potential for danger or uncertain outcomes

ANSWERS: 1. opportune, 2. slap, 3. unicorn, 4. excite, 5. skim, 6. incubator, 7. dicey

8. s__p a heavy fine *v.* to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
9. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
10. infant in_____or *n.* an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses
11. ex___e the crowd *v.* to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
12. un_____n investors *n.* a mythical horse-like creature with a single horn on its forehead; a privately held startup company that reached a valuation of \$1 billion
13. s__m off the top *v.* to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface
14. di__y gamble *adj.* risky, uncertain, or unpredictable; involving a potential for danger or uncertain outcomes

ANSWERS: 8. slap, 9. opportune, 10. incubator, 11. excite, 12. unicorn, 13. skim, 14. dicey

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The weather forecast warned of _____ conditions on the mountain pass.
adj. risky, uncertain, or unpredictable; involving a potential for danger or uncertain outcomes
2. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
3. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
4. The politician tried to _____ down the rumors about his personal life.
v. to strike something or someone with an open palm or flat object, producing a sharp sound or sensation; to place something firmly, suddenly, or unexpectedly
5. The eggs were placed in an artificial _____ to ensure proper hatching conditions.
n. an apparatus in which conditions are controlled for hatching eggs, growing cells, or keeping people or animals warm; a place, especially with support staff and equipment, offered at a low cost to new small businesses
6. In medieval times, people believed that the _____ horn had magical powers that could cure diseases.
n. a mythical horse-like creature with a single horn on its forehead; a privately held startup company that reached a valuation of \$1 billion
7. I like to _____ the newspaper headlines in the morning to catch up on the news.
v. to read something quickly to get a general idea of its contents; to remove any unwanted or unnecessary material from the surface of a liquid; to glide smoothly or briefly over a surface

ANSWERS: 1. dicey, 2. excited, 3. opportune, 4. slap, 5. incubator, 6. unicorn, 7. skim

ANSWERS: