

Word Attack Skills

An essential reading skill

1. Guess and check

The schnordblatt, long and lean, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore.

My cousin gave me a schnordblatt for Christmas!

A schnordblatt is a schnordblatt, but it definitely is not a dinkelfritz!

I was sure that the schnordblatt would break before we had a chance to use it in history class again.

2. Skip the word

My friend was having a schnordblatty kind of day.

The schnordblatt, long and lean, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore. It paused in the water, coughed once, and quickly sank into the depths of the sea.

I went in quest of a perfect dinkelfritz—one neither too frilly nor too beautiful.

My cousin gave me a dinkelfritz for Christmas! Would you like to see it? Would you like to have it set on your head while you sit on the sofa?

3. Ask somebody

The schnordblatt, long and lean, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore.

My cousin gave me a dinkelfritz for Christmas!

A schnordblatt is a schnordblatt, but it definitely is not a dinkelfritz!

I was sure that the dinkelfritz would break before we had a chance to use it in science class again.

4. Use a dictionary

The marmoset, long and lean, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore.

My cousin gave me a phantasm for Christmas!

A palliative is a palliative, but it is definitely not a placebo!

I was sure that the bassoon would break before we had a chance to use it in music class again.

5. Use the internet

The marmoset, long and lean, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore.

My cousin gave me a phantasm for Christmas!

A palliative is a palliative, but it is definitely not a placebo!

I was sure that the bassoon would break before we had a chance to use it in music class again.

6. Tear it apart

He was prone to a certain type of antidisestablishmentarianism.

My premonition was that something terrible was going to happen.

We waited in the antechamber for the butler to appear.

He received a posthumous job offer.

Please don't be so recalcitrant in your expectations!

7. Use context

The schnordblatt, a type of weasel, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore.

My cousin gave me a dinkelfritz for Christmas, and I was happy to get the silly guy for a present.

A schnordblatt is not the gift to give to a small friend.

I was sure that the schnordblatt, red and shiny, would break before we had a chance to use it in phy. ed. class again.

8. Create a mental image

The schnordblatt, long and lean, dove out of the boat and swam menacingly towards the shore.

My cousin gave me a dinkelfritz for Christmas!

A schnordblatt is a schnordblatt, but it definitely is not a dinkelfritz!

I was sure that the schnordblatt would break before we had a chance to use it in phy. ed. class again.

9. Activate background knowledge

For many days, the boy had sat, sad and forlorn. He knew that he should be involved in the process, but was unable to get up off the bench, or even concentrate much on the events going on in the room. He just sat there, watching people go back and forth—the small but important dramas of life passing him by like shooting stars. He wondered if he would ever get out of here, out of this terrible court.

It was almost too late—almost at the end of the time allotted—when the boy heard a voice call out his name. Now he knew that he was free to be involved, and up he sprang, ready for action! A stern and pungent face entered his vision, barking terse commands. Now he would be tested as he never had been before! Now at last he could do it!

10. Check the glossary

Bicameral

Coeducation

Empresario

Stagflation

Transcendentalist

Vietcong