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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Xavier Cortada: A creative approach to community climate action | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

preach

v. to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
synonym: expound, advocate, sermonize

(1) **preach** the gospel, (2) **preach** to the masses

The pastor **preached** about the importance of forgiveness.

disengage

v. to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship

synonym: withdraw, separate, detach

(1) **disengage** the clutch, (2) **disengage** socially

He **disengaged** from the conversation and walked away.

erupt

v. (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

synonym: eject, emit, burst

(1) **erupt** in anger, (2) **erupt** into tears

Battles between whites and blacks **erupted** immediately.

devastation

n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

synonym: destruction, ruin, havoc

(1) financial **devastation**, (2) **devastation** to life

The economic recession caused **devastation** in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.

gulf *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
synonym : chasm, divide, abyss
(1) **gulf** war, (2) **gulf** stream
The **Gulf** of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.

crane *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
synonym : hoist, derrick, winch
(1) **crane** operator, (2) **crane** construction
The construction workers used a **crane** to lift the heavy beams.

skyline *n.* the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance
synonym : silhouette, cityscape, horizon
(1) **skyline** view, (2) downtown **skyline**
The **skyline** of the city was dotted with tall buildings.

skyscraper *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
synonym : high-rise, tower
(1) **skyscraper** apartment house, (2) steel-framed **skyscraper**
The 50-floor **skyscraper** loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.

brazen *adj.* bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)
synonym : audacious, bold, impudent
(1) **brazen** lie, (2) **brazen** painted faces
The **brazen** thief stole the diamond right out of the display case.

overdevelopment *n.* the process of building an excessive amount of new homes, factories, and other buildings on an area of land
synonym : overbuilding, overpopulation, overuse

(1) the after-war **overdevelopment**, (2) **overdevelopment** of the city

The **overdevelopment** of the area resulted in a loss of green space.

drown

v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

synonym: douse, drench, overwhelm

(1) **drown** in a bath, (2) I was **drowned** in work

Floods have the potential to **drown** any subsurface animals easily.

glaciologist

n. a scientist who studies the formation, movement, and effects of glaciers and ice

synonym: ice scientists, cryospheric scientists

(1) **glaciologist** findings, (2) **glaciologist** fieldwork

The **glaciologist's** research revealed that the glacier has been shrinking alarmingly.

pivot

n. a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances

synonym: center point, fulcrum, heart

(1) center- **pivot** irrigation, (2) **pivot** point

The team needed to come up with a **pivot** strategy to turn things around.

app

n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC

synonym: application, software

(1) killer **app**, (2) cannot log in to the **app**

The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the **app's** release.

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.

coastline

n. the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea

synonym : shoreline, seashore, beach

(1) **coastline** erosion, (2) deeply indented **coastline**

The new resort was built along the **coastline**, offering stunning ocean views from every room.

flank

n. the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something

synonym : side, edge, rim

(1) **flank** pain, (2) attack the left **flank**

The **flank** of the mountain was difficult to climb.

aquifer

n. an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water

(1) **aquifer** soil, (2) subsurface **aquifer**

Some areas melt snow by harnessing heat from underground **aquifers**.

saltwater

adj. of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea

synonym : marine, naval, maritime

(1) a **saltwater** fish, (2) **saltwater** crocodile

The ecosystem upstream of the river significantly impacts the **saltwater** ecosystem downstream.

porous

adj. having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids

synonym : permeable, spongy, absorbent

(1) **porous** materials, (2) **porous** membrane

Our unfenced and largely unpoliced border inevitably has been very **porous** for insurgents.

limestone

n. a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite

synonym : calcareous rock, chalk

(1) sheer **limestone** cliffs, (2) **limestone** pavement

The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of **limestone**.

diminish

v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.

synonym : decline, dwindle, lessen

(1) **diminish** a reputation, (2) **diminish** swelling

As people get old, their energies may **diminish**.

realtor

n. a professional in the real estate industry who is a member of the national association of realtors

synonym : real estate agent, broker

(1) **realtor** agency, (2) **realtor** services

The reliable **realtor** showed them several properties in the area.

aghast

adj. filled with shock, horror, or amazement

synonym : shocked, horrified, amazed

(1) **aghast** at the sight, (2) **aghast** at the situation

She was **aghast** at the news of the accident.

backlash

n. a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact

synonym : reaction, retaliation, counteraction

(1) political **backlash**, (2) the **backlash** from the community

The company faced a **backlash** from customers after the recall.

reconsider

v. to think about a decision or opinion again to
synonym: rethink, review, revisit

(1) **reconsider** the determination, (2) **reconsider** my transfer

He humbly **reconsidered** his conduct.

convene

v. to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity

synonym: assemble, gather, summon

(1) **convene** a press conference, (2) **convene** the council

The parliament will **convene** at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

septic

adj. containing, infected by, or resulting from disease-causing organisms

synonym: infected, contaminated, unclean

(1) **septic** sewage, (2) **septic** system

The **septic** tank was not properly maintained and caused a health hazard.

recede

v. to pull back or move away or backward

synonym: move back, retreat, downsize

(1) **recede** from view, (2) **recede** in the darkness

The king's political power **receded** even further.

mural

adj. a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface

synonym: wall painting, fresco, wall art

(1) **mural** painting, (2) a **mural** decoration

The **mural** on the wall depicted the history of the city.

strategize

v. to plan or devise a detailed plan, especially for achieving success in situations

synonym: plan, devise, scheme

(1) **strategize** for success, (2) **strategize** about how to win

The company **strategized** about how to increase sales.

mangrove

n. a tropical coastal tree or shrub that grows in saline soil and has prop roots that help to stabilize it

(1) **mangrove** forest, (2) **mangrove** swamp

The **mangrove** trees are known for their ability to survive in saltwater and sandy soil.

bulldoze

v. to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way

synonym : level, clear, demolish

(1) **bulldoze** a mound, (2) **bulldoze** a person into buying

They **bulldozed** the old building to make way for a new one.

clueless

adj. lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation

synonym : uninformed, unaware, ignorant

(1) **clueless** in many ways, (2) **clueless** about the situation

She was completely **clueless** as to how to solve the problem.

oblivious

adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful

synonym : forgetful, clueless, unaware

(1) **oblivious** of his promise, (2) **oblivious** to our response

She was so engrossed in her work that she was **oblivious** to her surroundings.

florid

adj. decorated with elaborate designs or ornamentation; overly ornate or showy

synonym : ornate, elaborate, flowery

(1) **florid** music, (2) **florid** style

The **florid** language of the poet was often difficult to understand.

majestic

adj. impressive or grand in appearance, size, or manner; stately

synonym : grand, stately, regal

(1) a **majestic** figure, (2) a **majestic** sense of purpose
The **majestic** mountain range was a sight to behold.

sequester

v. to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.

synonym : isolate, set apart, segregate

(1) **sequester** ten percent of the annual carbon emissions,
(2) **sequester** myself from the world

He approved their requests to **sequester** the jury.

propagule

n. any organism or structure that can develop into a new individual, such as a seed, spore, or cutting

synonym : seed, spore, cutting

(1) **propagule** for plant, (2) **propagule** for tree

The plant produced many **propagules**, which were used for reproduction.

seedling

n. a young plant that has just germinated and has not yet developed leaves or true roots

synonym : sapling, sprout, shoot

(1) a green **seedling**, (2) **seedling** tray

The **seedlings** in the garden needed to be thinned out to have enough space to grow.

displace

v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

synonym : evict, exile, remove

(1) **displace** workers, (2) **displace** the explosive power

The construction of the new dam will **displace** hundreds of families living downstream.

reclaim

v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

synonym : recoup, regain, retake

(1) **reclaim** a competitive position, (2) **reclaim** land from the

sea

You may be entitled to **reclaim** some tax.

germinate

v. to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts

synonym: sprout, grow, develop

(1) days to **germinate**, (2) **germinate** the idea

The seeds **germinated** quickly in the warm soil.

steward

n. a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.

