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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Charles Wallace: When you're an ant but also a fungus tycoon | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

unfurl

- v.* to spread out or open something, such as a flag, sail, or wings, by shaking, shaking out, or extending it; to reveal or become revealed or disclosed

synonym: unfold, expand, spread out

- (1) **unfurl** my banner, (2) **unfurl** the sails

The flag slowly **unfurled** in the wind atop the flagpole.

fungus

- n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive

synonym: mold, mildew, yeast

- (1) **fungus** infection, (2) symbiotic **fungus**

Certain types of **fungus** can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.

cockroach

- n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home

synonym: roach

- (1) **cockroach** killer, (2) have a **cockroach** phobia

Cockroaches sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.

nestle

v. to settle comfortably or cozily into a place

synonym: snuggle, cuddle, curl up

(1) **nestle** deeper against him, (2) **nestle** in a cozy spot

The cat **nestled** in my lap and fell asleep.

frenzy

n. a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior

synonym: frenetic, commotion, tumult

(1) **frenzy** of activity, (2) buying **frenzy**

The shoppers were **frenzy** to get the best deals on Black Friday.

midair

n. some point in the air; above ground level

(1) a **midair** collision, (2) thrown out into **midair**

She flawlessly performed a **midair** somersault.

excavate

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

synonym: dig, unearth, extract

(1) **excavate** a deep hole, (2) **excavate** soil

The archaeologists **excavated** the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

regurgitate

v. to bring back partially digested food from the stomach to the mouth; to repeat or recite something without understanding or adding anything new or original

synonym: repeat, echo, restate

(1) **regurgitate** food, (2) **regurgitate** information

The biology student had to **regurgitate** all the material she had learned for the final exam.

puke

v. to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred

synonym: vomit, hurl, upchuck

(1) **puke** my guts, (2) **puke** in the toilet

The smell of rotting food made him **puke** in disgust.

bedrock

n. the solid rock underlying soil or alluvium

synonym: foundation, foundation stone, base

(1) **bedrock** foundation, (2) **bedrock** geology

The **bedrock** beneath the soil is extremely solid and stable.

infertile

adj. unable to grow crops or sustain life; not able to produce offspring or offspring that are viable

synonym: barren, sterile, unproductive

(1) **infertile** woman, (2) **infertile** land

The soil in the desert is **infertile**, making it difficult to grow crops.

fertilize

v. to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well

synonym: pollinate, inseminate, enrich

(1) **fertilize** the soil, (2) **fertilize** the female egg

The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to **fertilize** a wife.

feces

n. waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement

synonym: poop, stool, excrement

(1) **feces** sample, (2) human **feces**

Proper disposal of **feces** is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.

foliage

n. the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes

synonym: leaves, greenery, flora

(1) colorful **foliage**, (2) autumn **foliage**

The vibrant **foliage** on the vines made the winery look even more beautiful.

mandible

n. the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect

synonym : jawbone, bone, maxilla

(1) broken **mandible**, (2) insect **mandible**

The dentist inspected the patient's **mandible** during the routine check-up.

chomp

v. to bite or chew something with forceful, aggressive, or heavy movements of the jaws or teeth

synonym : bite, munch, crunch

(1) **chomp** into an apple, (2) **chomp** on meat

I love to **chomp** on crunchy snacks like chips and pretzels.

aloft

adv. in the air; at a high place

synonym : elevated, high, soaring

(1) go **aloft**, (2) carried **aloft** by police

The hot air balloon rose **aloft** into the sky, giving the passengers a breathtaking countryside view.

pathogen

n. a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

synonym : germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) plant **pathogen**, (2) the **pathogen** in the air

mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated **pathogens**.

morsel

n. a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something

synonym : bit, bite, fragment

(1) mouth-watering **morsel**, (2) tiny **morsel**

I only had a small **morsel** of cake while trying to watch my weight.

domesticate

v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company

synonym : tame, naturalize, cultivate

(1) easy to **domesticate**, (2) **domesticate** the plant

We **domesticate** cows to gain milk and meat.

digestive

adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food

(1) **digestive** juices, (2) a **digestive** enzyme

A nutritious diet improves **digestive** functions.

spoil

v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

synonym: rot, decay, deteriorate

(1) **spoil** a person's sport, (2) **spoil** the surprise

If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will **spoil**.

tirelessly

adv. without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort

synonym: inexhaustibly, indefatigably, unceasingly

(1) dedicated **tirelessly**, (2) **tirelessly** help out

She worked **tirelessly** for hours to finish her project on time.

pheromone

n. a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

synonym: scent, odor, aroma

(1) **pheromone** trail, (2) sexual **pheromone**

The perfume industry often uses synthetic **pheromones** to enhance their products' appeal.

entourage

n. a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person

synonym: retinue

(1) presidential **entourage**, (2) member of his **entourage**

The politician and his **entourage** arrived half an hour late.

nourish

v. to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy

synonym: feed, sustain, nurture

(1) **nourish** damaged skin, (2) **nourish** hope

The mother used her breast milk to **nourish** the baby.

larva

n. the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose

synonym: caterpillar, grub, maggot

(1) **larva** of a butterfly, (2) a moth **larva**

The butterfly emerged from its **larva** stage.

prune

n. a dried plum that has a black, wrinkled appearance;
(verb) to cut off branches from a tree, bush, or plant, especially to encourage growth

synonym: (verb) trim, (verb) cut back

(1) **prune** a branch, (2) wrinkle like a **prune**

You should remove the seeds from the **prunes** before cooking.

creep

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

synonym: crawl, glide, encroach

(1) **creep** along the leaf, (2) **creep** toward the mouse

Aging **creeps** up slowly with time.

opportunistic

adj. making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle

synonym: timeserving, conciliatory

(1) **opportunistic** fungus, (2) **opportunistic** behavior

Many of the party's members joined for simply **opportunistic** reasons.

hitch

v. to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle

synonym: fasten, jerk, tether

(1) **hitch** a ride, (2) **hitch** up my trousers

The mechanics **hitched** the trailer to the broken-down car.

undercover

adj. carried out or conducted in secret, with one's true identity or purpose concealed; disguised, incognito

synonym: covert, hidden, stealthy

(1) **undercover** operation, (2) **undercover** journalist

The **undercover** police officer was able to gather crucial evidence without being detected.

mimic

v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh

synonym: mirror, imitate, ape

(1) **mimic** a human voice, (2) **mimic** numerous instruments

He is very popular at school because he can **mimic** all the teachers' accents.

frolic

v. to play and move around happily and energetically

synonym: play, romp, gambol

(1) **frolic** underwater, (2) **frolic** with friends

Children **frolicked** in the park on a sunny day.

undetected

adj. not perceived or discovered

synonym: undiscovered, hidden, concealed

(1) **undetected** cancer, (2) leave the house **undetected**

Doctors made mistakes, and diseases remained **undetected**.

antagonist

n. a person, group, or force that opposes or works against the protagonist, or the main character, in a story or drama; a person or thing that is in direct opposition or conflict with another person or group

synonym: opponent, rival, adversary

(1) arch-nemesis **antagonist**, (2) literary **antagonist**

The **antagonist** in the movie is a corrupt government official who obstructed the protagonist's mission.

virulent

adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile

synonym: poisonous, venomous, toxic

(1) **virulent** disease, (2) **virulent** criticism

The **virulent** virus spread rapidly through the close-knit community.

elusive

adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember

synonym: mysterious, ambiguous, inapproachable

(1) an **elusive** criminal, (2) track down an **elusive** fact

The physicist who found the **elusive** particle won the Nobel Prize.

parasitic

adj. living off another organism to the detriment of the host

synonym: symbiotic, dependent, exploitative

(1) **parasitic** relationship, (2) brood- **parasitic** bird

The **parasitic** plant was able to survive by stealing nutrients from its host.

unchecked

adj. not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference

synonym: uncontrolled, unrestrained, unbridled

(1) **unchecked** ambition, (2) **unchecked** growth

The **unchecked** spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.

microorganism

n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

synonym: germ, microbe, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microorganism**, (2) **microorganisms** in his gut

This **microorganism** is a producer of respiratory disease.

stunt

n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense

synonym: feat, accomplishment, (verb) hinder

(1) skydiving **stunt**, (2) **stunt** brain growth

The daredevil attempted a dangerous **stunt** by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.

defoliate

v. to remove or shed the leaves from a plant, either intentionally or unintentionally; to cause leaves to fall off, typically with a herbicide or other chemical substance

synonym: strip, clear-cut, denude

(1) **defoliate** trees, (2) **defoliate** the field

The herbicide used to **defoliate** the plants also killed many of the surrounding flowers and trees.

anew

adv. in a new or different way

synonym: again, once more, fresh

(1) arm **anew**, (2) review **anew**

He decided to start **anew** and leave his old life behind.

Session 2: Spelling

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1. sp__l the surprise | <i>v.</i> to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad |
| 2. dom_____te the plant | <i>v.</i> to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company |
| 3. have a co_____ch phobia | <i>n.</i> a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home |
| 4. sp__l a person's sport | <i>v.</i> to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad |
| 5. la__a of a butterfly | <i>n.</i> the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose |
| 6. fe_____ze the soil | <i>v.</i> to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well |
| 7. fe__s sample | <i>n.</i> waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement |
| 8. an el_____e criminal | <i>adj.</i> difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember |
| 9. pr__e a branch | <i>n.</i> a dried plum that has a black, wrinkled appearance; (verb) to cut off branches from a tree, bush, or plant, especially to encourage growth |

ANSWERS: 1. spoil, 2. domesticate, 3. cockroach, 4. spoil, 5. larva, 6. fertilize, 7. feces, 8. elusive, 9. prune

10. go al__t	<i>adv.</i> in the air; at a high place
11. fr___c underwater	<i>v.</i> to play and move around happily and energetically
12. mi__c a human voice	<i>v.</i> to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
13. co_____ch killer	<i>n.</i> a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
14. mic_____isms in his gut	<i>n.</i> a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope
15. arm a__w	<i>adv.</i> in a new or different way
16. opp_____tic behavior	<i>adj.</i> making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle
17. be_____k geology	<i>n.</i> the solid rock underlying soil or alluvium
18. fr___y of activity	<i>n.</i> a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior
19. colorful fo_____e	<i>n.</i> the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes
20. und_____ed cancer	<i>adj.</i> not perceived or discovered
21. cr__p along the leaf	<i>v.</i> to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

ANSWERS: 10. aloft, 11. frolic, 12. mimic, 13. cockroach, 14. microorganism, 15. anew, 16. opportunistic, 17. bedrock, 18. frenzy, 19. foliage, 20. undetected, 21. creep

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| 22. pa_____ic relationship | <i>adj.</i> living off another organism to the detriment of the host |
| 23. literary ant_____st | <i>n.</i> a person, group, or force that opposes or works against the protagonist, or the main character, in a story or drama; a person or thing that is in direct opposition or conflict with another person or group |
| 24. fu___s infection | <i>n.</i> a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive |
| 25. p__e in the toilet | <i>v.</i> to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred |
| 26. be_____k foundation | <i>n.</i> the solid rock underlying soil or alluvium |
| 27. ex_____te soil | <i>v.</i> to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something |
| 28. tir_____ly help out | <i>adv.</i> without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort |
| 29. arch-nemesis ant_____st | <i>n.</i> a person, group, or force that opposes or works against the protagonist, or the main character, in a story or drama; a person or thing that is in direct opposition or conflict with another person or group |

ANSWERS: 22. parasitic, 23. antagonist, 24. fungus, 25. puke, 26. bedrock, 27. excavate, 28. tirelessly, 29. antagonist

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 30. insect ma____le | <i>n.</i> the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect |
| 31. pathogenic mic______ism | <i>n.</i> a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope |
| 32. ne___e in a cozy spot | <i>v.</i> to settle comfortably or cozily into a place |
| 33. plant pa____en | <i>n.</i> a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease |
| 34. de____te the field | <i>v.</i> to remove or shed the leaves from a plant, either intentionally or unintentionally; to cause leaves to fall off, typically with a herbicide or other chemical substance |
| 35. presidential en____ge | <i>n.</i> a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person |
| 36. easy to dom____te | <i>v.</i> to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company |
| 37. un____ed ambition | <i>adj.</i> not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference |
| 38. mi__c numerous instruments | <i>v.</i> to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh |

ANSWERS: 30. mandible, 31. microorganism, 32. nestle, 33. pathogen, 34. defoliate, 35. entourage, 36. domesticate, 37. unchecked, 38. mimic

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 39. autumn fo____e | <i>n.</i> the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes |
| 40. a mi____r collision | <i>n.</i> some point in the air; above ground level |
| 41. reg____te information | <i>v.</i> to bring back partially digested food from the stomach to the mouth; to repeat or recite something without understanding or adding anything new or original |
| 42. ne____e deeper against him | <i>v.</i> to settle comfortably or cozily into a place |
| 43. di____ve juices | <i>adj.</i> relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food |
| 44. un____ed growth | <i>adj.</i> not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference |
| 45. mouth-watering mo____l | <i>n.</i> a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something |
| 46. human fe____s | <i>n.</i> waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement |
| 47. buying fr____y | <i>n.</i> a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior |
| 48. ex____te a deep hole | <i>v.</i> to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something |

ANSWERS: 39. foliage, 40. midair, 41. regurgitate, 42. nestle, 43. digestive, 44. unchecked, 45. morsel, 46. feces, 47. frenzy, 48. excavate

49. vi_____nt disease *adj.* extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
50. the pa_____en in the air *n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease
51. ph_____ne trail *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
52. no_____h damaged skin *v.* to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy
53. und_____er operation *adj.* carried out or conducted in secret, with one's true identity or purpose concealed; disguised, incognito
54. brood-pa_____ic bird *adj.* living off another organism to the detriment of the host
55. track down an el_____e fact *adj.* difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
56. cr__p toward the mouse *v.* to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard
57. vi_____nt criticism *adj.* extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile
58. a di_____ve enzyme *adj.* relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food

ANSWERS: 49. virulent, 50. pathogen, 51. pheromone, 52. nourish, 53. undercover, 54. parasitic, 55. elusive, 56. creep, 57. virulent, 58. digestive

59. skydiving st__t *n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
60. symbiotic fu___s *n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
61. no_____h hope *v.* to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy
62. review a__w *adv.* in a new or different way
63. und_____er journalist *adj.* carried out or conducted in secret, with one's true identity or purpose concealed; disguised, incognito
64. wrinkle like a pr__e *n.* a dried plum that has a black, wrinkled appearance; (verb) to cut off branches from a tree, bush, or plant, especially to encourage growth
65. fe_____ze the female egg *v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
66. p__e my guts *v.* to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred

ANSWERS: 59. stunt, 60. fungus, 61. nourish, 62. anew, 63. undercover, 64. prune, 65. fertilize, 66. puke

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 67. opp_____tic fungus | <i>adj.</i> making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle |
| 68. a moth la__a | <i>n.</i> the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose |
| 69. hi__h a ride | <i>v.</i> to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle |
| 70. hi__h up my trousers | <i>v.</i> to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle |
| 71. reg_____te food | <i>v.</i> to bring back partially digested food from the stomach to the mouth; to repeat or recite something without understanding or adding anything new or original |
| 72. leave the house und_____ed | <i>adj.</i> not perceived or discovered |
| 73. in_____le land | <i>adj.</i> unable to grow crops or sustain life; not able to produce offspring or offspring that are viable |
| 74. un___l the sails | <i>v.</i> to spread out or open something, such as a flag, sail, or wings, by shaking, shaking out, or extending it; to reveal or become revealed or disclosed |
| 75. un___l my banner | <i>v.</i> to spread out or open something, such as a flag, sail, or wings, by shaking, shaking out, or extending it; to reveal or become revealed or disclosed |

ANSWERS: 67. opportunistic, 68. larva, 69. hitch, 70. hitch, 71. regurgitate, 72. undetected, 73. infertile, 74. unfurl, 75. unfurl

76. sexual ph____ne *n.* a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species
77. in____le woman *adj.* unable to grow crops or sustain life; not able to produce offspring or offspring that are viable
78. ch__p on meat *v.* to bite or chew something with forceful, aggressive, or heavy movements of the jaws or teeth
79. de____te trees *v.* to remove or shed the leaves from a plant, either intentionally or unintentionally; to cause leaves to fall off, typically with a herbicide or other chemical substance
80. st__t brain growth *n.* a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
81. dedicated tir____ly *adv.* without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort
82. carried al__t by police *adv.* in the air; at a high place
83. broken ma____le *n.* the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect

ANSWERS: 76. pheromone, 77. infertile, 78. chomp, 79. defoliate, 80. stunt, 81. tirelessly, 82. aloft, 83. mandible

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| 84. thrown out into mi___r | <i>n.</i> some point in the air; above ground level |
| 85. tiny mo___l | <i>n.</i> a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something |
| 86. ch___p into an apple | <i>v.</i> to bite or chew something with forceful, aggressive, or heavy movements of the jaws or teeth |
| 87. fr___c with friends | <i>v.</i> to play and move around happily and energetically |
| 88. member of his en____ge | <i>n.</i> a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person |

ANSWERS: 84. midair, 85. morsel, 86. chomp, 87. frolic, 88. entourage

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The daredevil attempted a dangerous _____ by jumping off a tall building with a parachute.
n. a feat or action that is often dangerous or difficult, designed to attract attention or admiration; something that blocks or impedes growth or development; (verb) to hinder or impede growth or development, especially in a physical or mental sense
2. The dentist inspected the patient's _____ during the routine check-up.
n. the lower jawbone in vertebrates, including humans, which is usually hinged to the skull and movable; a pair of these bones forming the lower jaw of an insect
3. Doctors made mistakes, and diseases remained _____.
adj. not perceived or discovered
4. The biology student had to _____ all the material she had learned for the final exam.
v. to bring back partially digested food from the stomach to the mouth; to repeat or recite something without understanding or adding anything new or original
5. He is very popular at school because he can _____ all the teachers' accents.
v. to imitate someone's speech, movement, or behavior, especially to make others laugh
6. She flawlessly performed a _____ somersault.
n. some point in the air; above ground level
7. The _____ in the movie is a corrupt government official who obstructed the protagonist's mission.
n. a person, group, or force that opposes or works against the protagonist, or the main character, in a story or drama; a person or thing that is in direct opposition or conflict with another person or group

ANSWERS: 1. stunt, 2. mandible, 3. undetected, 4. regurgitate, 5. mimic, 6. midair, 7. antagonist

8. Certain types of _____ can be toxic to humans, causing severe illness if ingested.
- n.* a type of organism that includes yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, which are heterotrophic, meaning they do not produce their food and must consume organic matter to survive
9. The cat _____ in my lap and fell asleep.
- v.* to settle comfortably or cozily into a place
10. The _____ spread of the virus led to a nationwide outbreak.
- adj.* not restrained or controlled; not examined or scrutinized; allowed to proceed without restraint or interference
11. Children _____ in the park on a sunny day.
- v.* to play and move around happily and energetically
12. The shoppers were _____ to get the best deals on Black Friday.
- n.* a state of wild, uncontrolled excitement or activity, often characterized by chaotic or irrational behavior
13. Proper disposal of _____ is essential for maintaining public health and sanitation.
- n.* waste matter eliminated from the bowels; excrement
14. The _____ police officer was able to gather crucial evidence without being detected.
- adj.* carried out or conducted in secret, with one's true identity or purpose concealed; disguised, incognito
15. If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will _____.
- v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

ANSWERS: 8. fungus, 9. nestled, 10. unchecked, 11. frolicked, 12. frenzy, 13. feces, 14. undercover, 15. spoil

16. Many of the party's members joined for simply _____ reasons.

adj. making use of a current situation to get power or advantage, especially regardless of planning or principle

17. Aging _____ up slowly with time.

v. to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually to avoid being seen or heard

18. The perfume industry often uses synthetic _____ to enhance their products' appeal.

n. a chemical substance produced by an animal that is secreted into the environment and that affects the behavior or physiology of others of its species

19. The mother used her breast milk to _____ the baby.

v. to provide a person, an animal, or plant with food to make them grow and stay healthy

20. This _____ is a producer of respiratory disease.

n. a very small living thing that may exist in its single-celled form or as a colony of cells and is too small to be seen without a microscope

21. The politician and his _____ arrived half an hour late.

n. a group of people who attend or surround an important and influential person

22. The archaeologists _____ the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

23. The mechanics _____ the trailer to the broken-down car.

v. to move something into a different position jerkily; to travel by getting free rides from motorists; to hook or entangle

ANSWERS: 16. opportunistic, 17. creeps, 18. pheromones, 19. nourish, 20. microorganism, 21. entourage, 22. excavated, 23. hitched

24. You should remove the seeds from the _____ before cooking.
n. a dried plum that has a black, wrinkled appearance; (verb) to cut off branches from a tree, bush, or plant, especially to encourage growth
25. She worked _____ for hours to finish her project on time.
adv. without getting tired or fatigued; persistently, energetically, and continuously working with great effort
26. A nutritious diet improves _____ functions.
adj. relating to or capable of causing or promoting digestion of food
27. The vibrant _____ on the vines made the winery look even more beautiful.
n. the leaves of a plant or tree, especially in large quantities or as seen from a distance; natural greenery, often used for decorative purposes
28. The physicist who found the _____ particle won the Nobel Prize.
adj. difficult to find, define, achieve, or remember
29. We _____ cows to gain milk and meat.
v. to take control of animals or plants to provide food, power, or company
30. The smell of rotting food made him _____ in disgust.
v. to vomit or eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth; to feel or experience extreme disgust or hatred
31. The _____ plant was able to survive by stealing nutrients from its host.
adj. living off another organism to the detriment of the host
32. The _____ virus spread rapidly through the close-knit community.
adj. extremely harmful or poisonous, especially in a physical or biological sense; highly infectious or contagious; intensely bitter or hostile

ANSWERS: 24. prunes, 25. tirelessly, 26. digestive, 27. foliage, 28. elusive, 29. domesticate, 30. puke, 31. parasitic, 32. virulent

33. The herbicide used to _____ the plants also killed many of the surrounding flowers and trees.
- v.* to remove or shed the leaves from a plant, either intentionally or unintentionally; to cause leaves to fall off, typically with a herbicide or other chemical substance
34. The couple decided to use the non-husband sperm to _____ a wife.
- v.* to cause an egg, female animal, or plant to develop by joining sperm from the male with them; to add a natural or chemical substance to land to make plants grow well
35. I love to _____ on crunchy snacks like chips and pretzels.
- v.* to bite or chew something with forceful, aggressive, or heavy movements of the jaws or teeth
36. The butterfly emerged from its _____ stage.
- n.* the immature free-living form of insect or an animal, which at hatching from the egg, is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose
37. The hot air balloon rose _____ into the sky, giving the passengers a breathtaking countryside view.
- adv.* in the air; at a high place
38. _____ sometimes cause allergic reactions in humans.
- n.* a flat, brown or black, chiefly nocturnal insects sometimes found in the home
39. I only had a small _____ of cake while trying to watch my weight.
- n.* a small piece or fragment, particularly of food; a small, tasty, or pleasing bit of something
40. He decided to start _____ and leave his old life behind.
- adv.* in a new or different way

ANSWERS: 33. defoliate, 34. fertilize, 35. chomp, 36. larva, 37. aloft, 38. Cockroaches, 39. morsel, 40. anew

41. The flag slowly _____ in the wind atop the flagpole.

- v.* to spread out or open something, such as a flag, sail, or wings, by shaking, shaking out, or extending it; to reveal or become revealed or disclosed

42. The _____ beneath the soil is extremely solid and stable.

- n.* the solid rock underlying soil or alluvium

43. mRNA vaccines are approved faster because they do not contain inactivated _____.

- n.* a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that causes disease

44. The soil in the desert is _____ making it difficult to grow crops.

- adj.* unable to grow crops or sustain life; not able to produce offspring or offspring that are viable

ANSWERS: 41. unfurled, 42. bedrock, 43. pathogens, 44. infertile,