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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Aaron Sams: How to speed up chemical reactions

(and get a date) | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

unbeknownst

adv. without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation

synonym: secretly, covertly

(1) **unbeknownst** to me, (2) **unbeknownst** to any of us

Unbeknownst to the family, the treasure had been hidden in the attic for years.

squarely

adv. directly and firmly; in a square shape

synonym: honestly, justly, straightforwardly

(1) look **squarely** at reality, (2) a **squarely** cut piece of paper

We must **squarely** address the problem.

recollect

v. to remember or call to mind something from the past

synonym: remember, recall, reminisce

(1) **recollect** the image, (2) as far as I can **recollect**

She closed her eyes and tried to **recollect** her thoughts before the meeting.

politely

adv. in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others

synonym: courteously, respectfully, graciously

(1) **politely** ask, (2) nodded **politely**

She **politely** declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.

collide

v. to hit something violently when moving

synonym: clash, slam, contradict

(1) **collide** head-on, (2) **collide** in midair

The interests of the two countries **collide**.

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.

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**.

insulate

v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.

synonym: isolate, protect, seclude

(1) **insulate** the room from sound, (2) **insulate** electricity

We had our bedroom **insulated** before winter came.

clump

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

synonym: cluster, bunch, bundle

(1) **clump** of bacteria, (2) a **clump** of trees

I heard the **clump** of his boots in the hallway.

matchmake

v. to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker

synonym: arrange marriages, pair up, introduce people

(1) **matchmake** a couple, (2) **matchmake** people based on

their interests

She tried to **matchmake** her two friends on a blind date, but it was a disaster.

orient

v. to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia
synonym: position, align, adjust

(1) **orient** my thinking, (2) the exotic flavor of the **Orient**
She took a moment to **orient** herself in the unfamiliar city.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. re_____ct the image | <i>v.</i> to remember or call to mind something from the past |
| 2. nodded po_____ly | <i>adv.</i> in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others |
| 3. in_____te electricity | <i>v.</i> to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc. |
| 4. co_____e in midair | <i>v.</i> to hit something violently when moving |
| 5. look sq_____ly at reality | <i>adv.</i> directly and firmly; in a square shape |
| 6. unb_____st to any of us | <i>adv.</i> without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation |
| 7. the exotic flavor of the Or____t | <i>v.</i> to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia |
| 8. a sq_____ly cut piece of paper | <i>adv.</i> directly and firmly; in a square shape |
| 9. ma_____ke a couple | <i>v.</i> to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker |
| 10. imp_____ion on stage | <i>n.</i> the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation |
| 11. cl__p of bacteria | <i>n.</i> a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc. |

ANSWERS: 1. recollect, 2. politely, 3. insulate, 4. collide, 5. squarely, 6. unbeknownst, 7. orient, 8. squarely, 9. matchmake, 10. improvisation, 11. clump

12. in_____te the room from sound *v.* to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
13. jazz imp_____ion *n.* the act of making something up on the spot or creating or performing something without preparation
14. po_____ly ask *adv.* in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
15. a cl__p of trees *n.* a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.
16. co_____e head-on *v.* to hit something violently when moving
17. the head of a ha_____y *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
18. ma_____ke people based on their interests *v.* to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker
19. unb_____st to me *adv.* without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
20. wax a ha_____y floor *n.* an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open
21. or____t my thinking *v.* to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia
22. as far as I can re_____ct *v.* to remember or call to mind something from the past

ANSWERS: 12. insulate, 13. improvisation, 14. politely, 15. clump, 16. collide, 17. hallway, 18. matchmake, 19. unbeknownst, 20. hallway, 21. orient, 22. recollect

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. We must _____ address the problem.
adv. directly and firmly; in a square shape
2. _____ to the family, the treasure had been hidden in the attic for years.
adv. without the knowledge or awareness of someone; without someone's knowledge or participation
3. The interests of the two countries _____.
v. to hit something violently when moving
4. She tried to _____ her two friends on a blind date, but it was a disaster.
v. to arrange or facilitate a romantic relationship or marriage between two people; to act as a matchmaker
5. She took a moment to _____ herself in the unfamiliar city.
v. to position or adjust someone or something for a particular purpose; (noun) the countries of Asia
6. We had our bedroom _____ before winter came.
v. to protect something by interposing material that prevents heat, noise, electricity, etc.
7. She _____ declined the invitation to the party, saying she had other plans.
adv. in a courteous or respectful manner, showing good manners or consideration for others
8. She closed her eyes and tried to _____ her thoughts before the meeting.
v. to remember or call to mind something from the past

ANSWERS: 1. squarely, 2. Unbeknownst, 3. collide, 4. matchmake, 5. orient, 6. insulated, 7. politely, 8. recollect

9. He dashed down a _____ to a bathroom.

n. an interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open

10. I heard the _____ of his boots in the hallway.

n. a small group of bushes, trees, flowers, people, etc.

11. 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

ANSWERS: 9. hallway, 10. clump, 11. improvisation