synonym: caretaker, manager, custodian

(1) **steward** duties, (2) **steward** service

The **steward** on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.

cadre

n. a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement

synonym: core group, leadership, elite

(1) elite **cadre**, (2) **cadre** of leaders

The **cadre** of experienced soldiers led the attack.

emissary

n. a person sent on a mission or as a representative of an organization or country

synonym: envoy, ambassador, representative

(1) **emissary** of peace, (2) an **emissary** from the company

The **emissary** from the neighboring country arrived with a message of peace.

solver

n. a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem

synonym: thinker

(1) puzzle- **solver**, (2) linear **solver**

The flow **solver** is validated against the experiment.

empathy

n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

synonym: compassion, sympathy, tenderness

(1) full of **empathy**, (2) **empathy** for patients

Empathy is also necessary to understand history.

pique

n. a feeling of irritation or resentment, often caused by a perceived slight or insult; (verb) to cause to feel resentment or indignation

synonym: irritation, resentment, annoyance

(1) out of **pique**, (2) **pique** the curiosity

He slammed the door in a fit of **pique**.

provoke

v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect

synonym: stimulate, incite, encourage

(1) **provoke** a disease, (2) **provoke** a reaction

Her behavior **provoked** a quarrel between the couple.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. g__f war | <i>n.</i> a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land |
| 2. center-pi__t irrigation | <i>n.</i> a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances |
| 3. ove_____ent of the city | <i>n.</i> the process of building an excessive amount of new homes, factories, and other buildings on an area of land |
| 4. co_____ne erosion | <i>n.</i> the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea |
| 5. er__t into tears | <i>v.</i> (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently |
| 6. str_____ze for success | <i>v.</i> to plan or devise a detailed plan, especially for achieving success in situations |
| 7. ge_____te the idea | <i>v.</i> to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts |
| 8. a green se_____ng | <i>n.</i> a young plant that has just germinated and has not yet developed leaves or true roots |
| 9. re___e in the darkness | <i>v.</i> to pull back or move away or backward |
| 10. di_____ge socially | <i>v.</i> to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship |

ANSWERS: 1. gulf, 2. pivot, 3. overdevelopment, 4. coastline, 5. erupt, 6. strategize, 7. germinate, 8. seedling, 9. recede, 10. disengage

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|
| 11. dr__n in a bath | v. | to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater |
| 12. pr____e a disease | v. | to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect |
| 13. pr____le for tree | n. | any organism or structure that can develop into a new individual, such as a seed, spore, or cutting |
| 14. the after-war ove_____ent | n. | the process of building an excessive amount of new homes, factories, and other buildings on an area of land |
| 15. di____sh a reputation | v. | to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc. |
| 16. re____r services | n. | a professional in the real estate industry who is a member of the national association of realtors |
| 17. em____ry of peace | n. | a person sent on a mission or as a representative of an organization or country |
| 18. st____d service | n. | a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc. |
| 19. subsurface aq____r | n. | an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water |
| 20. ma____ve forest | n. | a tropical coastal tree or shrub that grows in saline soil and has prop roots that help to stabilize it |

ANSWERS: 11. drown, 12. provoke, 13. propagule, 14. overdevelopment, 15. diminish, 16. realtor, 17. emissary, 18. steward, 19. aquifer, 20. mangrove

21. puzzle-so___r *n.* a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
22. sky_____er apartment house *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
23. mu__l painting *adj.* a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface
24. s__t beliefs *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
25. re_____m land from the sea *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
26. out of pi__e *n.* a feeling of irritation or resentment, often caused by a perceived slight or insult; (verb) to cause to feel resentment or indignation
27. ag___t at the sight *adj.* filled with shock, horror, or amazement
28. attack the left fl__k *n.* the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something
29. er__t in anger *v.* (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently
30. political ba_____sh *n.* a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact

ANSWERS: 21. solver, 22. skyscraper, 23. mural, 24. sect, 25. reclaim, 26. pique, 27. aghast, 28. flank, 29. erupt, 30. backlash

31. cl_____ss in many ways *adj.* lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation
32. di_____sh swelling *v.* to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
33. gla_____ist fieldwork *n.* a scientist who studies the formation, movement, and effects of glaciers and ice
34. co_____e a press conference *v.* to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity
35. rec_____er the determination *v.* to think about a decision or opinion again to
36. gla_____ist findings *n.* a scientist who studies the formation, movement, and effects of glaciers and ice
37. di_____ge the clutch *v.* to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship
38. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
39. re_____r agency *n.* a professional in the real estate industry who is a member of the national association of realtors
40. br____n painted faces *adj.* bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)

ANSWERS: 31. clueless, 32. diminish, 33. glaciologist, 34. convene, 35. reconsider, 36. glaciologist, 37. disengage, 38. sect, 39. realtor, 40. brazen

41. financial dev_____on *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
42. bu_____ze a mound *v.* to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
43. fl____d music *adj.* decorated with elaborate designs or ornamentation; overly ornate or showy
44. re_____m a competitive position *v.* to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back
45. a sa_____er fish *adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
46. rec_____er my transfer *v.* to think about a decision or opinion again to
47. br____n lie *adj.* bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)
48. se____c sewage *adj.* containing, infected by, or resulting from disease-causing organisms
49. pi__t point *n.* a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances
50. an em_____ry from the company *n.* a person sent on a mission or as a representative of an organization or country

ANSWERS: 41. devastation, 42. bulldoze, 43. florid, 44. reclaim, 45. saltwater, 46. reconsider, 47. brazen, 48. septic, 49. pivot, 50. emissary

51. aq_____r soil *n.* an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water
52. downtown sk_____e *n.* the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance
53. sk_____e view *n.* the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance
54. po____s materials *adj.* having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids
55. pr_____le for plant *n.* any organism or structure that can develop into a new individual, such as a seed, spore, or cutting
56. ma_____ve swamp *n.* a tropical coastal tree or shrub that grows in saline soil and has prop roots that help to stabilize it
57. cannot log in to the a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
58. cl_____ss about the situation *adj.* lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation
59. em_____y for patients *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
60. sheer li_____ne cliffs *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite

ANSWERS: 51. aquifer, 52. skyline, 53. skyline, 54. porous, 55. propagule, 56. mangrove, 57. app, 58. clueless, 59. empathy, 60. limestone

61. killer a_p *n.* (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
62. g__f stream *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
63. linear so___r *n.* a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
64. steel-framed sky_____er *n.* a very tall building, typically one in a city
65. cr__e construction *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
66. cr__e operator *n.* a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
67. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
68. the ba_____sh from the community *n.* a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact
69. bu_____ze a person into buying *v.* to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
70. se_____ng tray *n.* a young plant that has just germinated and has not yet developed leaves or true roots

ANSWERS: 61. app, 62. gulf, 63. solver, 64. skyscraper, 65. crane, 66. crane, 67. opportune, 68. backlash, 69. bulldoze, 70. seedling

71. fl__k pain *n.* the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something
72. elite ca__e *n.* a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement
73. ob_____us to our response *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
74. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
75. di_____ce workers *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
76. deeply indented co_____ne *n.* the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea
77. se_____er ten percent of the annual carbon emissions *v.* to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.
78. dev_____on to life *n.* the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale
79. se___c system *adj.* containing, infected by, or resulting from disease-causing organisms
80. pr___h the gospel *v.* to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
81. po___s membrane *adj.* having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids

ANSWERS: 71. flank, 72. cadre, 73. oblivious, 74. opportune, 75. displace, 76. coastline, 77. sequester, 78. devastation, 79. septic, 80. preach, 81. porous

82. a ma____ic figure *adj.* impressive or grand in appearance, size, or manner; stately
83. di____ce the explosive power *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
84. pr____h to the masses *v.* to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
85. li____ne pavement *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
86. se____er myself from the world *v.* to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.
87. ag____t at the situation *adj.* filled with shock, horror, or amazement
88. st____d duties *n.* a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
89. days to ge____te *v.* to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts
90. re____e from view *v.* to pull back or move away or backward
91. str____ze about how to win *v.* to plan or devise a detailed plan, especially for achieving success in situations
92. I was dr__ned in work *v.* to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

ANSWERS: 82. majestic, 83. displace, 84. preach, 85. limestone, 86. sequester, 87. aghast, 88. steward, 89. germinate, 90. recede, 91. strategize, 92. drown

93. ob_____us of his promise *adj.* not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful
94. fl___d style *adj.* decorated with elaborate designs or ornamentation; overly ornate or showy
95. full of em_____y *n.* the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation
96. a ma_____ic sense of purpose *adj.* impressive or grand in appearance, size, or manner; stately
97. ca__e of leaders *n.* a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement
98. sa_____er crocodile *adj.* of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
99. pr_____e a reaction *v.* to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
100. co_____e the council *v.* to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity
101. a mu__l decoration *adj.* a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface
102. pi__e the curiosity *n.* a feeling of irritation or resentment, often caused by a perceived slight or insult; (verb) to cause to feel resentment or indignation

ANSWERS: 93. oblivious, 94. florid, 95. empathy, 96. majestic, 97. cadre, 98. saltwater, 99. provoke, 100. convene, 101. mural, 102. pique

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ is also necessary to understand history.
n. the ability to share another person's feelings or experiences by imagining that person's situation

2. Floods have the potential to _____ any subsurface animals easily.
v. to die or cause to die by being unable to breathe underwater

3. You may be entitled to _____ some tax.
v. to take back something previously lost, given, or paid, or ask to have it back

4. Battles between whites and blacks _____ immediately.
v. (of a volcano) to become active and eject rocks, smoke, etc.; to start abruptly and violently

5. The 50-floor _____ loomed over the city, dwarfing the other buildings.
n. a very tall building, typically one in a city

6. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

7. The _____ of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.
n. a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land

8. She was _____ at the news of the accident.
adj. filled with shock, horror, or amazement

ANSWERS: 1. Empathy, 2. drown, 3. reclaim, 4. erupted, 5. skyscraper, 6. sect, 7. Gulf, 8. aghast

9. He humbly _____ his conduct.
v. to think about a decision or opinion again to
10. The _____ mountain range was a sight to behold.
adj. impressive or grand in appearance, size, or manner; stately
11. The pastor _____ about the importance of forgiveness.
v. to deliver a religious or moral message to an audience
12. The parliament will _____ at 1 p.m. tomorrow.
v. to come or bring together a group of people for a meeting or activity
13. Her behavior _____ a quarrel between the couple.
v. to stimulate or give rise to a particular reaction or have a particular effect
14. He slammed the door in a fit of _____.
n. a feeling of irritation or resentment, often caused by a perceived slight or insult;
(verb) to cause to feel resentment or indignation
15. The ecosystem upstream of the river significantly impacts the _____ ecosystem downstream.
adj. of or connected with seawater or water containing salt; living in or found in the sea
16. The _____ of the mountain was difficult to climb.
n. the side of an animal, especially the side between the last rib and the hip; the side of military or naval formation; (verb) to be located on either side of something

ANSWERS: 9. reconsidered, 10. majestic, 11. preached, 12. convene, 13. provoked, 14. pique, 15. saltwater, 16. flank

17. The seeds _____ quickly in the warm soil.
v. to begin to grow or develop, typically as a seed sprouts
18. The _____ language of the poet was often difficult to understand.
adj. decorated with elaborate designs or ornamentation; overly ornate or showy
19. The _____ of the city was dotted with tall buildings.
n. the outline of buildings and other structures against the sky, especially when viewed from a distance
20. The _____ on the flight was very helpful in assisting passengers with their needs.
n. a person responsible for the management and care of another's property or for the supervision of the domestic staff of a large household or organization; a person in charge of arranging for the supply of food to a college, club, etc.
21. Some areas melt snow by harnessing heat from underground _____.
n. an underground layer of rock, sand, or Earth that can take in and hold water
22. As people get old, their energies may _____.
v. to reduce or be reduced in size, extent, or importance; to make something smaller, weaker, etc.
23. The _____ trees are known for their ability to survive in saltwater and sandy soil.
n. a tropical coastal tree or shrub that grows in saline soil and has prop roots that help to stabilize it
24. The team needed to come up with a _____ strategy to turn things around.
n. a change in direction or focus, especially in a business or political strategy; a fixed point that supports something that turns or balances

ANSWERS: 17. germinated, 18. florid, 19. skyline, 20. steward, 21. aquifers, 22. diminish, 23. mangrove, 24. pivot

25. The reliable _____ showed them several properties in the area.
n. a professional in the real estate industry who is a member of the national association of realtors
26. The construction workers used a _____ to lift the heavy beams.
n. a large, tall machine used for moving heavy objects by suspending them from a beam or hook
27. The company faced a _____ from customers after the recall.
n. a strong negative reaction to something; a movement back from an impact
28. The plant produced many _____ which were used for reproduction.
n. any organism or structure that can develop into a new individual, such as a seed, spore, or cutting
29. He _____ from the conversation and walked away.
v. to withdraw or separate oneself from a situation or relationship
30. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of _____.
n. a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
31. The company _____ about how to increase sales.
v. to plan or devise a detailed plan, especially for achieving success in situations
32. The _____ of experienced soldiers led the attack.
n. a group of trained and committed members of an organization or movement
33. The construction of the new dam will _____ hundreds of families living downstream.
v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

ANSWERS: 25. realtor, 26. crane, 27. backlash, 28. propagules, 29. disengaged, 30. limestone, 31. strategized, 32. cadre, 33. displace

34. The phone rang at the most _____ time.

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

35. The king's political power _____ even further.

v. to pull back or move away or backward

36. She was completely _____ as to how to solve the problem.

adj. lacking knowledge, understanding, or awareness about a particular subject or situation

37. The _____ research revealed that the glacier has been shrinking alarmingly.

n. a scientist who studies the formation, movement, and effects of glaciers and ice

38. The _____ thief stole the diamond right out of the display case.

adj. bold and without shame or embarrassment; made of or resembling brass (= a metal alloy of copper and zinc)

39. She was so engrossed in her work that she was _____ to her surroundings.

adj. not aware of something, especially what is happening around you; forgetful

40. The new resort was built along the _____ offering stunning ocean views from every room.

n. the particular shape of the coast (= the shore of a sea or ocean) as seen from the sea

41. He approved their requests to _____ the jury.

v. to take temporary possession of someone's property until a debt is paid.

ANSWERS: 34. opportune, 35. receded, 36. clueless, 37. glaciologist's, 38. brazen, 39. oblivious, 40. coastline, 41. sequester

42. They _____ the old building to make way for a new one.
v. to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
43. The _____ tank was not properly maintained and caused a health hazard.
adj. containing, infected by, or resulting from disease-causing organisms
44. The discovery of a critical bug caused the company to delay the _____ release.
n. (abbreviation for application) software designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices or inside a web browser on a PC
45. The _____ from the neighboring country arrived with a message of peace.
n. a person sent on a mission or as a representative of an organization or country
46. The _____ in the garden needed to be thinned out to have enough space to grow.
n. a young plant that has just germinated and has not yet developed leaves or true roots
47. The _____ of the area resulted in a loss of green space.
n. the process of building an excessive amount of new homes, factories, and other buildings on an area of land
48. The flow _____ is validated against the experiment.
n. a thinker who finds an answer to a problem or a difficult situation; a piece of software or the algorithm that solves a mathematical problem
49. Our unfenced and largely unpoliced border inevitably has been very _____ for insurgents.
adj. having many small holes and being able to absorb or pass through fluids

ANSWERS: 42. bulldozed, 43. septic, 44. app's, 45. emissary, 46. seedlings, 47. overdevelopment, 48. solver, 49. porous

50. The _____ on the wall depicted the history of the city.

adj. a large painting or other artwork that is applied directly to a wall or other surface

51. The economic recession caused _____ in the housing market, with many people losing their homes.

n. the act of causing great destruction or damage, often on a large scale

ANSWERS: 50. mural, 51. devastation