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Jeff Dekofsky: Euclid's puzzling parallel postulate |
TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

Euclidean

adj. relating to or based on the geometry set forth by the ancient Greek mathematician Euclid, characterized by straight lines, flat planes, and the absence of curvature

synonym : geometric

(1) **Euclidean** geometry, (2) **Euclidean** space

Euclidean distance measures the straight-line distance between two points in space.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym : cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

convoluted

adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

synonym : intricate, complex, bending

(1) **convoluted** plot, (2) **convoluted** legal language

James Joyce's books are full of long, **convoluted** sentences.

transverse

adj. lying or extending across something or from side to side

synonym: crosswise, perpendicular, lateral

(1) **transverse** section, (2) **transverse** wave

The **transverse** beam provided additional support for the structure.

intersect

v. to meet or cross one another

synonym: cross, bisect, cut

(1) **intersect** at a point, (2) railways **intersect** the country

Her multidisciplinary works **intersect** music and picture with writing.

negate

v. to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something

synonym: refuse, nullify, annul

(1) **negate** the possibility, (2) **negate** the existing system

Drinking may **negate** the beneficial effects of the drug.

curvature

n. the degree to which a line or surface deviates from being straight or flat; a measure of the amount of bending of a curve

synonym: bend, arch, bow

(1) the degree of **curvature**, (2) spinal **curvature**

The **curvature** of the earth can be seen from space.

posit

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

synonym: assert, declare, assume

(1) **posit** the existence of life after death, (2) **posit** the premise

We should **posit** several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

adept

adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

synonym: proficient, masterful, experienced

(1) **adept** at fishing, (2) **adept** in handicrafts

She is highly **adept** with medical equipment.

elliptical

adj. having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve);
using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague,
especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself

synonym: oval, egg-shaped, oblong

(1) an **elliptical** motion, (2) an **elliptical** galaxies

The satellite's **elliptical** orbit made it appear to change its distance from earth.

hyperbole

n. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken
used to create emphasis or to make a point

synonym: exaggeration, overstatement, embellishment

(1) escalate the **hyperbole**, (2) avoid **hyperbole** in writing

The marketing campaign relied heavily on **hyperbole** to sell the product.

warp

v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of
being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of
something

synonym: twist, distort, deform

(1) **warp** under pressure, (2) become **warped**

The ship's hull was **warped** from years of use in rough seas.

inkling

n. a slight or vague understanding or idea of something; a
hint or intimation of something, often something that is
not fully understood or realized

synonym: hint, suggestion, clue

(1) first **inkling**, (2) **inkling** of hope

The news gave us an **inkling** of what was going on in the world.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information,
especially at an advanced level

synonym: mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar

objects.

preconceived

adj. (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness

(1) a **preconceived** notion, (2) **preconceived** opinions

We should start a discussion from scratch with no **preconceived** ideas.

Session 2: Spelling

1. Eu_____an geometry
adj. relating to or based on the geometry set forth by the ancient Greek mathematician Euclid, characterized by straight lines, flat planes, and the absence of curvature
2. an ell_____al galaxies
adj. having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself
3. ne___e the possibility
v. to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something
4. con_____ed plot
adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
5. po__t the existence of life after death
v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration
6. environmental det_____nt
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
7. tra_____se wave
adj. lying or extending across something or from side to side
8. in_____g of hope
n. a slight or vague understanding or idea of something; a hint or intimation of something, often something that is not fully understood or realized

ANSWERS: 1. Euclidean, 2. elliptical, 3. negate, 4. convoluted, 5. posit, 6. determinant, 7. transverse, 8. inkling

9. con_____ed legal language *adj.* extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand
10. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
11. Eu_____an space *adj.* relating to or based on the geometry set forth by the ancient Greek mathematician Euclid, characterized by straight lines, flat planes, and the absence of curvature
12. spinal cu_____re *n.* the degree to which a line or surface deviates from being straight or flat; a measure of the amount of bending of a curve
13. the degree of cu_____re *n.* the degree to which a line or surface deviates from being straight or flat; a measure of the amount of bending of a curve
14. a pre_____ved notion *adj.* (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness
15. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
16. railways in_____ct the country *v.* to meet or cross one another
17. become w__ped *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

ANSWERS: 9. convoluted, 10. intellect, 11. Euclidean, 12. curvature, 13. curvature, 14. preconceived, 15. intellect, 16. intersect, 17. warp

18. escalate the hy_____le *n.* exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
19. an ell_____al motion *adj.* having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself
20. avoid hy_____le in writing *n.* exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
21. ad__t at fishing *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult
22. in_____ct at a point *v.* to meet or cross one another
23. pre_____ved opinions *adj.* (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness
24. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
25. first in_____g *n.* a slight or vague understanding or idea of something; a hint or intimation of something, often something that is not fully understood or realized
26. po__t the premise *v.* to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

ANSWERS: 18. hyperbole, 19. elliptical, 20. hyperbole, 21. adept, 22. intersect, 23. preconceived, 24. determinant, 25. inkling, 26. posit

27. w__p under pressure *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
28. ad__t in handicrafts *adj.* having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult
29. ne___e the existing system *v.* to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something
30. tra_____se section *adj.* lying or extending across something or from side to side

ANSWERS: 27. warp, 28. adept, 29. negate, 30. transverse

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The marketing campaign relied heavily on _____ to sell the product.
n. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken used to create emphasis or to make a point
2. The satellite's _____ orbit made it appear to change its distance from earth.
adj. having the shape of an oval (= a closed plane curve); using a word or expression that is ambiguous or vague, especially to mislead or avoid committing oneself
3. The ship's hull was _____ from years of use in rough seas.
v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
4. We should start a discussion from scratch with no _____ ideas.
adj. (of an idea or opinion) formed beforehand, especially without evidence for its truth or usefulness
5. _____ distance measures the straight-line distance between two points in space.
adj. relating to or based on the geometry set forth by the ancient Greek mathematician Euclid, characterized by straight lines, flat planes, and the absence of curvature
6. Drinking may _____ the beneficial effects of the drug.
v. to make something ineffective or null; to deny the truth of something
7. James Joyce's books are full of long, _____ sentences.
adj. extraordinarily complicated and hard to understand

ANSWERS: 1. hyperbole, 2. elliptical, 3. warped, 4. preconceived, 5. Euclidean, 6. negate, 7. convoluted

8. She is highly _____ with medical equipment.

adj. having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude to do something quite difficult

9. Her multidisciplinary works _____ music and picture with writing.

v. to meet or cross one another

10. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

11. We should _____ several hypotheses to discuss the matter.

v. to suggest or accept something as fact or as a basis for argument or consideration

12. The news gave us an _____ of what was going on in the world.

n. a slight or vague understanding or idea of something; a hint or intimation of something, often something that is not fully understood or realized

13. The _____ of the earth can be seen from space.

n. the degree to which a line or surface deviates from being straight or flat; a measure of the amount of bending of a curve

14. The _____ beam provided additional support for the structure.

adj. lying or extending across something or from side to side

15. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

ANSWERS: 8. adept, 9. intersect, 10. intellect, 11. posit, 12. inkling, 13. curvature, 14. transverse, 15. determinant

ANSWERS: